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

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

ANSWERS

ATTORNEY GENERAL

■ Attorney General: Assets

Jon Trickett: [\[8008\]](#)

To ask the Attorney General, in which of the last 10 years the Law Officers' Departments have submitted a strategic asset management plan to the Government Property Unit.

Jeremy Wright:

The Government Property Unit (GPU) has commissioned Strategic Asset Management Plans (SAMPs) from departments on an annual basis since 2014. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and Serious Fraud Office (SFO) are covered as part of the Ministry of Justice's asset plan.

The AGO, GLD and HMCPSI are smaller government departments with limited property assets. As such, they have not been commissioned to prepare a SAMP. Information about their property interests is available in their Annual Reports and Accounts and recorded on the GPU property database (EPIMS).

■ Attorney General: Behavioural Insights Team

Jon Trickett: [\[9180\]](#)

To ask the Attorney General, how much the Law Officers' Departments paid to the Behavioural Insights Team in each year since 2014.

Robert Buckland:

The CPS has met the Behavioural Insights Team as part of a project to encourage higher rates of defendant engagement with the CJS but have made no payment to the team.

Otherwise, the Law Officers' Departments have not received services from the Behavioural Insights Team.

Jon Trickett: [\[9673\]](#)

To ask the Attorney General, what services the Law Officers' Departments has received from the Behavioural Insights Team since 2014.

Robert Buckland:

The CPS has met the Behavioural Insights Team as part of a project to encourage higher rates of defendant engagement with the CJS but have made no payment to the team.

Otherwise, the Law Officers' Departments have not received services from the Behavioural Insights Team.

■ Attorney General: Brexit

Tom Brake:

[7904]

To ask the Attorney General, which EU legislation within the Law Officers' Departments' responsibilities will (a) be incorporated into UK law through the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill and (b) require to be amended under powers in that Bill.

Jeremy Wright:

The European Union (Withdrawal) Bill will convert European Union law into UK law as it applies in the UK at the moment of exit. This will ensure that, wherever possible, the same rules and laws will apply the day after exit as they did before.

The Government is still making a detailed assessment of what corrections will be required to make that law function appropriately on exit day. The Government's current estimate is that we will need to make between 800 and 1,000 statutory instruments to make exit a reality in UK law.

■ Attorney General: Secondment

Jon Trickett:

[7987]

To ask the Attorney General, how many applications the Law Officers' Department has received for (a) internal loans and (b) secondments from civil servants in each year since 2010.

Jeremy Wright:

The Law Officers' Departments are committed to the benefits that can be brought for the taxpayer in the delivery of Government objectives from interchange and is always looking for opportunities to develop arrangements which further the delivery agenda of the Department.

It is the policy across the Civil Service that where individuals transfer temporarily between our department and another department they move on a loan basis.

A temporary move to, or from, an organisation outside the Civil Service is referred to as a Secondment and must be for a minimum of 12 months and normally not exceed two years. Therefore, secondment applications, by definition, will not be received from existing civil servants.

The information requested is only available for the CPS from 2014/15 when the current civil service recruitment system was introduced.

Number of applications received for internal loans from civil servants:

FINANCIAL YEAR	CIVIL SERVANT APPLICATIONS
2014/15	90
2015/16	46

FINANCIAL YEAR	CIVIL SERVANT APPLICATIONS
2016/17	130
2017/18	68

In the years since 2010 the SFO has had the following numbers of civil servants on loan from and to other government departments.

	NUMBER OF STAFF ON LOAN FROM OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS	NUMBER OF SFO STAFF ON LOAN TO OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS
2010/11	5	8
2011/12	1	4
2012/13	3	5
2013/14	3	9
2014/15	5	6
2015/16	4	5
2016/17	2	9
2017/18	1	9

In relation to the Attorney General's Office (AGO), the Government Legal Department (GLD) and Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI), the following table shows *the number of applications* for posts that have been advertised to be filled on loan within the Civil Service since April 2012, which is the earliest date for which records are available. GLD specifically does not hold information prior to 1 April 2014 as information on individual recruitment exercises is not required to be held for more than two years.

	AGO	GLD	HMCPSI
2012/2013	21	No information available	No information available
2013/2014	78	No information available	17
2014/2015	145	9	0
2015/2016	241	6	0

	AGO	GLD	HMCPsi
2016/2017	124	11	21
01/04/2017 to date	211	8	1

■ Attorney General: Temporary Employment

Jon Trickett:

[\[7945\]](#)

To ask the Attorney General, whether requests for consultancy and temporary staff for the Law Officers' Departments must be accompanied by a formal business case.

Jeremy Wright:

Requests for temporary staff to be appointed within agreed budgetary provision in the CPS are not required to be accompanied by a formal business case within the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). Requests for consultancy staff do require a formal business case within the CPS.

The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) has not employed any consultants within the past financial year or during the current year. Spend on consultants would require a business case setting out the need for such expenditure to the SFO Finance and HR teams. Requests for temporary staff are agreed when the SFO budget is set at the beginning of the financial year. Any additional temporary recruitment during the year is dependent on discussions with the SFO Finance team and Human Resource team, and on occasion the Chief Operating Officer and would require a business case.

At GLD, HMCPsi and the AGO, agency workers are engaged through Civil Service contractual arrangements to cover short term vacancies and to secure specific specialist legal and support skills that are not available in-house. For that reason, a formal business case is not normally required, unless it is for new posts where agreement is required to increase the headcount in that business area to support a project to improve the department. The approval mechanism for consultancy spend is not via a resources board although a request for consultancy would need to be accompanied by a business justification.

Jon Trickett:

[\[7966\]](#)

To ask the Attorney General, what proportion of requests for consultancy and temporary staff for the Law Officers' Departments were approved via a resource board.

Jeremy Wright:

During 2016/17 no requests for consultancy or temporary staff for the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) have been considered by a 'resource board'.

The SFO also does not approve any expenditure for consultants or temporary workers via a resource board.

The Government Legal Department (GLD) engages temporary staff through Civil Service contractual arrangements to cover short term vacancies and to secure

specific specialist legal and support skills that are not available in-house. It does not use a resource board to approve this form of appointments. Rather, the department's annual budget for staffing is agreed each year by the GLD Board and formal delegations are made to individual budget holders who then have responsibility for the recruitment and deployment of staff (including temporary staff, where appropriate) within central guidelines. The approval mechanism for consultancy spend at the GLD is not via a resources board although a request for consultancy would need to be accompanied by a business justification. However, there was no consultancy spend in GLD during the last financial year.

The AGO have not employed any consultancy or agency staff during 2016/17.

Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI) discusses and authorises all requests for consultants or temporary staff at their strategic board.

■ Contempt of Court Act 1981

Justin Tomlinson: [\[8839\]](#)

To ask the Attorney General, what recent discussions he has had with social media providers on user postings and the provisions of the Contempt of Court Act 1981.

Jeremy Wright:

The Law Officers have had no recent discussions with social media providers on users' postings and the provisions of the Contempt of Court Act 1981. The Attorney General has, however, announced on 15 September 2017 a Call for Evidence to consider the impact of social media on the administration of justice. The Call for Evidence will assess the risks arising from social media to the fairness of criminal trials including contempt of court, the right to anonymity of victims and the integrity of judicial orders in criminal proceedings.

■ Courts: Legal Costs

Alan Brown: [\[7101\]](#)

To ask the Attorney General, how many court cases the Government has defended since 2010; and what the cost to the public purse was of each such case.

Jeremy Wright:

Each Department is responsible for defending actions brought against them and makes their own arrangements for doing so. There is no central record of all court cases brought against the Government and therefore it is not possible to identify either the total number of cases or the cost of them.

However, most central government bodies instruct the Government Legal Department to conduct their litigation. Since the 2010-11 financial year the Government Legal Department has been instructed by government bodies in almost 200,000 cases costing about £570 million (including VAT).

■ Extradition: Rwanda

Mr Andrew Mitchell:

[8675]

To ask the Attorney General, what cost has been incurred by the Crown Prosecution Service in each of the last 11 years of extradition proceedings in relation to suspected Rwandan genocide by Dr Vincent Bajinya, Charles Munyaneza, Emmanuel Nteziryayo, Celestin Ugirashebuja and Celestin Mutabaruka.

Jeremy Wright:

The Crown Prosecution Service ('CPS') conducts extradition proceedings on behalf of foreign states in compliance with section 190 of the Extradition Act 2003.

The CPS' costs for the first extradition proceedings from 2006-2009 was £348,029.29. No costs were incurred in the period 2009-2013. In respect of the second extradition proceedings, the costs incurred from 2013 to date of writing are £291,277.88, although some further costs are anticipated. The total costs to date are £639,307.17. CPS records do not capture the cost of internal time spent by CPS staff on individual cases.

■ Offences against Children: Sentencing

Mr Philip Hollobone:

[9841]

To ask the Attorney General, if he will ensure that the Crown Prosecution Service always considers that racial motivation may be an aggravating factor for seeking higher sentences for conviction for child abuse.

Robert Buckland:

The Sentencing Council has issued a definitive guideline on the sentencing of sexual offences. Racial aggravation increases an offender's culpability under the guideline and therefore the starting point and sentence range for the court to consider.

Prosecutors should assist the Court as necessary during the sentencing process, including drawing the Court's attention to any relevant sentencing guidelines and the aggravating and mitigating features of the case.

Ultimately, sentencing is a matter for the court. Racial aggravation makes an offence more serious and the court has a duty to take this into account when it sentences a defendant.

■ Rape: Prosecutions

Diana Johnson:

[8428]

To ask the Attorney General, how many times (a) victims have withdrawn support for a prosecution of an alleged rape under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 case and (b) the Crown Prosecution Service has decided not to continue with the prosecution of an alleged rape following the withdrawal of such support in each year since 2009-10.

Jeremy Wright:

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not maintain a central record of the number of victims who have withdrawn support for a prosecution or the number of cases the CPS has then subsequently decided not to proceed with. This information could only be obtained by examining CPS case files, which would incur disproportionate cost.

However, while the CPS does not collect data on the number of victims who withdraw support for the prosecution, or cases which do not proceed following the withdrawal of such support, information is available to show the overall number of pre-charge decisions where a decision not to prosecute was made and unsuccessful prosecution outcomes that were flagged as rape. These outcomes can be disaggregated to show the volume and proportion that were due to victim issues, including retraction, where it was inappropriate to compel the victim, non-attendance at trial or where the evidence given did not come up to proof.

The CPS monitoring of cases involving offences of rape involves the application of a rape 'flag' to applicable cases that are recorded on the CPS' electronic Case Management System (CMS). The CPS definition of rape covers any case where the following offences were considered pre-charge or were subsequently charged:

- Rape: Section 1 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956
- Sexual intercourse with a girl under the age of 13: Section 5 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956
- Rape: Section 1 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Rape of a child under 13: Section 5 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Sexual activity with a person with a mental disorder impeding choice: Section 30(3) of the Sexual Offences Act 2003
- An attempt to commit any of the above offences under the Criminal Attempts Act 1981
- Incitement or conspiracy to commit any of the above offences.

The table below shows the volume and proportion of decisions not to prosecute due to victim issues in cases flagged as rape during each of the last seven available years.

VICTIM ISSUES		NO PROSECUTION		CHARGED		TOTAL
Volume %		Volume %		Volume %		
2009-2010	291	3.8%	4,165	54.2%	3,232	42.1% 7,683
2010-2011	299	3.7%	4,339	53.4%	3,387	41.7% 8,130

VICTIM ISSUES		NO PROSECUTION		CHARGED		TOTAL
2011-2012	190	2.8%	3,281	48.1%	3,213	47.1% 6,822
2012-2013	113	2.1%	2,195	40.6%	2,889	53.5% 5,404
2013-2014	158	2.7%	1,857	31.7%	3,621	61.9% 5,850
2014-2015	189	3.1%	1,997	32.4%	3,648	59.2% 6,159
2015-2016	181	2.6%	2,271	33.1%	3,910	57.0% 6,855

Data Source: CPS Case Management Information System

Victim issues include cases where the victim is called as a witness in a trial, but fails to attend court; where the evidence of the victim supports the prosecution case but the victim refuses to be called as a witness, or retracts, or withdraws a complaint; and where the evidence of the victim does not support the prosecution of the defendant, leading to an unsuccessful outcome, but the victim however, has not retracted.

The CPS will shortly be publishing its annual Violence Against Women and Girls Report for 2016-17 which will provide the most up to date assessment of rape flagged prosecutions including the key reasons for unsuccessful prosecutions.

Diana Johnson:

[\[8429\]](#)

To ask the Attorney General, how many complaints the Crown Prosecution Service received on the handling of allegations of rape under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 in each year since 2004-05.

Jeremy Wright:

ANSWER: ATTORNEY GENERAL: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not maintain a central record of the number of complaints received about the handling of allegations of rape under the Sexual Offences Act 2003. This information could only be obtained by examining CPS case files, which would incur disproportionate cost.

It does however hold data about the Victim's Right to Review (VRR) scheme. A VRR arises where the CPS finalises a case with a decision that qualifies under the scheme. Qualifying decisions are where the CPS:

- (i) makes the decision not to bring proceedings (i.e. at the pre-charge stage); or
- (ii) decides to discontinue (or withdraw in the Magistrates' Court) all charges involving the victim, thereby entirely ending all proceedings relating to them;
- (iii) offers no evidence in all proceedings relating to the victim; or

(iv) decides to leave all charges in the proceedings to "lie on file".

The CPS launched the scheme in June 2013.

The table below shows the number of VRR appeals received by the CPS, where the principal offence was identified as a sexual offence, since the Scheme began.

	JUNE 2013 - MARCH 2014	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Total VRR Appeals Received	143	239	373	453
Number of Sexual Offence VRR Appeals Upheld	27	37	53	24
% of Sexual Offences Appeals Upheld	18.9%	15.5%	14.2%	5.3%

Diana Johnson:

[\[8464\]](#)

To ask the Attorney General, how many cases of alleged rape under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 were referred to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) by police in each year since 2009-10; on how many occasions the CPS pressed charges for those cases in each of those years; and what the (a) average, (b) shortest and (c) longest period of time between referral and charging was for cases which (i) did and (ii) did not lead to CPS charges in each of those years.

Jeremy Wright:

The table below shows the volume and proportion of charged suspects in cases flagged as rape during each of the last seven available years.

	VOLUME	%	TOTAL NO OF CASES REFERRED
2009 - 10	3,232	42.1%	7,683
2010 - 11	3,387	41.7%	8,130
2011 - 12	3,213	47.1%	6,822
2012 - 13	2,889	53.5%	5,404
2013 - 14	3,621	61.9%	5,850
2014 - 15	3,648	59.2%	6,159

	VOLUME	%	TOTAL NO OF CASES REFERRED
2015 - 16	3,910	57.0%	6,855

(Data Source: CPS Case Management Information System)

The CPS monitoring of cases involving offences of rape involves the application of a rape 'flag' to applicable cases that are recorded on the CPS' electronic Case Management System (CMS). The CPS definition of rape covers any case where the following offences were considered pre-charge or were subsequently charged:

- Rape: Section 1 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956
- Sexual intercourse with a girl under the age of 13: Section 5 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956
- Rape: Section 1 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Rape of a child under 13: Section 5 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Sexual activity with a person with a mental disorder impeding choice: Section 30(3) of the Sexual Offences Act 2003
- An attempt to commit any of the above offences under the Criminal Attempts Act 1981
- Incitement or conspiracy to commit any of the above offences.

No separate record of the shortest or longest time from the initial request from the police to the decision to charge is maintained on the CMS, nor is any record collated showing the average number of days taken when the outcome of the charging decision is not to prosecute or any other outcome.

Rape and serious sexual offences (RASSO) investigations can be highly complex in nature and typically involve the review of a large quantity of evidence. In the vast majority of cases suspects are on police bail prior to a charging decision being made by the CPS and where the police seek a charging decision in such circumstances the CPS cannot authorise charges until the Full Code Test set out in the Code is met. The timeliness of a charging decision is determined by two key factors: how quickly the police can complete the necessary enquiries; and how quickly the CPS can then review the evidence provided by the police and finalise the charging decision.

The CPS recognises the distress caused to both complainants and defendants by delays in the charging process and we are committed to improving the timeliness of charging decisions. One of the most significant steps that the CPS has taken in this regard has been to substantially increase the resourcing allocated to the specialist RASSO units around the country which prosecute these cases. Between July 2015 and May 2017 the number of RASSO prosecutors available to make charging

decisions rose from 138 to 197. This increased resourcing has contributed to an improvement in the timeliness of charging decisions. The number of RASSO cases awaiting CPS charging advice for between 28 days and 3 months fell by over 46% between March 2016 and March 2017 from 489 to 263 cases. Latest provisional data for July indicates the numbers have fallen still further to less than 130.

The CPS is committed to achieving further improvements in timeliness and in May 2017 the RASSO Service Standards were launched. These Standards set out best practice for the management of pre-charge RASSO bail cases between CPS areas and their local police partners. The Standards provide a commitment on the part of the CPS to provide a review of a case within 28 days of submission from the police and sets out an escalation procedure for police colleagues to follow when this target is not met. The Standards also require CPS staff to be actively involved in securing updates from investigating officers where there are significant delays in the police investigation of RASSO cases.

■ Rape: Remand in Custody

Diana Johnson:

[\[8451\]](#)

To ask the Attorney General, how many applications were made to extend custody time limits (CTLs) in cases of alleged rape under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 where the defendant was remanded in custody in each year since 2009-10; and on how many occasions the Chief Crown Prosecutor was informed of a failure by the criminal justice system to adhere to CTLs in each of those years.

Jeremy Wright:

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not collect data on the number of applications made to the courts to extend custody time limits in cases in which rape is alleged. This information could only be obtained by examining CPS case files, which would incur disproportionate cost.

To assist in the effective management of its prosecution functions the CPS maintains Custody Time Limit Failure Log. Data from that log showing the number of failures in rape cases in each year since 2011/12 for which the CPS was primarily responsible, and as a percentage of the total number of prosecutions in the year, is contained in the table below. In one of the CTLs listed, no application was made to extend. In the remainder, an application was made but refused by the court.

Earlier data are not available without incurring disproportionate cost. Data for the years 2009/10 and 2010/11 are not available.

	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Prosecutions	3,864	3,692	3,891	4,536	4,643	5,190
CTL failures	2	2	0	3	1	2
%	0.05%	0.05%	0.00%	0.07%	0.02%	0.04%

This data includes prosecution for rape under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and the Sexual Offences Act 1956 where the allegation occurred whilst that legislation was in force.

The Crown Prosecution Service does not collect data on the number of alleged rape cases in which the criminal justice system failed to adhere to custody time limits. There will be cases in which a custody time limit is not extended for reasons that do not involve any criticism of the CPS.

The Crown Prosecution Service monitors every case prosecuted by the CPS which is the subject of a custody time limit to ensure compliance with the regime.

BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

■ Aerospace Industry: Procurement

Rebecca Long Bailey:

[\[10252\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will make an assessment of the effectiveness of his Department's procurement policy in supporting UK aerospace companies and the UK aerospace sector.

Richard Harrington:

Although the Department does not procure from the aerospace sector, we provide strong support for the UK aerospace industry through the Aerospace Growth Partnership (AGP). We believe this has been successful in supporting industry. Since 2010, the UK aerospace industry has seen turnover grow from £23.7billion to £32billion; exports have increased from £18billion to £30billion; direct jobs have grown from 110,000 to 120,000, with indirect jobs up from 148,000 to 161,000; and, between 2010 and 2016, productivity growth in the sector was over five times more than in the economy as a whole. In addition we have created a more certain environment to drive increased investment in R&D, through a £1.95billion Government commitment over 13 years to 2026, matched by industry, to fund new R&D projects.

But we are not complacent and will continue to work with industry through the AGP to retain the UK's position as a leading aerospace nation.

■ Antarctic: Snow and Ice

Jim Shannon:

[\[9992\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment his Department has made of how much ice has reduced in the Antarctic in the last five years.

Joseph Johnson:

In the Antarctic, there are two main forms of ice, glacial and sea ice, which, due to differences in measurement approaches, are assessed separately.

Sea ice, formed from freezing seawater, is highly variable on a year-to-year basis, and over the last 5 years (2012 - 2016) the annual average extent of sea ice has decreased by an average of about a quarter of a million square kilometres per year. In March 2017 the sea ice extent dropped to the lowest level observed since satellite monitoring began in 1978— at about 2 million square kilometres, or 27% below the mean annual minimum.

In the 5 years to mid-2016, around 550 Gigatonnes of glacial ice, which is formed from snow, were lost from the ice sheet.

For a full understanding of changes in Antarctic ice, longer-term trends should be assessed. The 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change showed that the Antarctic ice sheet has been losing mass over the past two decades and, while the long term trend in Antarctic sea ice extent has shown a small increase, there are strong regional differences, with extent increasing in some regions and decreasing in others.

■ Coal: Mining

Philip Davies:

[10072]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what his policy is on UK mined coal in the Government's industrial strategy; and if he will make a statement.

Richard Harrington:

We are committed to ensuring the supply of secure, affordable and clean energy for businesses and households.

Coal production in the UK has fallen significantly from approx. 30 million tonnes in 2000 to 4.2 million tonnes in 2016 ^[1]. While there remain some markets for coal, this decline has been driven largely by the decline in coal power generation.

Our Industrial Strategy is about driving growth right across the whole country. We will create the framework to build on the particular strengths of each place and to address factors that hold places back such as the decline of an industry.

An additional £1.8 billion from the Local Growth Fund has been allocated for a new set of Growth Deals between Government and Local Enterprise Partnerships; £23bn National Productivity Investment Fund to drive productivity across the country; a new £300m Skills Fund to skill-up workers.

[1]

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/643414/DUKES_2017.pdf (page 39)

■ Electricity Generation

Philip Davies:

[10043]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, whether it is his policy for the UK to become self-sufficient in electricity production after March 2019; and if he will make a statement.

Richard Harrington:

The Government's priority is maintaining affordable, clean and secure energy supplies for businesses and households. Interconnectors deliver effectively on these aims as part of our modern industrial strategy and will continue to be an important part of our electricity supply. Our capacity market ensures security of electricity supply by providing all forms of capacity the right incentives to be on the system and to deliver energy when needed.

■ Energy: Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle

Emma Hardy:

[9922]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what procedures are in place to ensure the safe installation of smart meters in Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle constituency.

Richard Harrington:

I refer the hon Member to the answer I gave to the hon Member for Huddersfield (Barry Sheerman) to Question UIN [9047](#).

■ EU Framework Programme

Stephen Gethins:

[10229]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, whether the Government plans to contribute to the development of the EU's Framework Programme 9 while the UK remains a member of the EU.

Joseph Johnson:

The UK is keen to engage positively and productively in the discussions around Framework Programme 9. The Government has made clear our interest in continued collaboration with EU partners on research and innovation. We look forward to continuing discussions with the Commission and all other interested parties.

■ Local Government: Minimum Wage

Lyn Brown:

[10031]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps his Department is taking to support local authorities to tackle non-compliance with the National Minimum Wage.

Margot James:

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) enforce the National Minimum Wage on behalf of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). In

2016/17, HMRC identified £10.9m of underpayments, owed to 98,000 workers. The enforcement budget has been increased to £25.3m for 2017/18.

Effective communications are an integral part of our strategy for promoting compliance. Both BEIS and HMRC provide information and guidance to help employers ensure they are compliant, and we encourage Local Authorities and other agencies to use these resources and others to support employer compliance.

■ Metals: Industry

Nicky Morgan: [9444]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what representations he has received from the metals industries on the effect on that sector of the UK leaving the EU.

Claire Perry:

Ministers and officials have engaged extensively on EU exit with metals companies and representative bodies across the UK. Most recently, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy discussed the trade regime post-EU exit at a meeting of the Steel Council on 7th September. We want to achieve the best possible outcome and the strongest possible partnership - one that works for UK businesses. We plan to be ambitious in these negotiations and will secure the best possible access for firms to trade with and operate in the European market.

■ New Businesses and Small Businesses: Government Assistance

Seema Malhotra: [10036]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what (a) grants and (b) other financial support his Department provides to (i) small and (ii) start-up businesses.

Margot James:

British Business Bank Programmes are supporting almost £3.5bn of finance to over 56,000 smaller businesses, and participating in a further £5.5bn to 81 mid-cap businesses (as at December 2016).

These figures are published in this Department's annual report ^[1] and in the British Business Bank's annual report ^[2].

I am pleased to note that since 2012 in the hon. Member's constituency of Feltham and Heston, 67 start-up loans have been drawn down to a value of £497,547.

[1]

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/641623/beis-annual-report-accounts-2016-17-update-2-web.pdf

[2] <https://annualreport2017.british-business-bank.co.uk/>

■ Partnerships: Scotland

Alison Thewliss:

[\[10104\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how many eligible Scottish limited partnerships that failed to supply statements of Persons of Significant Control by the deadline are to be prosecuted in accordance with the Scottish Partnerships (Register of People with significant control) Regulations 2017.

Margot James:

We will continue to seek compliance from those Scottish Limited Partnerships which appear to be still in operation. The Scottish Partnerships (Register of People with Significant Control) Regulations 2017 contain a number of offences and we are working with enforcement bodies to determine the appropriate action. Prosecution is a last resort and would be taken forward by the Procurator Fiscal.

Alison Thewliss:

[\[10105\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how many eligible Scottish limited partnerships failed to supply statements of Persons of Significant Control by the deadline given in the Scottish Partnerships (Register of People with Significant Control) Regulations 2017.

Margot James:

Approximately 28,100 Scottish Limited Partnerships failed to supply statements of Persons of Significant Control by the deadline given in the Scottish Partnerships (Register of People with Significant Control) Regulations 2017. Companies House is taking action to secure compliance.

■ Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme

Emma Hardy:

[\[9920\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, in what month in 2017 he plans to reintroduce the Renewable Heat Scheme Regulations 2017.

Claire Perry:

The Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme and Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2017 were laid before Parliament on 30 August 2017. These regulations are due to come in force on 20 September 2017, subject to Parliamentary process. Further reforms outlined in the Government response in December 2016 will be implemented in due course, subject to Parliamentary process.

Emma Hardy:

[\[9921\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how many single applicants have received subsidies for multiple installations under the non-domestic Renewable Heat Incentive scheme since that scheme's inception.

Claire Perry:

This cannot be directly determined from the application data because we do not require applicants to indicate if they own another Renewable Heat Incentive installation.

■ Sellafeld: Industrial Relations

Stephanie Peacock: [R] [\[10185\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what meetings (a) he, (b) Ministers of his Department and (c) Departmental officials have had with members of the management at Sellafeld Ltd in West Cumbria in the last 18 months on industrial relations at Sellafeld.

Richard Harrington:

Sellafeld industrial relations, including the current discussions on pay, are a matter to be resolved between the management at Sellafeld Limited and its workforce. No meetings have taken place between the Sellafeld management and Departmental Ministers on the matter of industrial relations in the last 18 months. Departmental officials engage with key stakeholders when developing policy proposals, and industrial relations have been a raised at meetings with the management of Sellafeld Limited over the last 18 months, particularly whilst negotiating pension reform proposals.

■ Sellafeld: Pay Settlements

Stephanie Peacock: [R] [\[10182\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what discussions he has had with the (a) Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, (b) Sellafeld Ltd and (c) trade unions on the pay dispute at the Sellafeld nuclear reprocessing site.

Richard Harrington:

The Sellafeld pay dispute is a matter to be resolved between the management at Sellafeld Limited and its workforce. Officials are in daily contact with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority in respect of this issue, but there have been no direct discussions with the other two parties.

Stephanie Peacock: [R] [\[10186\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he is taking to support a resolution to the pay dispute at Sellafeld Ltd in West Cumbria.

Richard Harrington:

The pay dispute on the Sellafeld site is a matter to be resolved between the management at Sellafeld Limited and its workforce. Officials are in daily contact with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority in respect of this issue.

■ Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Catherine West: [\[9821\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what recent discussions he has had with representatives from the solar energy industry on the future of the Feed-in Tariff scheme.

Richard Harrington:

Since my appointment to the department in June I have met with a variety of stakeholders in the small scale renewables sector, including the Solar Trade Association, and the Renewable Energy Association.

CABINET OFFICE

■ Cabinet Office: Behavioural Insights Team

Jon Trickett: [\[9801\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what guidance his Department has given to the Behavioural Insights Team on policy on potential conflict of interest between its clients and Government Departments.

Jon Trickett: [\[9802\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, when his Department was informed that the Behavioural Insights Team would open an office in Singapore; whether his Department was aware of the plan to open that office before the team was privatised; and whether that team plans to operate new offices in any other jurisdiction.

Caroline Nokes:

I refer the Hon. Member to the reply I gave him on Thursday 14th September 2017, to PQ9181.

■ Cabinet Office: Freedom of Information

Jon Trickett: [\[9803\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what steps he has taken to improve the quality and timeliness of his Department's responses to Freedom of Information requests.

Chris Skidmore:

Last year, the Cabinet Office responded to 94% of requests in time. This was 3% above the average timeliness of other monitored bodies. In the first quarter of this year Cabinet Office answered 96% of requests in time. The Cabinet Office receives requests for some of the most sensitive information in Government, and must consider the public interest carefully when considering whether it is appropriate to release information in response to those requests.

■ Cybercrime

Nick Thomas-Symonds: [\[9844\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, when the security ratings for new products set out in paragraph 5.2.6 of the National Cyber Security Strategy were implemented.

Caroline Nokes:

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport is considering the need for the right incentives to be in place to build security into internet-connected products and services. The National Cyber Security Centre website provides clear information to consumers directly and via its website, for example on the use of password managers.

Nick Thomas-Symonds: [\[9867\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many suppliers have adopted the cyber security standards set out in paragraph 5.3.11 of the National Cyber Security Strategy.

Caroline Nokes:

On 1 October 2014, Government required all suppliers bidding for specified sensitive and personal information handling contracts to be certified against the Cyber Essentials scheme. Cyber Essentials is a government-backed scheme to help organisations protect themselves against common cyber attacks whilst demonstrating their compliance with appropriate cyber security standards.

As of August 2017 there have been 7,907 Cyber Essentials certificates issued to UK businesses. We do not specifically track the number of certified government suppliers.

■ Cybercrime: Finance

Nick Thomas-Symonds: [\[9842\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, with reference to the National Cyber Security Strategy, if he will list spending on each project supported by the Cyber Investment Fund.

Caroline Nokes:

The Government has allocated £10 million to establish a Cyber Innovation Fund which will support the UK's national security requirements by providing innovative start-ups with financial and procurement support. This investment forms part of a suite of innovation initiatives within the National Cyber Security Strategy that will develop the cyber security sector and support the UK's national security requirements in cyber. The mechanism to deliver funding is currently under evaluation in consultation with industry partners.

■ Government Departments: Disclosure of Information

Mr Jim Cunningham: [\[9823\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that Government departments meet their obligations to publish transparency data in a timely fashion.

Caroline Nokes:

The UK Government is among the most transparent in the world and each Department is responsible for publishing a range of data on its activities. We will be working with departments over the coming months to improve the publication process to ensure we continue to meet our obligations in this important area.

■ Government Departments: Publications

Jon Trickett: [\[9725\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many publications routinely issued by each Department have had their release date delayed or pushed back since January 2017.

Caroline Nokes:

This information is not recorded centrally.

■ Voting Behaviour

Chris Ruane: [\[9743\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what information his Department holds on likelihood to vote based on distance from polling station for each socio-economic group.

Chris Skidmore:

We do not hold any information of the type described.

TREASURY

■ Balance of Payments

Philip Davies: [\[10042\]](#)

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

Stephen Barclay:

The current account deficit has widened due to a worsening in investment income, as returns on investments in the UK have been higher than the income earned by the UK on investment abroad. As the world economy recovers the current account deficit should narrow, in line with the Office for Budget Responsibility's forecast of -2.0% of GDP in 2021. The Government is supporting exports through UK Export Finance which has provided £14bn in support for UK exporters in the last five years and the

Department for International Trade helping over 2,800 businesses who are new to exporting.

■ Business: Terrorism

Neil Coyle: [\[9689\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether the Government plans to require insurance companies to offer terrorism insurance on all business policies.

Neil Coyle: [\[9694\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether the Government plans to introduce legislation to update the Reinsurance (Acts of Terrorism) Act 1993 to enable insurance companies to offer terrorism insurance beyond property damage to businesses.

Neil Coyle: [\[9695\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make it his policy to introduce legislation to update the Reinsurance (Acts of Terrorism) Act 1993 to enable insurance companies to pay compensation to businesses after terrorism attacks when there is no damage to property.

Stephen Barclay:

There is nothing in current legislation in the Reinsurance (Acts of Terrorism) Act 1993 that prevents insurers from offering terrorism insurance beyond property damage to businesses, and indeed such products exist on the market.

It is up to businesses to decide what risks they would like to be insured against, and for insurers to assess the extent of the risks they are willing to cover. The Government does not generally intervene in these commercial decisions by businesses and insurers.

That said, we remain in discussions with the insurance industry, Pool Re and other interested parties to ensure that the 1993 Reinsurance Act continues to enable appropriate terrorism cover to be available for all businesses in the UK.

I am due to meet the Honourable Member shortly and I am happy to discuss his questions in further detail.

■ Credit Cards: Debts

Catherine West: [\[10027\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what representations he has received on the practice of credit card lenders targeting individuals who have unaffordable levels of debt.

Stephen Barclay:

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

Regulation of consumer credit, including credit cards, is the responsibility of the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). The FCA conducted a credit card market study in

November 2014 and published its final report in July 2016. Following this, it consulted in April 2017 on proposed remedies to tackle persistent debt in the credit card market. The government will continue to work with the FCA to ensure that customers are treated fairly .

■ Economic Situation

Jim Shannon:

[\[10008\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate his Department has made of the potential effect on the country's gross domestic product of the UK leaving the EU without a deal.

Stephen Barclay:

Government has undertaken a significant amount of work to assess the economic impacts of leaving the EU. This is part of our continued programme of rigorous and extensive analytical work on a range of scenarios on a sector by sector basis.

All departments need to prepare not just for a negotiated settlement, but also for the no deal scenario. We are confident that we will secure a deal, but are prepared should there be no deal.

■ Mining: Pensions

Chris Williamson:

[\[10313\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how much his Department has received from the Mineworkers Pension Scheme and the British Coal Staff Superannuation Scheme since 1994.

Elizabeth Truss:

The Government has received £3,356.3m from the Mineworkers' Pension Scheme and £3,119m from the British Coal Staff Superannuation Scheme since 1994.

■ National Insurance Contributions: Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle

Emma Hardy:

[\[9932\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many people in Hull West and Hessle constituency earn under £6,000 a year and make voluntary national insurance contributions through Class 2.

Mel Stride:

These figures are not available in the form requested.

■ Universities: EU Grants and Loans

Stephen Gethins:

[\[10150\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will take steps to ensure that universities with European Investment Bank loans are not affected by changes in the legal terms of their loans as a result of the UK leaving the EU.

Stephen Barclay:

Contracts signed between the European Investment Bank (EIB) Group and UK counterparties are matters for the parties. They do not contain any provisions relating to the departure of a member state from the EU. The UK is in the process of negotiating what its future relationship with the EIB will be, but the government is clear that the UK's exit from the EU on its own does not change existing EIB Group contracts with UK counterparties.

■ Universities: Finance

Stephen Gethins: [10202]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make an assessment of whether there will be any gap in funding for UK universities during the transition from EU structural and investment funds to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Elizabeth Truss:

The Government made a manifesto commitment to use the EU structural and investment fund money returning to the UK after the UK leaves the EU to create a UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

In October 2016 the Chancellor confirmed that HMT would guarantee funding for all multi-year ESIF projects signed ahead of the point at which the UK leaves the EU. Funding will be honoured provided that the relevant government department considers the project to provide good value for money and be in line with domestic strategic priorities.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

■ Affordable Housing

John Healey: [10088]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, when his Department plans to publish the Affordable Housing Starts and Completions: England, April 2017 to September 2017 (Update of Live Table 1012).

Alok Sharma:

Publication dates for the Department's statistics are shown in the Statistics Release calendar, which is to be found at :

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements?utf8=%E2%9C%93&organizations%5B%5D=department-for-communities-and-local-government>

John Healey: [9852]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how many Homes and Communities Agency-funded affordable homes, by tenure, were (a) started and (b) completed in each financial year since 2008-09 in (i) Bromsgrove, (ii) Reading and (iii) Windsor and Maidenhead local authority areas.

Alok Sharma:

[Holding answer 14 September 2017]: The numbers of additional affordable dwellings provided in local authorities across England since 1997 is published in live table 1008C available here:

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

■ Carbon Emissions: Housing

Ruth Cadbury:

[8630]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what recent assessment his Department has made of progress towards ensuring that all new homes are ultra-low emission from 2020.

Alok Sharma:

The Government has a duty under section 165 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 to carry out a review of the minimum energy performance requirements for new homes in the Building Regulations. As set out in the Housing White Paper - *Fixing our broken housing market* – work has started on the review and we will consult on improving the requirements on new homes if evidence suggests that there are opportunities to do so without making homes less affordable for those who want to buy their own home.

This will be in the context of the Independent Review on Building Regulations and Fire Safety, the findings of the Public Inquiry and on going building safety work.

■ Construction Methods

Jeremy Lefroy:

[8226]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what progress has been made on supporting a joint working group with lenders, valuers and the industry focussing on modern methods of construction; and when the first meeting of that group will be held.

Alok Sharma:

Following publication of the White Paper my officials have met with lenders, valuers, warranty providers and insurers across the industry to get a better understanding of their current processes for homes built using modern methods of construction, and identify areas where these could be improved.

The joint working group will meet for the first time later this year.

■ Council Housing: Insulation

Afzal Khan:

[9326]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, whether his Department will refund local authorities the cost of ensuring that all existing housing stock is made safe as a result of the Grenfell Tower fire.

Alok Sharma:

The Government will consider the removal of financial restrictions where financial barriers stand in the way of essential work being done. This would include circumstances where local fire services advise essential fire safety works are required to make a building safe. We are working with local authorities who approach us on a case by case basis.

■ Council Housing: Standards

Andrew Gwynne: [9152]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what steps his Department is taking to improve the building standards of older council stock properties.

Alok Sharma:

It is the responsibility of the local authority as the building owner to ensure that council housing meets relevant standards. The Government has set up a building safety programme to respond to building safety issues which have emerged following the Grenfell Tower fire.

■ Council Housing: Waiting Lists

Mr David Lammy: [9721]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what estimate his Department has made of the number of households on local authority housing waiting lists in (a) the London Borough of Haringey, (b) London and (c) England.

Alok Sharma:

Estimates of the numbers of households on local authority waiting lists by local authority in England are published in the Department's statistics Live Table 600 to be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-rents-lettings-and-tenancies> .

■ Department for Communities and Local Government: Advertising

Deidre Brock: [3402]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how much his Department has spent on advertising on social media in each month since January 2016.

Mr Marcus Jones:

Since January 2016 the Department for Communities and Local Government spent the following amount on social media:

MONTH	GROSS SPEND (EX VAT & COMMISSION)
Jan-16	£ 9,369
Feb-16	£ 24,287
Mar-16	£ 31,053

MONTH	GROSS SPEND (EX VAT & COMMISSION)
Apr-16	£ 7,161
May-16	£ 4,729
Jun-16	£ 13,792
Jul-16	£ 2,768
Aug-16	£ 8,672
Sep-16	£ 10,461
Oct-16	£ 23,022
Nov-16	£ 19,622
Dec-16	£ 4,029
Jan-17	£ 13,037
Feb-17	£ 37,228
Mar-17	£ 134,752
Apr-17	£ 49,037
May-17	£ 11,782
Total Spend	£ 404,802

These figures represent gross social media advertising spend excluding fees, commission and VAT. 'Social' channels are defined as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. These figures represent total spend for DCLG, excluding its arm's length bodies (ALBs).

Government advertising supports the government's priorities and helps deliver its programmes, from raising awareness of government home buying schemes so people can own their own home, to informing voters of the combined authority regional mayoral elections held in May 2017 to help increase turnout. The media in which we place government advertising are selected for their ability to most effectively reach our target audience.

Government advertising is purchased by our media buying agency, Carat Ltd. Carat has held the contract for UK government media buying since January 2015.

■ Department for Communities and Local Government: Buildings

Jon Trickett: [\[8732\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how much his Department has received from sub-lets on its estate in each year since 2010.

Mr Marcus Jones:

The information requested is as follows:

Table: Income from sub-letting properties on the Department for Communities and Local Government estate

Financial year Amount (£)

2010-11 £1,574,236

2011-12 £3,023,417

2012-13 £3,481,200

2013-14 £6,522,484

2014-15 £4,428,275

2015-16 £2,994,370

2016-17 £4,077,054

The government uses a process of a Memorandum of Terms of Occupation which enables us to use our assets efficiently and share space between government organisations. We have not included MOTO income in these figures, as these are not sub-lets.

■ Department for Communities and Local Government: Ministers' Private Offices

Andrew Gwynne: [\[9149\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, which Ministers of his Department have requested funds from the public purse for improvements to their Ministerial offices.

Mr Marcus Jones:

No ministers have requested funds for improvements to their offices.

■ Department for Communities and Local Government: Secondment

Jon Trickett: [\[7989\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how many applications his Department has received for (a) internal loans and (b) secondments from civil servants in each year since 2010.

Mr Marcus Jones:

The information requested is not held centrally.

■ Fire Regulations

Andrew Gwynne:

[\[7325\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 3 July 2017 to Question HL374, whether an assessment has been made of the extent to which his Department's Approved Document B is effective as a means by which the functional requirements of fire safety may be met.

Alok Sharma:

The Government will consider this issue in light of the Independent Review on Building Regulations and Fire Safety, the findings of the Public Inquiry and on going work to review building safety.

■ Fire Regulations: Prosecutions

Emma Reynolds:

[\[9318\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how many prosecutions have been brought for breach of fire safety building regulations in each of the last seven years.

Alok Sharma:

[Holding answer 12 September 2017]: Prosecutions for breaches of the Building Regulations, including regulations on fire safety, are brought by local authorities. The Department for Communities and Local Government does not collect information on such prosecutions.

■ Grenfell Tower Inquiry

John Healey:

[\[9205\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, with reference to the Prime Minister's letter relating to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry of 15 August 2017 to the right hon. Sir Martin Moore-Bick, how much time has been allocated for the Housing Minister to meet and hear from as many social housing tenants as possible; how long that exercise will last for; and how findings from that exercise will be reported.

Alok Sharma:

I have met with representatives of national tenant organisations to seek their views on this process and a programme of events is currently being drawn up so I can personally meet and hear from as many social tenants both in the immediate area around Grenfell Tower but also across the country.

■ Grenfell Tower: Fires

Andrew Gwynne:

[\[9541\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, with reference to the letter to residents following the Grenfell Tower fire of 5 September 2017, if he will set out how the process by which former Grenfell Tower residents bid for new housing ensures that former residents do not bid against each other.

Alok Sharma:

The selection and matching process allows residents to express a preference for available units of permanent accommodation on the Choice Based Lettings online portal managed by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council (RBKC). A matching process will then take place on the basis of the RBKC allocations policy, which is set out in "The Housing Commitment to Residents who lived in Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk"

<https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/atoms/files/The%20housing%20commitment%20to%20residents%20%E2%80%93%20FAQ.pdf>.

Andrew Gwynne: [9598]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 20 July 2017 to Question 4915, whether the Government sought the advice of the expert panel on fire safety before the original testing of samples of cladding material.

Alok Sharma:

The decision to commission the screening tests on Aluminium Cladding Material (ACM) samples was made on the basis of advice from independent experts. The Independent Expert Advisory Panel had not been appointed at that time. At their first meeting, the Independent Expert Advisory Panel concluded the initial ACM screening tests, along with issuing advice on interim fire safety measures, were the right first steps to have taken.

Andrew Gwynne: [9599]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, with reference to his oral contribution of 26 July 2017, Official Report, column 347, whether samples of cladding and insulation were tested at a rate of 100 a day.

Alok Sharma:

As of 20 September 2017 all 554 samples of Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) cladding which the Building Research Establishment have received have been tested, as they came in, and landlords informed of the result.

■ High Rise Flats: Fire Prevention

Andrew Gwynne: [6959]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 24 July 2017 to Question 4834, how many of the cladding samples that have been tested would not meet the Department's stated view to meet the Building Regulations requirement.

Alok Sharma:

Consolidated advice published on 5 September 2017 sets out the results of Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) cladding screening tests and the seven large scale system tests conducted over the summer:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/building-safety-programme-update-and-consolidated-advice-for-building-owners-following-large-scale-testing>

John Healey:

[9237]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how many social housing blocks have failed the recent fire safety tests co-ordinated by his Department in each local authority area.

Alok Sharma:

Following the completion of the large-scale system tests, we have published consolidated advice to building owners which contains a summary of the numbers of initial screening tests which have been completed to date by the Building Research Establishment:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/building-safety-programme-update-and-consolidated-advice-for-building-owners-following-large-scale-testing>

Where social housing buildings fail the tests, local authorities in England are informing the relevant constituency MP.

John Healey:

[9281]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what estimate he has made of the number of private high-rise residential blocks that have one of the four types of cladding and insulation combinations assessed as non-compliant with building regulations guidance BR135 by local authority area.

Alok Sharma:

On 5 September 2017, we published consolidated advice for building owners following large-scale testing which can be viewed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/building-safety-programme-update-and-consolidated-advice-for-building-owners-following-large-scale-testing>

The results include private accommodation in two categories: private residential and private student residential.

The Secretary of State has urged all private owners of similar blocks to submit samples of cladding for testing. He has also asked local authorities to ensure that residents of private sector buildings are safe and has asked them to collect the data on these buildings so that we have a complete picture of the private sector.

■ High Rise Flats: Fires

Andrew Gwynne:

[8255]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what discussions he has had with his counterparts in Australia on the Lacrose Tower fire in 2014.

Alok Sharma:

I met with the former Premier of Victoria, the Hon. Ted Baillieu, on 22 August 2017. We discussed the fires that took place in high-rise buildings in and around Victoria in 2014. Mr Baillieu is now leading a taskforce which has been established to investigate non-compliant cladding in Australia. We agreed to share learning from both the UK and Australian experiences.

Mr Baillieu has met Dame Judith Hackitt and he will be engaging with her Independent Review. Furthermore, my officials are in dialogue with the Australian Building Codes Board.

■ Housing: Overseas Students

John Healey: [\[9831\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what assessment he has made of the effect of the potential underestimation of student emigration in the International Passenger Survey on the ability of local authorities to assess housing needs accurately.

Alok Sharma:

[Holding answer 14 September 2017]: To support local authorities to assess local housing needs the Government is consulting on a new standardised approach which will provide a transparent and consistent basis for the preparation of local plans. Our consultation Planning for the right homes in the right places was published on 14 September and will run for 8 weeks until 9 November. Our approach uses the 2014-based household projections which represent the best, evidence based, understanding of future household formation.

The UK's official migration statistics are produced independently by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

■ Housing: Solar Power

James Cartlidge: [\[9317\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what steps the Government is taking to encourage the fitting of solar panels where appropriate to private sector new-build homes.

Alok Sharma:

The regulations and national planning policy encourage the use of renewables without mandating any particular technology.

The energy performance requirements in the regulations do not prescribe the technologies, materials or fuels to be used, allowing builders the flexibility to innovate and select the most practical and cost-effective solutions in particular circumstances. These solutions could include solar panels, but they may not be appropriate for some types of buildings or locations.

The National Planning Policy Framework expects local planning authorities to have a positive strategy in place to promote energy from renewable and low carbon sources. The strategy should identify opportunities where development can draw its energy supply from renewable or low carbon energy supply systems. Authorities should also have policies in place to ensure that any adverse impacts, including cumulative impacts, from renewable energy developments are addressed satisfactorily.

■ Housing: Standards

Lyn Brown: [\[7211\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, with reference to page 18 of the Social Mobility Commission Report, Time for Change: an assessment of government policies on social mobility 1997-2017, what assessment he has made of the effect of poor housing conditions on social mobility.

Mr Marcus Jones:

Tackling social mobility is at the heart of the Government's ambition to make Britain a country that works for everyone. All homes should be of a reasonable standard and everyone should have a safe place to live. In rented housing, the Government is committed to ensuring tenants enjoy decent standards and receive a service which represents value for money for their rent. Local authorities have strong and effective powers to deal with poor quality, unsafe accommodation.

■ Letting Agents: Fees and Charges

John Healey: [\[9280\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, when he plans to publish the Draft Tenants Fees Bill.

Alok Sharma:

We plan to publish the Draft Tenants Fees Bill shortly.

■ Local Government Finance

Chris Ruane: [\[9742\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what level of central government funding each local authority area of England received in real terms in each of the last three years.

Mr Marcus Jones:

Central government funding, as defined in the Local Authority Revenue Expenditure and Financing Outturn publication, comprises Specific Grants inside Aggregate External Finance, Revenue Support Grant and Police Grant.

This information is collected in cash terms each year from each local authority in the Revenue Summary (RS) tables. It is available each financial year in the 'individual local authority data – outturn' sections on the Department's website here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-authority-revenue-expenditure-and-financing>

■ Private Rented Housing: Repairs and Maintenance

Lucy Allan: [\[7398\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what steps he is taking to ensure that private sector landlords maintain their properties to ensure the safety of their tenants.

Alok Sharma:

The private rented sector is an important part of our housing market, housing 4.5 million households in England. The proportion of tenants in the private rented sector living in non-decent housing fell from 47 per cent in 2006 to 28 per cent in 2015. Local authorities have strong and effective powers to deal with poor quality unsafe accommodation and we expect them to use those powers. Under the Housing Act 2004, they can issue an Improvement Notice or a Hazard Awareness Notice if they find a defect in the property. In extreme circumstances, the local authority may prohibit that property from being rented or decide to make repairs themselves and claim the cost back from the landlord.

■ Public Spaces Protection Orders

Dr Matthew Offord: [9314]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what estimate he has made of the amount of revenue raised by public space protection orders since their inception.

Mr Marcus Jones:

The Department for Communities and Local Government has made no such estimate.

■ Social Rented Housing

John Healey: [10091]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, when his Department plans to publish *Social Housing Lettings, England: 2016-17*.

Alok Sharma:

The Department for Communities and Local Government is currently planning to publish *Social Housing Lettings, England: 2016-17* as soon as the data is collected.

Andrew Gwynne: [9151]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how many new (a) local authority social lettings and (b) registered social landlord lettings in England were taken up by (i) UK nationals, (ii) EU nationals and (iii) non-EU nationals in (A) 2015-16 and (B) 2016-17.

Alok Sharma:

The information requested is available for 2015/16 from table 3d of the latest National Statistics publication on Social Housing Lettings, based on information collected via CORE (Continuous Recording of Social Housing Lettings and Sales). Information for 2016/17 is expected to be published in Autumn 2017.

Link to the National Statistics release:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/social-housing-lettings-in-england-april-2015-to-march-2016>

Mr David Lammy:

[9724]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the provision of social housing in (a) the London Borough of Haringey, (b) London and (c) England.

Alok Sharma:

As set out in our Housing White Paper, the Government recognises that this country does not build enough new homes and the National Planning Policy Framework is clear that local authorities, such as the London Borough of Haringey, are expected to identify and plan for the market and affordable housing needs of their area.

The Mayor has overall responsibility for housing policy and delivery in London and given that homes in London are the most unaffordable in the country, we believe London must take urgent action to plan for more homes and address the lack of delivery.

At a national level the Government is determined to boost housing supply and to build more affordable homes. To support this, at Autumn Statement 2016 we announced an £1.4 billion expansion of the Shared Ownership and Affordable Homes Programme (SOAHP) 2016-21 which increased the overall budget to £7.1 billion. The Government has agreed a £3.15 billion package of funding for affordable housing in London to deliver at least 90,000 new affordable homes by March 2021. So far we have delivered nearly 333,000 new affordable homes since 2010 with one quarter of overall delivery in London (79,300).

■ Social Rented Housing: Sales

John Healey:

[10070]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, when his Department plans to publish Social housing sales in England 2016 to 2017.

Alok Sharma:

Publication dates for the Department's statistics are shown in the Statistics Release calendar, which is to be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements?utf8=%E2%9C%93&organisations%5B%5D=department-for-communities-and-local-government>

■ Supported Housing: Finance

Julie Elliott:

[9726]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what steps he is taking to ensure that vulnerable people living in supported housing get the financial support needed to access adequately supported accommodation.

Julie Elliott:

[9727]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the top-up funding for supported housing tenants

given to local authorities is sufficient to make up the shortfall in funding following proposals to limit the level of housing benefit given to supported housing tenants to the level of local housing allowance.

Mr Marcus Jones:

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

■ Temporary Accommodation

Mr David Lammy: [\[10073\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what assessment his Department has made of the long-term sustainability of temporary accommodation as a housing solution.

Mr David Lammy: [\[10074\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what steps his Department is taking to improve the monitoring of standards and compliance with regulations by (a) private hostels, (b) bed and breakfasts and (c) other unsupported temporary accommodation.

Mr David Lammy: [\[9722\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what assessment he has made of the number of households in (a) the London Borough of Haringey, (b) London and (c) England who have been living in temporary accommodation for (i) three, (ii) six and (iii) 12 months.

Mr David Lammy: [\[9723\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what assessment his Department has made of the (a) safety and (b) adequacy of living conditions in (i) private hostels, (ii) bed and breakfasts and (iii) other unsupported temporary accommodation.

Mr David Lammy: [\[9811\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what assessment his Department has made of the (a) safety and (b) adequacy of living conditions in temporary accommodation.

Mr Marcus Jones:

Time spent in temporary accommodation means people are getting help and it ensures no family is without a roof over their head. The numbers of households in temporary accommodation remains well below the September 2004 peak.

Local authorities have a duty to ensure that any accommodation provided for a homeless household under the homelessness legislation must be suitable. In

considering 'suitability' authorities must, by law, consider whether the accommodation is affordable for the applicant, its size, its condition, its accessibility and also its location.

In 2012, we changed the law so that councils can place families in decent and affordable private rented homes. This now means homeless households do not have to wait as long for settled accommodation, spending less time in temporary accommodation.

In addition, we have allocated £550 million until 2020 to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping, as well as supporting the Homelessness Reduction Act, including: protecting £315 million of funding to local authorities and £149 million of central government funding for homelessness programmes.

We have also replaced the Department for Work and Pension's Temporary Accommodation Management Fee with a Flexible Homelessness Support Grant which local authorities can use more strategically to prevent and tackle homelessness. This amounts to £402 million over the two years from 2017/18.

DCLG publishes regular statistics on rough sleeping, statutory homelessness, temporary accommodation and homelessness prevention and relief. These are published at national, London and local authority level. The latest statistics can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/homelessness-statistics>.

■ Travellers: Caravan Sites

Mr Ranil Jayawardena: [9449]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of legislation regarding travellers' illegal encampments.

Alok Sharma:

The Government is concerned about unauthorised traveller encampments and the effect that they can have on communities. Local authorities and the police have a wide range of powers that enable them to take action and the Government wants to see them working together to address this issue. A summary of the powers is published on the Government's website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dealing-with-illegal-and-unauthorised-encampments>

■ Universities: Insulation

Emma Reynolds: [9044]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what information his Department holds on the number of university premises, including student accommodation, which are clad in flammable substances.

Alok Sharma:

On 5 September 2017, we published consolidated advice for building owners following large-scale testing, which includes the relevant data, and can be viewed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/building-safety-programme-update-and-consolidated-advice-for-building-owners-following-large-scale-testing>

DEFENCE

■ Armed Forces: Housing

Jim Shannon: [10006]

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what his Department is doing to ensure that Carillion carries out its full contracts in respect of armed forces-friendly accommodation.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

CarillionAmey provide the Ministry of Defence (MOD) with monthly performance figures which are measured against a range of key delivery targets. These are subject to rigorous assurance checks, and the results are reported to governing bodies and are subject to external review.

To ensure that works undertaken by CarillionAmey under the National Housing Prime Contract are carried out to an appropriate standard, a series of checks are carried out by the MOD, CarillionAmey and a third party assurance provider.

■ Armed Forces: Training

Stephen Doughty: [10294]

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, which facilities at UK training establishments have been closed (a) temporarily and (b) permanently as a result of non-use in each of the last 36 months.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

■ Army Reserve

Chris Ruane: [9916]

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many Army Reserve Centres have closed by parliamentary constituency in each of the last 10 years.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

Four Army Reserve Centres have closed in the last 10 years. Details of the constituencies in which the Army Reserve Centres were located and the years they closed are below:

ESTABLISHMENT NAME	FINANCIAL YEAR OF CLOSURE	CONSTITUENCY
Brompton Road Territorial Army Centre	2013-14	Kensington
Brambles Farm Territorial Centre	2013-14	Middlesborough
Hall on Broad Street Sussex Volunteer Estate	2012-13	Lewes
Worcester Territorial Army Centre	2010-11	Worcester

Chris Ruane: [\[9918\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many army reservists there were by each region of England and other constituent parts of the UK in each of the last 10 years.

Mark Lancaster:

The number of Army Reservists by each region of England and other constituent parts of the UK is shown in the attached table, information on the number of Reservists is not held centrally prior to 2012 and could be provided only at disproportionate cost:

Attachments:

1. 9918 - Army Reservists by each region of England [9918 - Table showing number of Army Reservists by each region of England and other constituent parts.docx]

■ **Army Reserve: Prestatyn**

Chris Ruane: [\[9917\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what plans his Department has for the Army Reserve Centre in Prestatyn.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

119 Recovery Company, the primary user of the Army Reserve Centre in Prestatyn, will be vacating the site in the next couple of years. The individual Reservists affected will be assisted to transfer to other units in the region based on their personal circumstances.

The Reserve Forces and Cadets Association, the site owner, is in the process of considering the site's future use. This includes determining whether there are other potential Armed Forces users and disposal options. In the interim, the current occupants, including a detachment of Clywd and Gwynedd Army Cadet Force, will continue to use it.

■ Burma: Military Aid

Afzal Khan: [\[10060\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, with reference to the recent violence against the Rohingya minority in Rakhine State, if he will review the merits of continuing to provide UK military training to Myanmar's armed forces.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

In light of the ongoing violence in Burma's Rakhine State and the growing humanitarian crisis it has caused, the UK Ministry of Defence has decided to suspend all practical defence engagement with Burma, and all ongoing educational training has been suspended with immediate effect.

■ Caribbean: Hurricanes and Tornadoes

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: [\[9950\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what (a) short-term emergency and (b) medium-term reconstruction aid his Department has provided to people affected by Hurricane Irma.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has been at the forefront of Her Majesty's Government's relief efforts. As of 1100 hrs on 19 September 2017, the MOD had 1,293 personnel in the region. They have provided aid, security assistance, engineering support and support to the civilian government to some of the worst hit areas.

Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) MOUNTS BAY was deliberately pre-positioned for the hurricane season and provided assistance as soon as it was safe to do so. She was the right ship, positioned in the right place at the right time. More than 40 metric tonnes of aid has now arrived and is being distributed across the region - including 2,608 shelter kits, which can provide shelter for over 13,000 people, and 2,304 solar lanterns, which can provide essential light and power for over 11,000 people.

HMS OCEAN has been redeployed from the Mediterranean to assist in long-term reconstruction efforts - she carries nine helicopters and was supplemented with further aid and reconstruction supplies when she transited through Gibraltar.

The situation is continually evolving and we remain flexible - ensuring the most urgent tasks are prioritised. We are working closely across Government, and are aligning efforts with international partners to ensure coordination in the overall humanitarian and reconstruction effort.

■ Defence Equipment: Trade Fairs

Catherine West: [\[10025\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many (a) Ministers and (b) officials of his Department attended the Defence and Security Equipment International Fair from 11 to 15 September 2017.

Harriett Baldwin:

All Defence Ministers attended the DSEI exhibition on at least one occasion between 11 September and 15 September 2017 meeting invited overseas official delegations and engaging with UK and international exhibitors. The exhibition was also attended by officials from the Department but information detailing their exact numbers and composition is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

■ General Service Medal: Mali

John Spellar:

[\[9944\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the Answer of 11 September 2017 to Question 8803, how many personnel have (a) applied for and (b) received the General Service Medal 2008 with the West Africa clasp.

Mark Lancaster:

As of 13 September 2017, 98 personnel were eligible for the General Service Medal 2008 with the West Africa clasp, of which five have been issued.

■ Unmanned Air Vehicles

David Linden:

[\[10241\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, with reference to the Answer of 28 June 2016 to Question HL728 and pursuant to the Answer of 11 September 2017 to Question 8078, for what reasons the date forecast for Watchkeeper to achieve full operating capability has changed; and if he will make a statement.

Harriett Baldwin:

Initial Operating Capability for Watchkeeper was met in August 2014 and it was then deployed on operations in Afghanistan. Watchkeeper is a first-of-type capability for Defence and therefore the programme has evolved as regulatory and technical requirements for both aircraft and pilots have been fully understood.

Two incidents involving Watchkeeper aircraft earlier this year also resulted in a temporary pause in flying which inevitably had an impact on the programme. Full operating capability is currently forecast to be achieved in 2018.

■ Veterans: Great Manchester

Rebecca Long Bailey:

[\[9644\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether he has made an assessment of the adequacy of support available to service personnel from Greater Manchester who have left the armed forces.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The Ministry of Defence has made no assessment of the adequacy of support available to Service personnel from Greater Manchester who have left the Armed

Forces. Support to former Service personnel residing in the UK, including Greater Manchester, is available from Statutory Authorities and the voluntary and charitable sector.

DIGITAL, CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

■ Big Lottery Fund: Civil Servants

Jon Trickett: [7229]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, how many civil servants are employed by the Big Lottery Fund in each pay scale.

Jon Trickett: [7230]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, how many civil servants are employed by the Big Lottery Fund.

Tracey Crouch:

The Big Lottery Fund is an executive NDPB and in terms of employment rights, was set up as a separate legal entity from the Government and its employees are not civil servants. Information regarding Big Lottery Fund staffing can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/630922/Big_Lottery_Fund_Annual_Report_and_Accounts_2016-17_Final_version_for_circulation.pdf

■ Big Lottery Fund: Consultants

Jon Trickett: [7227]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, how much has been spent on all consultancy services by the Big Lottery Fund in the last 12 months.

Jon Trickett: [7228]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, how much has been spent on all consultancy services by the Big Lottery Fund in each year since 2010.

Jon Trickett: [7233]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, how much the Big Lottery Fund has spent on HR consultancy in the last 12 months.

Jon Trickett: [7234]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, how much the Big Lottery Fund has spent on HR consultancy in each year since 2010.

Tracey Crouch:

The Fund is required to comply with relevant legislation, management statements, financial directions, Managing Public Money, and spend controls. The Big Lottery Fund is led by a non-executive board which has operational autonomy in the procurement of services and in deciding its staffing structure.

■ Broadband

Ben Lake: [10180]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, for what reasons the six areas in England and Scotland were selected by the Government to test full-fibre broadband.

Matt Hancock:

The criteria used to identify Wave 1 locations include the learning opportunity, likely success in stimulating investment, project deliverability and suitability, all as assessed from information gathered in our January 2017 Call for Evidence and subsequent engagement through 2017.

Stephen Kerr: [8907]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what the average length of time is for a (a) commercial property and (b) domestic residence to be connected to a broadband service in each region and nation of the UK.

Matt Hancock:

We do not hold these figures. For one provider quarterly data on the average length of time for commercial and residential properties to be connected to Openreach's network is publicly available from their website at <https://www.homeandwork.openreach.co.uk/OurResponsibilities/our-performance.aspx>.

Ben Lake: [9786]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what the current broadband speeds are in the six areas across England and Scotland that the Government plans to use to test full-fibre broadband.

Matt Hancock:

The information requested is not available.

Ben Lake: [9787]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what qualifying criteria were used to determine the six areas the Government selected to test full-fibre broadband.

Matt Hancock:

The criteria used to identify Wave 1 locations include the learning opportunity, likely success in stimulating investment, project deliverability and suitability, all assessed from information gathered in our January 2017 Call for Evidence and subsequent engagement through 2017.

■ Broadband: Dumfries and Galloway

Mr Alister Jack: [\[9926\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, how many properties in Dumfries and Galloway constituency have a broadband service of less than 10Mbps.

Matt Hancock:

Departmental modelling suggests that approximately 9,400 premises (just under 18%) in the constituency of Dumfries and Galloway have a broadband speed of less than 10Mbps.

Mr Alister Jack: [\[9927\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what plans are in place to improve access to broadband services in Dumfries and Galloway constituency.

Matt Hancock:

The current Phase 1 superfast broadband project covering the 'Rest of Scotland' (excluding the Highlands & Islands) had provided superfast broadband coverage to 500,000 premises by the end of June 2017 and this is scheduled to increase to 572,000 by the end of the contract in December 2018. Superfast coverage for Dumfries and Galloway is expected to reach approximately 82% of premises as a result. Further superfast broadband delivery in Dumfries and Galloway is dependent on the Scottish Government procuring a second broadband contract. The government allocated £20.99 million to support a second contract in February 2014, but the Scottish Government has yet to begin a procurement, and will be the last area in the UK to do so.

For premises not covered by superfast broadband, the UK government will ensure universal broadband coverage of at least 10Mbps.

Mr Alister Jack: [\[9928\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, how many residential properties have access to superfast broadband services in Dumfries and Galloway constituency.

Mr Alister Jack: [\[9929\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, how many commercial properties have access to superfast broadband services in Dumfries and Galloway constituency.

Matt Hancock:

There is an estimated 41,400 premises that have access to superfast broadband services in the constituency of Dumfries and Galloway, representing approximately 80% of the premises in the constituency. We do not have a breakdown between commercial and residential. Approximately 94% of UK premises have superfast broadband thanks to the subsidised programme, funded by UK taxpayers

■ Broadband: Wales

Ben Lake: [\[10178\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, whether she plans to extend the testing of full-fibre broadband to (a) Ceredigion and (b) Wales.

Matt Hancock:

The Local Full Fibre Networks programme Challenge Fund, which all local bodies across the UK will be able to apply for, will open this Autumn.

Ben Lake: [\[9784\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Wales on testing full-fibre broadband in Wales.

Ben Lake: [\[9785\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what recent discussions she has had with Welsh Government Ministers on testing full-fibre broadband in Wales.

Matt Hancock:

We engage regularly with counterparts from the Wales Office and Welsh Government throughout 2017 on the Local Full Fibre Networks programme, and will continue to do so.

In July, we wrote to all local authority leaders, including across Wales, to highlight the upcoming Challenge Fund stage of the programme and invite Expressions of Interest. We received a tremendous response from across the UK, including from Wales.

■ Commonwealth: Young People

Cat Smith: [\[10270\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps the Government is taking to uphold its commitment in paragraph 19 of the final communiqué of the 9th Commonwealth Youth Ministers meeting on promoting youth work as a profession through education and training for sectors where youth engagement is important.

Tracey Crouch:

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport conducted a series of regional workshops in March and April with youth sector organisations, local authorities, and other local agencies, including Police and Crime Commissioners and Clinical Commissioning Groups to gather views about the opportunities and challenges facing the youth sector.

The evidence gathered at the regional workshops is being considered and used by the Office for Civil Society across its youth policy work and we continue to engage regularly with youth sector leaders.

Cat Smith: [\[9737\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, for what reasons the Government did not send a Minister to the 9th Commonwealth Youth Ministers meeting in Uganda to prepare for hosting the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 2018; and if the Government will commit to sending a Minister to the 10th Commonwealth Youth Ministers meeting in Jamaica in 2021.

Tracey Crouch:

Due to diary commitments the Minister for Sport and Civil Society (with responsibility for youth policy) was unable to attend the 9th Commonwealth Youth Ministers meeting from 31st July to 4th August in Uganda. Officials from the Cabinet Office Commonwealth Team and the Department for International Development were in attendance. Subject to diary commitments a Minister will attend the next meeting in Jamaica in 2021.

Cat Smith: [\[9779\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps the Government is taking to uphold the commitment it made at the 9th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting outlined in point 2 of the Final Communiqué to empower young people as partners and agents of positive change.

Cat Smith: [\[9865\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps the Government is taking to uphold the commitment it made at the 9th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting outline in point 7 of the Final Communiqué to lead collaboration on improving young people's meaningful participation in national decision-making institutions and processes.

Tracey Crouch:

Government provides a grant to the British Youth Council to deliver a youth voice programme, which gives young people platforms to make their voices heard on local and national issues that are important to them. This includes the UK Youth Parliament and the Make Your Mark ballot and the Youth Select Committee.

The National Citizen Service (NCS) Trust estimate that participants in the programme have given around 10 million volunteering hours. The Government also supports Step Up to Serve's #iwill campaign, which aims for 60% of young people to be involved in giving back to their communities through social action by 2020.

Cat Smith: [\[9824\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps the Government is taking to uphold the commitment it made at the 9th Commonwealth Youth Ministers' Meeting outlined in point 5 of the Final Communiqué to implement increased and sustained investment in youth development in line with the Addis Ababa Action

Agenda and the 2015 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and 2013 Commonwealth Youth Ministers' Meeting communiqués.

Tracey Crouch:

The Government has committed over £1 billion to National Citizen Service over the current spending review period and is investing an additional £80 million through the #iwill and Youth Investment Funds to create opportunities for young people to improve their skills and give back to their communities.

Cat Smith:

[9883]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps the Government is taking to uphold the commitment it made at the 9th Commonwealth Youth Ministers meeting in point 15 of the Final Communiqué to develop policies and strategies to promote youth and social entrepreneurship and financial inclusion.

Tracey Crouch:

Charities and social enterprises play an important role in the government's mission of building an economy that works for everyone. The government is committed to continuing to support the development of social enterprises, including those run by young entrepreneurs, by supporting social enterprise awareness campaigns, championing procurement for social value, building a robust and sustainable social investment market and expanding the social investment tax relief.

Cat Smith:

[9884]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps the Government is taking to uphold the commitment it made at the 9th Commonwealth Youth Ministers meeting in point 14 of the Final Communiqué to ensure the creation of an enabling environment for youth-friendly innovative financial instruments.

Tracey Crouch:

This Government has pioneered the use of innovative financial instruments to both tackle social challenges and open up new opportunities for young people. Big Society Capital and Access Foundation continue to support the development and growth of mission led businesses across the country whilst the £80m Life Chances Fund is catalysing the use of locally commissioned social impact bonds to support some of the most vulnerable people in society, including disadvantaged young people.

Cat Smith:

[9885]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps the Government is taking to uphold the commitment it made at the 9th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting outlined in point 13 of the Final Communiqué to encourage the private sector to align its business goals with national development objectives and the youth development agenda.

Tracey Crouch:

This week the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport chaired the first meeting of the Inclusive Economy Partnership. This is a new initiative that brings

together businesses, civil society and Government to address societal challenges including tackling youth unemployment.

Key Government youth programmes are also directly supported by the private sector: for example, National Citizen Service is supported by a range of business partners including EDF, Asos and Santander.

Cat Smith: [\[9886\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps the Government is taking to uphold the commitment it made at the 9th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting outlined in point 12 of the Final Communiqué to adopt universal social protection for young people as recommended in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Tracey Crouch:

The Government is committed to building a country where no one and no community is left behind. This includes taking action that will make a meaningful difference to the lives of the most disadvantaged young people and their families.

The Government has repealed the income-related targets set out in the Child Poverty Act 2010 and replaced them with statutory measures which drive action on parental worklessness and children's educational attainment – the two areas that we know can make the biggest difference to disadvantaged young people, now and in the future.

Cat Smith: [\[9887\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps the Government is taking to uphold the commitment it made at the 9th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting outlined in point 12 of the Final Communiqué to recognise the importance of public-private partnerships and innovative financing mechanisms in facilitating youth development.

Tracey Crouch:

The £80m Life Chances Fund is supporting the development of a range of locally led social impact bonds that bring together the expertise of the public, private and social sectors to help vulnerable people, including disadvantaged young people, live happy and productive lives.

Cat Smith: [\[9888\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps the Government is taking to uphold the commitment it made at the 9th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting outlined in point 11 of the Final Communiqué to (a) mainstream youth priorities across all stages of policy-making and public spending, (b) ensure that youth priorities are integrated with national development and sustainable financing strategies and (c) adopt youth-sensitive budgeting, progressive taxation and youth-friendly public procurement policies.

Tracey Crouch:

This Government is committed to investing in young people and young people's wide-ranging priorities are addressed across Departments. In the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport we have allocated over £1 billion over this Spending Review period to expand National Citizen Service and earlier this month I announced a further £40m Youth Investment Fund.

Cat Smith:

[9889]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps the Government is taking to uphold the commitment it made at the 9th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting outlined in point 10 of the Final Communiqué to evaluate youth programmes.

Tracey Crouch:

The government is making significant investments to build the evidence base for youth programmes. We are: funding the Centre for Youth Impact to improve capacity in the youth sector to evaluate programmes; investing £1 million in evaluation of open access youth programmes through the Youth Investment Fund; building a Learning and Impact Hub through the #iwill Fund to improve the evidence on youth social action; and continuing to invest in robust, independent evaluation of the National Citizen Service.

Cat Smith:

[9890]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps the Government is taking to uphold the commitment it made at the 9th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting outlined in point 8 of the Final Communiqué to implement (a) policies that recognise the diversity and inter-sectionality within the youth cohort and (b) investment to address and advance the distinct needs and interests of various groups.

Tracey Crouch:

The Government encourages participation of young people from all backgrounds in youth programmes. Achieving a diverse social mix of participants is a core aim of National Citizen Service and young people with Special Educational Needs, disabilities and from BAME groups are consistently over-represented.

Our investment in youth social action is helping to close the gap in participation between young people from the most and least affluent backgrounds (the National Youth Social Action survey suggests the gap reduced from 20% in 2014 to 9% in 2016). Furthermore, the £40million Youth Investment Fund is creating opportunities for young people in disadvantaged areas to learn new skills and access positive activities.

■ Cosmetics: Video Recordings

Chi Onwurah: [\[9919\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment she has made of the potential effect of videos demonstrating skin bleaching on young people; and if she will conduct an assessment of the potential merits of regulating such videos.

Matt Hancock:

We have made no assessment of the potential effect of videos demonstrating skin bleaching on young people, and currently have no plans to do so.

■ Department for Culture Media and Sport: Procurement

Jon Trickett: [\[3985\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what the average number of bids received for each contract put out to tender by her Department was in each year since 2010.

Jon Trickett: [\[4000\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, how many contracts put out to tender by her Department have been (a) cancelled and (b) re-tendered in each year since 2010.

Jon Trickett: [\[4015\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what proportion of public procurement contracts her Department awarded through framework agreements in each year since 2010.

Matt Hancock:

The information requested is not held centrally and to obtain it would incur a disproportionate cost.

■ Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport: Pay

Philip Davies: [\[10308\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, how many of her Department's staff had a pay increase (a) above, (b) at and (c) less than one per cent in each of the last three years for which information is available.

Matt Hancock:

Departmental pay awards have been applied in accordance with HMT pay guidance.

For recent pay awards, the department has paid 1% of the grade median instead of 1% of the actual salary, to ensure employees near the bottom of a pay range receive a proportionately higher award than those near the top.

The table below illustrates the number of payroll employees with pay increases as set out in the question.

1ST JUNE 2015 TO 1ST JUNE 2016	1ST JUNE 2016 TO 1ST JUNE 2017	
Above 1%	55	75
At 1%	126	101
Under 1%	116	150

■ Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport: Redundancy Pay

Jon Trickett:

[10046]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, how much has been paid to (a) men and (b) women who left her Department under exit schemes since 31 March 2016.

Matt Hancock:

Details of the number, type, compensation levels and cost of exits from DCMS are routinely published in the Department's Annual Report and Accounts, which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dcms-annual-report-and-accounts-2016-17>

The information in the Department's Annual Report and Accounts includes the Core Department and Agencies.

■ Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport: Science

Chi Onwurah:

[9915]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that proactive and independent scientific advice informs its activities.

Matt Hancock:

Policy is based on accurate and objective facts.

We ensure scientific advice is available for example by engaging working groups with relevant industry and academic experts; commissioning research and making use of the departments own independent Science Advisory Council.

■ Lotteries: Regulation

Amanda Milling:

[9896]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what plans her Department has to bring forward proposals for regulatory reform of the Society Lottery sector.

Amanda Milling:

[9897]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, when she plans to publish the proposals from the Gambling Commission for the reform of the Society Lottery sector.

Tracey Crouch:

The Government's response to the CMS Select Committee's report on society lotteries advised that it intended to explore all the recommendations further, with advice from the Gambling Commission. We are carefully considering the issues raised by the Select Committee and continue to take advice from the Gambling Commission as we consider policy options.

We expect that the Gambling Commission will publish their advice in due course, when Government has made an announcement on its conclusions.

The Gambling Commission are currently consulting on on increasing provisions around transparency for society lotteries. The consultation closes on 30 September 2017 and can be found here:

<http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/news-action-and-statistics/Consultations/Open-consultations/Have-your-say-on-changes-to-society-lottery-codes-of-practice.aspx>

■ Radio: Regulation

Christine Jardine:

[9908]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, when she plans to publish the response to the Commercial Radio Deregulation consultation.

Matt Hancock:

We intend to publish the government response in due course.

■ S4C: Public Appointments

Kevin Brennan:

[6444]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, when she expects to appoint new members to the S4C Authority.

Matt Hancock:

The intention is to launch a campaign for a number of members of the S4C authority later this year, with new members in place by early 2018.

■ Sports: Governing Bodies

Julie Elliott:

[9731]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what estimate she has made of the number of women employed in top jobs on UK sports governing bodies.

Tracey Crouch:

On 8 March this year (International Women's Day) Women in Sport published their *Beyond 30%* report which showed that 65% of the organisations funded by Sport England and/or UK Sport have more than 25% women on their boards. While this is a significant improvement on 2015, when the comparable figure was just 46%, clearly there is more to be done. This is why the Code for Sports Governance published last October requires funded organisations to adopt a target of, and take all appropriate actions to encourage, a minimum of 30% of each gender on its board. The governance code is mandatory for all sports bodies seeking public funding. National Governing Bodies who do not comply with the code will need to have agreed with the funding body an action plan which sets out how they will become compliant with that requirement by 31 October this year.

Julie Elliott:

[9732]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps her Department is taking to increase the representation of women in top jobs on UK sports governing bodies.

Tracey Crouch:

In December 2015 Government published the sport strategy "Sporting Future" which stated that UK Sport and Sport England would agree a UK Sports Governance Code to strengthen existing commitments. The Code for Sports Governance was published in October last year and requires each funded organisation to adopt a target of a minimum of 30% of each gender on its board. The governance code is mandatory for all sports bodies seeking funding from Sport England and UK Sport.

■ Swimming

Catherine West:

[9820]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps her Department is taking to promote the uptake of outdoor swimming.

Tracey Crouch:

The Government is committed to supporting people to engage with sport and physical activity in whichever ways best suit their needs, lifestyles and habits.

Between 2017 and 2021 Sport England is investing £12.16 million in Swim England which is responsible for promoting all types of swimming, including outdoor swimming, to both regular swimmers and those who are new to swimming.

Government will also work with the sector to explore the recommendations of the recent school swimming report, which notes the importance of swimming and water safety for children.

■ Swimming Pools: Closures

Catherine West: [9816]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what estimate her Department has made of the number of public (a) indoor and (b) outdoor swimming pools that have closed in each of the last five years.

Tracey Crouch:

Information on the number of publicly owned indoor and outdoor swimming pools that have closed and opened in each of the last 5 years is available via Sport England's Active Places Power database which can be accessed here:

<https://www.activeplacespower.com/>

Between 2017 and 2021 Sport England is investing £12.16 million in Swim England to get more people swimming, and £25 million through its Strategic Facilities Fund to construct 21 new state of the art leisure facilities which include swimming pools. We are also setting up an implementation group to explore the recommendations from the school swimming report, including how we can work with local authorities and private operators to make better use of facilities.

■ Swimming Pools: Prices

Catherine West: [9815]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps her Department is taking to ensure the public have affordable access to public swimming pools.

Tracey Crouch:

The Government is committed to supporting people to engage with sport and physical activity in whichever ways best suit their needs, lifestyles and habits.

Between 2017 and 2021 Sport England is investing £12.16 million in Swim England, the national governing body for the sport, to get more people swimming, to support local clubs and to help talented swimmers to develop.

The setting of pricing and any concessionary arrangements for swimming activity in public facilities is a policy matter for the appropriate Local Authority.

■ Swimming Pools: Repairs and Maintenance

Catherine West: [9819]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps her Department is taking to promote the restoration of (a) indoor swimming pools and (b) outdoor lidos.

Tracey Crouch:

Sport England is the body responsible for making investment decisions on grassroots sports facilities in England and, through its Strategic Facilities Fund, provides capital investment into a range of sport facilities.

From 2011 to 2016 Sport England's Improvement and Strategic Facilities Funds invested £73m in projects across England, incorporating 91 swimming facilities. Of these 91 facilities, 2 were outdoor lidos with the rest indoor pools. Sport England is currently investing £25m from the Strategic Facilities Fund to construct 21 new leisure facilities which include swimming pools. Sport England's Community Asset Fund – which provides grants that can also be used for facilities improvement – has made £400,000 worth of investment in 5 swimming pool projects since it was launched in February 2017.

■ Swimming: River Thames

Catherine West: [\[9817\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, whether her Department supports the Thames Bath Initiative.

Catherine West: [\[9818\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what discussions she or officials in her Department have had with (a) the Mayor of London, (b) local authorities, (c) charities and non-governmental organisations and (d) companies on the construction of a Thames river public swimming bath.

Tracey Crouch:

I have not had any conversations about the construction of a Thames river public swimming bath to date. I understand that Sport England are aware of the project, however they have not had any direct involvement.

I am keen to support initiatives that aim to get more people engaging in sport and physical activity and I would welcome the opportunity to talk to colleagues about this particular proposal.

■ Tickets: Sales

Heidi Allen: [\[9521\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, whether departmental guidance on the implementation of the Digital Economy Act 2017 will make it clear that section 106 encompasses all methods of mass online harvesting of tickets.

Matt Hancock:

Section 106 of the Digital Economy Act 2017 provides the power for government to introduce a criminal offence in order to address the purchase of tickets for a recreational, sporting or cultural event in excess of the maximum permitted where this has been undertaken by the use of automated software ('bots'). The precise nature of

the regulations is being developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders and they will be tabled in due course.

■ Tourism: Republic of Ireland

Andrew Rosindell: [\[9629\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment her Department has made of the effect of the UK leaving the EU on the tourism industry shared between the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

John Glen:

DCMS will not produce a public assessment of the potential effects of exiting the EU for specific sectors, including how the tourism industry between the UK and the Republic of Ireland might be affected. However, the department is engaging with the tourism sector and devolved administrations to ensure that views about the challenges and opportunities of the UK's exit from the EU are considered in policy development.

We will pursue a deep and special partnership with the EU, ensuring the continued growth of our thriving tourism sector. The UK Government, Irish Government, and European Union all agree on maintaining the Common Travel Area. Our view is that an agreement on protecting and upholding the CTA and associated bilateral arrangements should be concluded at an early stage.

■ Travel Agents: Internet

Steve Double: [\[10272\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that online travel agents do not charge commission on the full VAT inclusive bill for bookings taken online.

John Glen:

DCMS is not taking any steps to ensure that online travel agents do not charge commission on the full VAT inclusive bill for bookings taken online.

Steve Double: [\[10273\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment her Department has made of the effect of online travel agents charging commission on the full VAT inclusive bill for bookings taken online on hospitality SMEs in rural and deprived areas.

John Glen:

DCMS has not conducted an assessment of the effect of online travel agents charging commission on the full VAT inclusive bill for bookings taken online on hospitality SMEs in rural and deprived areas.

EDUCATION

■ Arts: Education

Vicky Foxcroft:

[\[7112\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment the Government has made of the effect of changes in the number of people studying arts subjects in schools on the effectiveness of UK creative industries.

Nick Gibb:

We know that the creative industries are a cultural and economic success story for the UK being worth £87.4bn to UK economy in 2015 and growing by more than a third since 2010.

The new National Curriculum was developed with input from employers and representatives from both the further and higher education sectors. It was designed to equip pupils with the knowledge they need to progress either into further education or to make a successful start on their careers, including roles in the creative industries.

The total proportion of pupils finishing Key Stage 4 who were entered into a GCSE in an arts subjects rose between 2012 and 2015, but fell slightly in 2016. Comparable data is not yet available for 2017.

■ Basic Skills: Greater London

Stephen Timms:

[\[10068\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate her Department has made of the number of adults lacking core skills in (a) literacy, (b) numeracy and (c) information technology in (i) Greater London and (ii) the London Borough of Newham.

Nick Gibb:

The Government is supporting adults in England to develop the basic English, mathematics and digital expertise they need for future employment. This is why we provide full funding for adults to access a range of English and mathematics courses up to and including GCSE and equivalent qualifications. We are introducing a similar right to funding for specified Information and Communication Technology (ICT) courses.

The Skills for Life Survey, 2011, estimated the literacy, numeracy and ICT knowledge of adults aged 16-64 in England, including estimates for regions and local authorities. ICT knowledge was assessed against four component elements, including word processing, emailing, spreadsheets and a multiple choice assessment of other ICT expertise such as internet use. The estimates of the numbers and percentage of the adult population with different levels for these components, for England, London, and Newham are in the attached table.

Attachments:

1. table_attachment [10068 table attachment.docx]

■ Children: Poverty

Ben Lake: [\[9788\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the merits of introducing an initiative similar to the Welsh Government's initiative to tackle children's hunger in school holidays.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The Government will monitor the impact of the Welsh Government's introduction of the holiday 'lunch and fun' scheme.

Whilst it is parents who, primarily, are responsible for the health and welfare of their children, we recognise the benefits of providing a healthy school meal to the most disadvantaged children and we are committed to continuing to provide free school meals to those families that need them.

In addition, all children in reception, year 1 and year 2 in England's state-funded schools, including academies and free schools, are entitled to free school meals. (Universal Infant Free School Meals)

This Government is committed to ensuring that the welfare system is a strong safety net for those that need it; that is why it continues to spend over £90 billion a year on benefits for people of working age.

Work remains the best route out of poverty and we are introducing major reforms including Universal Credit to strengthen incentives for parents to move into and progress in work.

This Government's policies means that there are now 608,000 fewer children in workless households compared with 2010.

■ Department for Education: Behavioural Insights Team

Jon Trickett: [\[9963\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what services her Department has received from the Behavioural Insights Team since 2014.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

We have commissioned various services from the Behavioural Insights Team, including increasing the demand for technical education, as set out by the Sainsbury Panel, supporting communication of the apprenticeship levy, as well as a small scale trial on the impact of diversity messages in apprenticeship vacancies.

We have also commissioned the Team to develop (and test) behavioural interventions to encourage high ability students to apply to the best universities, rather than the nearest ones.

■ Department for Education: Redundancy Pay

Jon Trickett:

[10047]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how much has been paid to (a) men and (b) women who left her Department under exit schemes since 31 March 2016.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

When numbers are so small that individuals could be identified, identifying details are masked to protect their privacy. Since 31 March 2016, fewer than five individuals have left the Department for Education under an exit scheme and a total of £95,000 has been paid.

■ Domestic Violence: Education

Liz Saville Roberts:

[7460]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether the Government plans to include domestic violence and violence against women in the schools curriculum in England and Wales.

Nick Gibb:

The Department is responsible for the National Curriculum in England only.

The Government is engaging directly with young people to challenge attitudes about abuse and consent. This year the Home Office launched the third phase of its campaign 'Disrespect NoBody', which aims to prevent the onset of domestic violence in adults by challenging attitudes and behaviour amongst teenage boys and girls, and emphasises that abuse in relationships is unacceptable.

As part of the Government response to the Women and Equalities Select Committee's report into sexual harassment and sexual violence in schools, we are considering how best to ensure pupils are taught about healthy and respectful relationships as part of Relationships Education and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). This is an important aspect in preventing domestic violence and violence against women.

We are also grant funding four organisations until the end of March 2018 to support children and families that have experienced domestic violence. Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-backs-projects-to-help-safeguard-vulnerable-children>.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 requires my Rt hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, to make Relationships Education mandatory in all primary schools, and RSE mandatory in all secondary schools through regulations. The Act also provides for a power to make Personal, Social, Health, and Economic Education (PSHE), or elements therein, mandatory in all schools, subject to careful consideration.

The Department will conduct a thorough engagement process on the scope and content of Relationships Education and RSE, and consideration of PSHE. We will set more details about the engagement process and the work to consider age appropriate subject content in due course.

■ Education: Assessments

Lyn Brown: [\[6881\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to pages 45-46 of the Social Mobility Commission's report, *Time for Change: an assessment of government policies on social mobility 1997-2017*, published on 28 June 2017, what assessment she has made of the effect of the focus on evaluating pupils' learning of core content through examinations on levels of stress and anxiety among students.

Nick Gibb:

Examinations are, by their very nature, stressful but the Government has already taken steps to reduce the examination burdens upon young people. At GCSE we have made examinations linear with examinations only at the end of the course of study, giving pupils at least two full years of study before they sit external examinations. We have also removed the incentives for multiple resits that were not helping children's education.

At A level we have also made the examinations linear with no January assessment window, and have created a new structure that will enable students to study for two full years towards an A level without the need to take an AS level examination at all.

Schools are responsible for preparing all young people for examinations and should have strong pastoral support in place to help pupils deal with any worries they might have throughout the year.

■ Erasmus+ Programme

Stephen Gethins: [\[10211\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what plans she has to ensure that the UK continues to participate in Erasmus after it has left the EU.

Stephen Gethins: [\[10212\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what her policy is on exiting university students completing a mandatory year abroad in 2019-20 through the Erasmus+ programme.

Stephen Gethins: [\[10213\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what her policy is on university students starting a course in autumn 2017 (a) completing a mandatory year abroad in 2019-20 through and (b) receiving funding under the Erasmus+ programme.

Joseph Johnson:

The Department for Education recognises the value of international exchange and collaboration in education, as part of our vision for the UK as a global nation. There may be European programmes in which we might want to participate. We will consider this as part of the negotiation.

The referendum result does not immediately affect students studying in the EU, including those currently on Erasmus+. The UK government will underwrite successful bids for Erasmus+ submitted while the UK is still a member state, even if payments continue beyond the point of exit.

■ Free Schools: Southend on Sea

James Duddridge: [10058]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what her most recent estimate is of the funding required to establish a free school in Southend-on-Sea in 2019; and if she will make a statement.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The department has not made an estimate of the funding required to establish a free school in Southend-on-Sea in 2019.

The department has provided Southend-on-Sea Borough Council with £20 million to fund new school places between 2011 and 2017 and a further £9.5 million for 2017 to 2020. This includes nearly £5 million for school places the local authority reported were needed for September 2019.

Where a local authority has identified that an area needs enough additional places to warrant a new school, it should run a competition to identify potential providers to run the school.

Guidance on this process is available on GOV.UK via this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/establishing-a-new-school-free-school-presumption>.

■ Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Lyn Brown: [6886]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to pages 45-46 of the Social Mobility Commission's report, Time for Change: an assessment of government policies on social mobility 1997-2017, published on 28 June 2017, what assessment she has made of the effect of incentives for teachers to maximise test scores within a narrower curriculum on opportunities for social and emotional learning which are accessible to all children.

Lyn Brown: [6887]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to pages 45-46 of the Social Mobility Commission's report, Time for Change: an assessment of government policies on social mobility 1997-2017, published on 28 June 2017, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of resources available to schools for social and emotional learning activities.

Lyn Brown:

[6888]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to pages 45-46 of the Social Mobility Commission's report, *Time for Change: an assessment of government policies on social mobility 1997-2017*, published on 28 June 2017, what assessment she has made of the effect on social mobility of the increase in extra-curricular social and emotional activities where there is a cost attached for parents.

Nick Gibb:

The best schools create a happy, safe and supportive environment, so that all children can fulfil their potential without suffering undue stress.

Schools already do a range of things to promote mental health and wellbeing. Our recent nationally representative survey of school provision indicated that almost all (92%) institutions reported an ethos or environment that promoted mutual care and concern. We have supported this in a number of ways, including funding the PSHE Association to produce guidance for teaching about mental health. This Government has also taken steps to reduce examination burdens upon young people, encouraging schools to put strong pastoral support in place to help pupils deal with any worries they might have throughout the year.

All state schools must offer a broad and balanced curriculum. We encourage all schools to offer Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education, ensuring pupils are taught about healthy and respectful relationships and the knowledge required to prepare for adult life. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 requires Relationships Education (primary) and RSE (secondary) to become mandatory in all schools, through regulations. The Act also provides a power to make PSHE, or elements therein, mandatory in all schools, subject to careful consideration. The Department for Education will conduct a thorough engagement process on the scope and content of Relationships Education and RSE, and consideration of PSHE.

The Department also supports schools to provide some extra-curricular programmes outside of the classroom. This includes working with the National Citizen Service as well as a £50m investment in the Cadet Expansion Programme, both of which teach young people life skills to prepare them for successful adulthood.

■ Primary Education: Admissions

Ms Karen Buck:

[10059]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many unfilled places there were in primary schools in 2016-17; and what proportion of the total number of school places that figure represents in each such area.

Nick Gibb:

As of 1 May 2016, the total number of unfilled primary places in England was 461,065; the number of unfilled places as a percentage of total primary places was 9.7 per cent.

The capacity data are published on an annual basis, giving equivalent local authority and regional totals, through the SCAP tables. Further information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-capacity-academic-year-2015-to-2016>.

■ Relationship and Sex Education

Mr Ranil Jayawardena:

[10022]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, when the Government plans to consult on statutory guidance on Relationships and Sex Education provided for in the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

Nick Gibb:

The Children and Social Work Act (2017) places a duty on the Secretary of State for Education to make Relationships Education mandatory in all primary schools, and Relationships and Sex Education mandatory in all secondary schools, in England.

As part of our next steps, the Department intends to conduct a thorough and wide ranging engagement on Relationships Education and Relationships and Sex Education. This will determine the content of the regulations and statutory guidance, covering subject content, school practice and quality of delivery. We will ensure the subjects are carefully designed to safeguard and support pupils whilst being deliverable for schools.

The Department is fully committed to this programme of work and will set out shortly more details about the engagement process, the timetable and the work to consider age appropriate subject content.

This will result in draft regulations and guidance on which we will consult. Following consultation, regulations will be laid in the House allowing for a full and considered debate.

■ Schools: Admissions

Royston Smith:

[9984]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what the average ratio of applicants to places was in (a) academies, (b) free schools, (c) comprehensive and (d) grammar schools in each of the last seven years.

Nick Gibb:

The Department publishes figures annually on the applications and offers made for a secondary or primary school place through the coordinated admissions process. Offers are made on the respective national offer days of 1 March (secondary) and 16 April (primary). We do not collect the total number of places in a school at the time applications were made and so the number of places offered by schools are attached.

Summaries at national and local authority level from 2011 onwards are published on the Department's statistics website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-school-applications>.

However, information on primary level preferences is only included from 2014/15 onwards. This is when the Department started collecting data on primary applications and offers, based on the newly introduced national primary offer day of 16 April (or next working day). In 2014/15 the collection for secondary schools was revised to allow the production of school level figures.

Attachments:

1. Ratio of first preferences [9984 attachment.pdf]

■ Schools: Birmingham

Mr Roger Godsiff: [8837]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how the proposed additional £1.3 billion of funding for schools will be allocated; and how much of that funding will be provided to schools in (a) Birmingham and (b) Birmingham Hall Green constituency.

Nick Gibb:

My Rt hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, announced an additional £1.3 billion for schools and high needs across 2018-19 and 2019-20, in addition to the schools budget set at Spending Review 2015, on 17 July. As a result, core funding for schools will rise from almost £41 billion in 2017-18 to £42.4 billion in 2018-19 and £43.5 billion in 2019-20, representing an increase in the total schools budget of over 6% between this year and 2019-20. This means funding per pupil will now be maintained in real terms for the remaining two years of this Spending Review.

We have now announced details of our final national funding formula for schools, and the funding it will allocate for schools and local authorities, including schools in Birmingham and Birmingham Hall Green. Full details are available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-funding-formula-tables-for-schools-and-high-needs>.

■ Schools: Construction

Clive Efford: [10245]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many sites for new schools were purchased by the Education Skills Funding Agency in the last three years at 60 per cent above the Red Book price; how many of those purchases were investigated by the accounting officer; and if she will make a statement.

Clive Efford: [10246]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many sites for new schools have been purchased by the Education Skills Funding Agency in each education authority area in the last three years (a) at, (b) below and (c) above the Red Book price; and if she will make a statement.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The department purchases sites for future free schools where it represents value for money. We do not pay in excess of what a site is worth or purchase expensive sites if there are better value for money alternatives in the area.

Official market value is subjective and at a specific point in time, we do carry out Red Book Valuations as per Treasury Green Book guidelines but these reports are carried out as a guide to the sites value and are treated as commercially confidential documents.

The ESFA acquired 175 freehold sites between 2011 and 2016. On average, they paid 19% above Red Book Valuations for free schools with 20 sites costing 60% or more and 31 sites costing less than the Red Book Valuation. Any site that has been acquired that is 60% above the Red Book Valuation requires the ESFA Accounting Officer and HM Treasury approval.

■ Schools: Finance

Layla Moran: [\[6605\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate she has made of the number of schools in (a) England and (b) each local authority in England that are in budgetary surplus; and what the average surplus is (a) in the UK and (b) in each local authority.

Layla Moran: [\[6641\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate she has made of the number of schools in (a) England and (b) each local authority in England that were in-year deficit in each of the last five years.

Layla Moran: [\[6642\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate she has made of the number of schools in (a) England and (b) each local authority in England that carry an in-year deficit for each of the last (i) two, (ii) three, (iii) four and (iv) five years.

Nick Gibb:

The Government want schools to have the resources they need to deliver a high quality education for their pupils. This is why we have announced that under the national funding formula there will be an additional £1.3 billion for schools and high needs across 2018-19 and 2019-20, on top of existing spending plans. This means that core funding for schools and high needs will rise from almost £41 billion in 2017-18 to £42.4 billion in 2018-19. In 2019-20, this will rise again to £43.5 billion.

On the latest available data, for 2015-16, the total number of local authority maintained schools in England with a cumulative budgetary surplus was 15,621 and the average surplus per local authority maintained school was £141,264.

For academies, we collect cumulative budgetary surplus data at trust level – in 2015/16 the total number of single academy trusts (SATs) in cumulative surplus was 1,735 and the total number of multi academy trusts (MATs) in cumulative surplus was 1,084. The median cumulative surplus for academy trusts (of which a higher

proportion are secondary schools than is the case for maintained schools) was £364,000 for SATs and £664,000 for MATs.

The total number of schools in England with an in year deficit in each of the last five years can be found in the table attached (Annex A). It is important to note that an in year deficit is not in itself a cause for concern unless it is symptomatic of a trend towards a cumulative deficit. Many schools will draw on their reserves for a range of planned reasons – for example to spend on capital projects.

The total number of schools in England that carried an in year deficit for each of the last (i) two, (ii) three, (iii) four and (iv) five years can be found in the table attached (Annex B).

The breakdown at local authority level for local authority maintained schools (for each of these areas) and academies (for in year deficits) can be determined using the local authority and school expenditure data, which is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-local-authority-school-finance-data>, and is summarised in the spreadsheet attached (Annex C).

The Department collects data on cumulative surpluses for academies at trust level only. As schools managed by MATs do not necessarily fall within the same local authority area, we are unable to present the data broken down by local authority.

Attachments:

1. Annex_A_and_Annex_B [6605_6641_6642 table annex a and annex b QA 230817.docx]
2. Annex_C [6605_6641_6641 Annex C spreadsheet.xlsx]

Angela Rayner: [6625]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to her oral statement of 17 July 2017 Official Report, column 564, what definition her Department uses for an underfunded school.

Nick Gibb:

We have now published the final national funding formula. We are making significant progress towards the formula, with underfunded schools receiving gains of up to 6%, per pupil, by 2019-20.

Further details of the formulae can be found online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-funding-formula-for-schools-and-high-needs>.

Mr Ranil Jayawardena: [8845]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps the Government is taking to (a) increase core schools' funding in (i) England and (ii) Hampshire and (b) introduce a fairer funding formula for schools.

Nick Gibb:

My Rt hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, announced an additional £1.3 billion for schools and high needs across 2018-19 and 2019-20, in addition to the schools

budget set at Spending Review 2015, on 17 July. As a result, core funding for schools will rise from almost £41 billion in 2017-18 to £42.4 billion in 2018-19 and £43.5 billion in 2019-20, representing an increase in the total schools budget of over 6% between this year and 2019-20. This means funding per pupil will now be maintained in real terms for the remaining two years of this Spending Review.

We have now announced details of the new national funding formulae, meaning that from April 2018 funding will finally be allocated on a fair and transparent basis. We have announced the funding that will be allocated for all schools in England, including schools in Hampshire, under the formula. Full details are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-funding-formula-tables-for-schools-and-high-needs>.

Together these reforms will give schools a firm foundation that will enable them to continue to raise standards, promote social mobility, and give every child the best possible education.

Henry Smith:

[9736]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, when she will announce per-school figures under the new National Funding Formula for (a) England and (b) Crawley; and if she will make a statement.

Nick Gibb:

We announced the allocations for all schools in England under the National Funding Formula, on 14 September.

Full details are available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-funding-formula-tables-for-schools-and-high-needs>.

■ Schools: Fire Extinguishers

Emma Reynolds:

[9667]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of regulations on sprinklers in schools.

Nick Gibb:

[Holding answer 13 September 2017]: The Government is taking the impact from the tragic Grenfell Tower fire very seriously. Building owners across the public sector estate, including schools, have been contacted to ensure any risks are managed and dealt with appropriately and promptly.

All schools must have a mandatory Fire Risk Assessment and all new schools undergo an additional check while being designed. Where sprinklers are necessary to keep staff and students safe, or where they are required under a local authority planning policy, they are fitted. There is not and has never been a national requirement for sprinklers to be fitted in all new or existing schools.

All schools have to follow strict fire safety regulations designed to ensure they are as safe as possible and well prepared in the event of a fire. They must have robust plans to follow, conduct regular fire drills, and typically have multiple exit routes.

The Government has announced an independent review of building regulations and fire safety to be led by Dame Judith Hackitt. Alongside the rest of Government, the Department will take forward any findings from the public inquiry into the Grenfell Tower fire and ensure any recommendations for schools are implemented.

■ Schools: South Suffolk

James Cartlidge: [6813]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of funding of (a) secondary and (b) primary schools in South Suffolk, and if she will make a statement.

Nick Gibb:

My Rt hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, announced an additional £1.3 billion for schools and high needs across 2018-19 and 2019-20, in addition to the schools budget set at Spending Review 2015, on 17 July. As a result, core funding for schools will rise from almost £41 billion in 2017-18 to £42.4 billion in 2018-19 and £43.5 billion in 2019-20, representing an increase in the total schools budget of over 6% between this year and 2019-20. This means funding per pupil will now be maintained in real terms for the remaining two years of this Spending Review.

The Secretary of State further set out the details of the new national funding formula for schools, including the funding it will allocate for schools in South Suffolk, on [14] September. They can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-funding-formula-tables-for-schools-and-high-needs>.

■ Schools: Standards

Royston Smith: [9981]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what proportion of (a) academies, (b) free schools, (c) comprehensive and (d) grammar schools are rated good or outstanding.

Nick Gibb:

This is a matter for Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, Amanda Spielman. I have asked her to write to my hon. Friend, the Member for Southampton, Itchen, and a copy of her reply will be placed in the libraries of the House.

■ Schools: Transport

Grahame Morris: [7467]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will revise the home-to-school travel and transport statutory guidance to reduce the mileage thresholds beyond which free transport is provided for pupils.

Nick Gibb:

The statutory walking distances exist to ensure both a minimum level of entitlement for those living furthest from their local schools and that the cost of providing free school transport remains affordable for local authorities. We have no plans to revise these distances at this time.

■ Secondary Education: Admissions

Layla Moran: [6633]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many children in England were offered a place at their first choice of secondary school but did not take up that place in each of the last five years.

Layla Moran: [6634]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many looked-after children in England were not offered a place at their first choice of secondary school in each of the last five years.

Nick Gibb:

The Department publishes figures annually on the applications and offers made for a secondary or primary school place through the coordinated admissions process. Offers are made on the respective national offer days of 1 March (secondary) and 16 April (primary).

The collection records the offers made on national offer day, by whether that offer was of the applicant's first preference, second preference etc. It does not record whether the offer was accepted or refused.

The school admissions code requires schools to set an oversubscription criteria and to give the highest priority to looked after and previously looked after children. However, the criteria under which an offer was made is not collected.

Figures for the number of applicants receiving, an offer of their first preference school, or an offer of one of their top three preference school for the last five years are attached.[1]

[1] Published in the underlying data of the annual statistical release 'Secondary and primary school applications and offers' available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-school-applications>.

Attachments:

1. Applications for a secondary school place, England [6633 6634 attachment.pdf]

■ Secure Accommodation

Anneliese Dodds: [10084]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many places for new admissions were available in secure children's homes in England and Wales in each of the last 12 months.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The department publishes data on children accommodated in secure children's homes on an annual, rather than a monthly basis. As at the 31 March 2017, there were 227 places in use or available for use, with 203 children accommodated in these places, which means there were 24 places available for new admissions. The full statistical release is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-accommodated-in-secure-childrens-homes-31-march-2017>.

■ Shoeburyness High School

James Duddridge: [10099]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate her Department has made of the funding required to provide new capacity in Shoeburyness High School before September 2018.

Nick Gibb:

Nationally, we have allocated £5.8bn from 2015 to 2020 to create more school places. Between 2010 and 2016, 735,000 new school places have been created.

Local authorities are responsible for planning and securing sufficient school places in their area, and supporting them in doing so is one of this Government's top priorities. Local authorities make decisions on where to add capacity, based on local circumstances. Southend-on-Sea has received £20 million for new places between 2011 and 2017 and has been allocated a further £9.5 million for 2017 to 2020.

■ Sportsgrounds: Eltham

Clive Efford: [10247]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, on what date the Education Skills Funding Agency determined the Red Book price of the Bowring Sports Club Ground, Eltham Road, London, SE12 8ER; on what date the purchase of that ground took place; and if she will make a statement.

Nick Gibb:

The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) received a Red Book Valuation in August 2015 for the Bowring Sports Club Ground and exchanged contracts in December 2015 subject to planning approval. The ESFA is still in the process of seeking planning approval therefore the acquisition of the site has not yet been completed.

■ Teachers: Recruitment

Lyn Brown: [6880]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to page 48 of the Social Mobility Commission's report, Time for Change: an assessment of government policies on social mobility 1997-2017, published on 28 June 2017, what assessment she has

made of that report's recommendation to introduce effective incentives to attract and retain good quality teachers in the schools that need them most.

Nick Gibb:

We welcome the Social Mobility Commission's report, published on 28 June, which considers efforts to improve social mobility over the last twenty years. The Commission rightly concludes that too often life chances can be determined not by effort and talent but by background. The Department will set out further details on policy to tackle this in due course.

We are spending £1.3bn up to 2020 to attract new teachers into the profession, but we know that some schools face significant challenges in teacher supply. We have undertaken extensive research and most recently published analysis of sub-national variation in teacher supply and the factors that can be used to explain this. This includes the Supply Index that allows us to identify, for the first time, schools facing significant recruitment and retention challenges. The report is available at: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/teachers-analysis-compendium-2.

We will use this evidence to provide targeted support to ensure schools are able to recruit and retain the teachers they need, and provide the best possible educational opportunities to their pupils. We will announce further details in due course.

To improve the quality of teaching and leadership in the schools and areas that need it most, we have also launched the new Teaching and Leadership Innovation Fund. This £75 million investment seeks to improve the provision of teachers' continuing professional development and leadership development.

■ Wakefield City Academies Trust

Jon Trickett: [9755]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what plans her Department has to deal with the implications of Wakefield City Academy Trust no longer running schools in that area.

Jon Trickett: [9756]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what effect Wakefield City Academies Trust's no longer running 21 schools will have on (a) the school timetable, (b) school standards, (c) funding and (d) childcare services organised through the school.

Jon Trickett: [9757]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what the cost to the public purse is of the Wakefield City Academies Trust pulling out of running 21 schools a few days into the new school year.

Jon Trickett: [9758]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether her Department plans to establish an enquiry to determine the reasons for the failure of the Wakefield Cities Academies Trust.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

[Holding answer 14 September 2017]: The Department is working closely with the Wakefield City Academy Trust (WCAT) to manage a smooth transition for its pupils. An assessment of any financial requirements resulting from this is ongoing.

The Department's priority is to ensure that all children receive the best possible education and in this case we have agreed with WCAT to identify trusts that will be better able to improve outcomes for pupils.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

■ Agriculture: Animal Welfare

Daniel Kawczynski: [\[9645\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what plans he has to maintain welfare standards for farm animals after the UK leaves the EU.

George Eustice:

The European Union (Withdrawal) Bill will convert the existing body of EU environmental and animal welfare law into United Kingdom law. The Government has made it clear that we intend to retain our high existing standards of animal welfare once we have left the EU. We have some of the highest animal welfare standards in the world and we intend us to remain world leaders in the future. Leaving the EU provides us with an opportunity to develop gold standard policies on animal welfare.

■ Animal Welfare: EU Law

Daniel Kawczynski: [\[9690\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether he plans to recognise animals as sentient beings in legislation, as in the Lisbon Treaty, after the UK leaves the EU.

George Eustice:

The government intends to retain our existing high standards of animal welfare once we have left the European Union. Defra is exploring how the principles of Article 13 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union can apply in the United Kingdom after we have left the European Union. Currently the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill will convert the existing body of direct European Union animal welfare law into United Kingdom law, and this European Union law takes into account the principles of Article 13.

■ Animals: Smuggling

John Spellar: [\[7280\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps are being taken at ports to tackle illegal smuggling of puppies and other animals into the UK.

Mr Barry Sheerman:

[\[9107\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps the Government is taking to tackle the smuggling of dogs into the UK.

George Eustice:

We take the issue of illegal trafficking of puppies very seriously.

Responsibility for stopping the illegal movement of puppies begins in the country where they are born. When cases of illegal puppy movements under the Pet Travel Scheme are discovered, the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) working with Defra will raise instances of abuse of the scheme with the authorities in the relevant countries.

Defra's Chief Veterinary Officer has written to EU countries to raise concerns over illegal smuggling of puppies and animals and APHA has worked in partnership with the Dogs Trust at Dover where approx. 600 puppies have been seized and taken into quarantine since the initiative began.

Defra also works closely with the Pet Advertising Advisory Group to drive up standards for online advertisements and make potential pet owners and website operators more aware of rogue dealers to reduce demand.

■ Avian Influenza

Jim Shannon:

[\[9998\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how many avian influenza outbreaks there have been in the UK in each of the last five years.

George Eustice:

Recent outbreaks in the UK

AVIAN INFLUENZA	LOCATION
Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)	H5N8 South Norfolk, June 2017
	H5N8 Lancashire, May 2017
	H5N8 Lancashire, May 2017
	H5N8 Northumberland, February 2017
	H5N8 Suffolk, February 2017
	H5N8 Lancashire, January 2017
	H5N8 Lancashire, January 2017
	H5N8 Lincolnshire, January 2017
	H5N8 Lancashire, January 2017
	H5N8 Lincolnshire, January 2017

AVIAN INFLUENZA	LOCATION
	H5N8 North Yorkshire, January 2017
	H5N8 Carmarthenshire, January 2017
	H5N8 Lincolnshire, December 2016
	H7N7 Lancashire, July 2015
	H5N8 Yorkshire, November 2014
Low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI)	H5N1 Fife, January 2016
	H7N7 Hampshire, February 2015

■ Dairy Products and Meat Products: Origin Marking

Martyn Day: [\[9812\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what plans he has to extend country of origin labelling and related geographical origin protections to dairy and processed meat products after the UK leaves the EU.

George Eustice:

The government believes in improving transparency for the consumer where practical. Within the EU, the UK argued for the extension of Country of Origin Labelling on fresh meats to include pork, poultry, lamb and goat meat which has applied since April 2015. There has been a requirement for Country of Origin labelling on beef since 2000. The UK has also supported Country of Origin Labelling for lightly processed dairy products such as butter and cheese and for lightly processed meat products such as bacon where this does not place unnecessary costs on businesses. We have also supported comprehensive voluntarily schemes, complementing the mandatory rules, covering many processed meat and dairy products. However, leaving the EU gives us an opportunity to consider the scope for further changes to the law in this area.

■ Dangerous Dogs: Tagging

Chris Ruane: [\[9744\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he has taken to ensure that dangerous dogs are chipped in (a) Vale of Clwyd constituency, (b) Wales and (c) England.

George Eustice:

Since 6 April 2016 all dogs in Great Britain have to be microchipped and registered on a database. We estimate that over 94% of dogs in Great Britain are microchipped. In addition, all dogs on the Index of Exempted Prohibited Dogs (dangerous dogs) are required to be microchipped before being returned to their keepers.

■ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Behavioural Insights Team

Jon Trickett: [9677]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how much his Department has paid to the Behavioural Insights Team in each year since 2014.

Jon Trickett: [9964]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what services his Department has received from the Behavioural Insights Team since 2014.

George Eustice:

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has received services from the Behavioural Insights Team since 2014. This has enabled the department to add to its evidence base to support priority government areas.

Since January 2011, details of central government contracts above the value of £10,000 have been published on Contracts Finder. Contracts published prior to 26 February 2015 can be viewed at:

<https://data.gov.uk/data/contracts-finder-archive>

Those published after 26 February 2015 can be viewed at:

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Search>

■ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Buildings

Jon Trickett: [8736]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how much his Department has received from sub-lets on its estate in each year since 2010.

George Eustice:

The Department does not hold commercial sub-let data at the level of detail requested.

Jon Trickett: [8774]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how much his Department has paid in letting fees for its estate in each year since 2010.

George Eustice:

The Department does not hold expenditure data at the level of detail requested.

■ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Procurement

Jon Trickett: [8755]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how many procurements undertaken by his Department have taken more than (a) three months, (b) six months, (c) one year and (d) two years.

George Eustice:

QUESTION	TIMESCALE	NUMBER OF PROJECTS
a	Three to five months	7
b	Six months to 11 months	2
c	12 months to 23 months	0
d	24 months +	0

The figures above include:

- Procurement projects with a start date between 01 April 2014 and 06 September 2017 (a total of 815 procurements completed in this period)
- Procurements projects for Core Defra only
- Procurement projects above the OJEU (Official Journal of the European Union) limit. Currently this is set at £106,047 for central government departments.

■ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Redundancy Pay

Jon Trickett:

[\[10048\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how much has been paid to (a) men and (b) women who left his Department under exit schemes since 31 March 2016.

George Eustice:

19 employees left Defra under exit schemes between 1 April 2016 and 31 August 2017. Defra has paid out the following amounts.

1. Men – £877,319.17 to 12 employees.
2. Women – £486,000.70 to 7 employees.

■ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Secondment

Jon Trickett:

[\[7993\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how many applications his Department has received for (a) internal loans and (b) secondments from civil servants in each year since 2010.

George Eustice:

This department is committed to the benefits that can be brought for the taxpayer in the delivery of Government objectives from interchange and is always looking for opportunities to develop arrangements that further the delivery agenda of the Department.

It is the policy across Civil Service departments that where individuals transfer temporarily between our department and another department they move on a loan basis.

We do not centrally monitor, in the department, if a Civil Servant applies for a loan or secondment out of the department, each request is dealt with on a case-by-case basis in line with business need.

■ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Temporary Employment

Mr Jim Cunningham:

[\[9370\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how many (a) freelance and (b) temporary staff were employed by his Department in each of the last five financial years.

George Eustice:

1. Freelance – The Department has not employed any freelance workers in the last five financial years.
2. Temporary Staff – see below for a breakdown of temporary staff numbers for both suppliers with whom the Department has held contracts with during the last five years.

Defra uses a Contingent Labour ONE contract derived from a Crown Commercial Service Framework to provide temporary staff. Any other individual contracts other than this Crown Commercial Service framework contract for temporary staff are not included below, as this information is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

FINANCIAL YEAR	NO OF EMPLOYEES	
Apr 13 – Mar 14	108	Note: From Nov 13
Apr 14 - Mar 15	843	
Apr 15 - Mar 16	1246	
Apr 16 - Mar 17	1257	
Apr 17 - Mar 18	854	Note: Up to Aug 17

Mr Jim Cunningham:

[\[9371\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how many (a) freelance and (b) temporary staff were employed by his Department in each of the last 12 months.

George Eustice:

1. Freelance – The Department has not employed any freelance workers in the last five 12 months
2. Temporary Staff – see below for a breakdown of temporary staff numbers for both contracted suppliers. Defra uses a Contingent Labour ONE contract derived from a Crown Commercial Service Framework to provide temporary staff. Any other individual contracts other than this Crown Commercial Service framework contract for temporary staff are not included below, as this information is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Year	Month	Number in month
2016	September	477
2016	October	513
2016	November	572
2016	December	533
2017	January	536
2017	February	573
2017	March	579
2017	April	526
2017	May	526
2017	June	555
2017	July	586
2017	August	614

■ Environment: Treaties

Caroline Lucas:

[\[9691\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, which international environmental agreements to which the UK is currently a party as a consequence of ratification by the EU he plans the UK to ratify in order to maintain the current level of environmental protection after the UK leaves the EU.

Caroline Lucas:

[9693]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what the legal position will be of international environmental agreements ratified jointly by the EU and the UK after the UK leaves the EU.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

The UK will continue to be bound by international Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) to which it is party. We are committed to upholding our international obligations under these agreements and will continue to play an active role internationally following our departure from the EU. We will give due consideration to the ratification of MEAs in the future to which the UK is not currently party in its own right, (recognising that some risks have no relevance to the UK.)

■ Fisheries: UK Trade with EU

Mr Jim Cunningham:

[9564]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what estimate he has made of the value of domestic fish landings which are exported to other EU member states.

George Eustice:

In 2015, the UK exported 500 thousand tonnes of fish and fish products, with a value of £1.4 billion. The Marine Management Organisation publishes trade analysis in their annual UK Sea Fisheries Statistics publication, which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-sea-fisheries-annual-statistics-report-2015>

These statistics include the outward movement of fish and fish products produced by businesses in the UK, plus goods which, after importation to the UK, are then exported. The statistics include fish caught by foreign vessels and landed into the UK; fish caught by the UK fleet and landed into foreign ports are excluded.

■ Floods: Insurance

Mr Alister Jack:

[9925]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what progress has been made on providing an affordable insurance scheme for businesses affected by flooding.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

The British Insurance Broker Association (BIBA) insurance product, launched in December 2016, provides flood insurance for many small businesses that have struggled to access it to-date. We understand that this new product is already providing insurance and has strong support from brokers. BIBA's 'Find a Broker Service' can help business identify local brokers participating in the BIBA scheme and is accessible through BIBA's website, at: <https://www.biba.org.uk/find-insurance/results/?insurance=908>

The Government continues to work with commercial interests under the Property Level Resilience Roundtable to promote the uptake of measures that make properties resilient to flooding. These are measures that prevent water entering a property and speeding recovery when it does. One objective is to develop better standards and certification, enabling insurers to take greater account of resilience measures in the future.

■ Food: Origin Marking

Chris Ruane: [\[9705\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what products in the UK have protected geographical indication; and what steps he is taking to guarantee that status after the UK leaves the EU.

George Eustice:

There are currently 84 UK products with geographical indication protection, including food products, wine, beers, ciders, spirit drinks and wool. A full list can be found on the protected food name scheme page on gov.uk.

As we leave the EU, the UK will continue to abide by World Trade Organisation rules on the protection of geographical indications, and we will prioritise continued protection of the best of our UK food and drink. Countries outside the EU are already able to participate in the EU's geographical indication schemes when selling onto the EU market. In addition, the EU rules that currently govern the enforcement of geographical indications will be placed on a UK legal basis through the EU Withdrawal Bill.

■ Food: Procurement

Martyn Day: [\[9924\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what plans he has to change regulations to enable local authorities or central government to stipulate that food and drink that is procured centrally must be of local country or UK origin after the UK leaves the EU.

George Eustice:

The *Plan for Public Procurement: Food and Catering Services* which was published in 2014 already provides UK food businesses with greater access to central government and wider public sector contracts.

The Plan aims to simplify the public procurement process and open up the market to more SMEs and local producers. It provides a level playing field on which UK producers can compete for the opportunity to supply more of the produce currently supplied from other countries. It includes tools such as the balanced scorecard, to help contracting parties to balance a range of criteria beneficial to the consumer, the environment, and to producers. These criteria include embedding UK production standards, encouraging seasonality of fresh produce and calling for menus which

celebrate the provenance of the food. This approach is a UK-led initiative which is not affected by leaving the EU.

The balanced scorecard approach is mandated for central government departments as existing contracts come up for renewal and it is also strongly encouraged for other public sector bodies. Defra is working closely with buyers and with the industry to ensure they are well prepared to maximise the opportunities.

The UK's departure from the EU allows us to re-examine procurement rules to ensure they work in the best interests of UK businesses.

■ Food: Wales

Ben Lake: [\[9782\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment his Department has made of the effect on the Welsh food processing sector's access to labour of the UK leaving the European (a) single market and (b) Customs Union.

Ben Lake: [\[9783\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment his Department has made of the effect on access to labour by the (a) Animal and Plant Health Agency and (b) agricultural sector in Wales of the UK leaving the (i) single market and (ii) customs union.

George Eustice:

We remain closely engaged with food and farming sectors across the UK and the Animal and Plant Health Agency to understand and analyse the labour demand and supply, now and when we leave the EU.

The Government is considering the options for future immigration system carefully and we will ensure that businesses and communities, including representatives from across the food chain, have the opportunity to contribute their views.

■ Foxes

Jim Shannon: [\[9999\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what incentives his Department gives to help control fox numbers in the UK.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

Wildlife management is a devolved matter so this reply relates to England only.

Defra does not offer incentives to help control fox numbers in England and currently has no plans to control the number of foxes.

Defra's general policy is that individuals should be free to manage wildlife within the law. The fox is not a protected species so the decision to control them lies with the owner or occupier of the property where the problem occurs.

Natural England, on Defra's behalf, has a team dedicated to providing wildlife management advice to the public, both through written material and directly by telephone.

■ Game: Antibiotics

Jim Shannon: [\[9997\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what advice his Department gives to gamekeepers to reduce the use of antibiotics on game birds.

George Eustice:

The Veterinary Medicines Directorate has been working closely with the Game Farmers Association (GFA) to raise awareness and foster good stewardship of antibiotics in the sector. The GFA and other sector representatives are committed to bringing down antibiotic use, while ensuring bird health and welfare are preserved. A comprehensive voluntary exercise to measure the use of antibiotics throughout the game sector is being carried out, and antibiotic reduction targets will be announced by the end of 2017.

■ Livestock: Cairnryan

Mr Alister Jack: [\[10019\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what estimate has been made of the quantity of livestock transported through the port of Cairnryan.

George Eustice:

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) does not hold data on all consignments and quantities of livestock transported through the port of Cairnryan.

APHA only holds data for export consignments where a Journey Log was required that listed Cairnryan as the exit port from Great Britain.

During 2017, 183 Journey Logs have been received by APHA listing Cairnryan as the exit port from Great Britain. 10,128 animals were exported in the 183 export consignments.

■ Meat: Wales

Ben Lake: [\[9781\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment his Department has made of the effect on the Welsh red meat sector of the UK leaving the (a) single market and (b) customs union.

George Eustice:

Leaving the EU presents a major opportunity for UK agriculture and we are working towards achieving the best possible deal for the agricultural industry across the UK.

We want to secure a deep and comprehensive Free-Trade Agreement as an alternative to membership of the single market, which preserves our access to EU markets for red meat and all agricultural products.

We are conducting rigorous analysis of various trade scenarios on UK food producers and consumers. This ongoing analysis is helping to develop a detailed understanding of how withdrawing from the EU will impact on the UK to best inform Government policy going forward.

■ Migrant Workers

Tom Brake: [\[8399\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the effect on access to non-UK migrant labour in (a) non-seasonal agricultural sectors and (b) the egg industry when the UK leaves the EU.

George Eustice:

We remain closely engaged with industry to ensure that we are informed of the latest intelligence on the labour market, including on both seasonal and permanent agricultural roles.

As part of this, the government has commissioned the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to assess the role that EU citizens play in the UK economy and society, and we will work closely with the food and farming industry to consider their specific needs as we develop a new immigration system.

■ Pest Control: Trapping

Ben Lake: [\[9524\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what his Department's policy is on the use of the Goodnature A24 mammal trap in England and Wales.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

Wildlife management is a devolved matter so this reply relates to England only.

The Goodnature A24 rat and stoat trap is permitted for use in England, under the Spring Traps Approval (Variation) (England) Order 2015, for the purpose of killing rats and stoats only. The trap must be placed so that it can only be entered by way of an artificial tunnel that is suitable for that purpose.

A condition of use for all approved spring traps is that so far as is practicable without unreasonably compromising its use, the trap must be used in a manner that minimises the likelihood of its killing, taking or injuring non-target species.

It is for the trapper to make sure conditions of use are complied with and offences against protected species are not committed. Where the safety of protected species cannot be reasonably assured, the use of non-lethal methods of capture, such as cage trapping, should be employed so non-target species can be released unharmed if accidentally captured.

■ Pollinators: Monitoring

Thangam Debbonaire: [10029]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, with reference to the Government's National Pollinator Strategy, published in November 2014, what progress has been made on developing a pollinator indicator under the planned Biodiversity 2020 monitoring strategy.

Thangam Debbonaire: [10162]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, with reference to page 32 of the National Pollinator Strategy, published by his Department in November 2014, what progress has been made on extending the monitoring and evaluation framework for nature improvement areas to include pollinators.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

The National Pollinator Strategy was launched in November 2014 and included commitments on measuring progress by developing an indicator on the status of pollinators and by evaluating Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs) and agri-environment schemes.

Defra has developed an indicator of the status of pollinating insects in partnership with the research community and the voluntary sector. The indicator was first published in 2014 and integrated into the suite of 24 indicators used to track progress with Biodiversity 2020: our Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services. The indicator summarises trends for almost 400 pollinating insect species and was last published on 3 August (www.gov.uk/government/statistics/england-biodiversity-indicators). It shows that the overall status of pollinating insects has declined since 1980. There are, however, early indications that this trend may have stabilised in recent years. We will continue to take action for pollinators as set out in our Pollinator Strategy and encourage others to do the same through our Bees' Needs campaign.

The monitoring and evaluation framework for NIAs was updated in 2014 and included two voluntary indicators on population of threatened or widespread species, including a number of pollinating insects.

A report on monitoring and evaluation of NIAs was published in 2015 (www.gov.uk/government/publications/nature-improvement-areas-improved-ecological-networks/nature-improvement-areas-about-the-programme). This found no significant change in any of the species indicators in the NIAs over the short period involved. Collectively, however, the 12 NIAs secured beneficial management on over 13,500 ha of important wildlife habitats and put in place action to create 4,500 ha of new habitats, primarily species rich grasslands and heathland which will provide important sources of pollen and nectar for pollinating insects.

For agri-environment schemes, Natural England has a contract in place with the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology and the British Trust for Ornithology to provide a landscape-scale evaluation of the impact of Countryside Stewardship in England on mobile species, including pollinators. Initial findings are expected in 2018.

Since 2015, we have initiated a pollinator monitoring and research partnership with the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Scottish Government, the Welsh Government and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, to strengthen pollinator monitoring across Great Britain and improve our capacity to understand trends in pollination services. Details of the partnership are available on the external Centre for Ecology and Hydrology website.

■ Sheep: Animal Welfare

Jim Shannon:

[\[10004\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking better to control of lamb worrying and to impose greater penalties for people who allow their animals to worry lambs.

George Eustice:

Where a dog is worrying livestock, police and local authorities, with the consent of the local police, can pursue a prosecution under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953. This provides a criminal offence where a keeper has allowed their dog to worry livestock and carries a maximum fine of £1000. Defra and the Animal Health and Welfare Board for England (AHWBE) met police forces, farming and rural interests to discuss this issue earlier this year. Under the auspices of the National Police Chiefs' Council, five police forces are collaborating to pilot more systematic data collection of incidents and good response practices and we look forward to the results of the pilot.

■ UK Trade with EU

Dr David Drew:

[\[10277\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will make an assessment of the potential effect on domestic retail prices of (a) beef, (b) sheep, (c) wheat, (d) dairy and (e) poultry of the UK not signing a free trade agreement with the EU.

George Eustice:

We are conducting rigorous analysis of various trade scenarios on UK consumers and food producers. This ongoing analysis is helping to develop a detailed understanding of how withdrawing from the EU will impact on the UK to best inform Government policy going forward.

On leaving the EU, the UK will have an independent trade policy and in the event of not signing a free trade agreement with the EU, the effect on domestic food prices will depend on the future trade policy of the UK Government.

EXITING THE EUROPEAN UNION

■ Department for Exiting the European Union: Agriculture

Chris Ruane: [\[9923\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what meetings his Department has had with (a) farming unions and (b) devolved administrations to discuss matters relating to farming since June 2016.

Mr Steve Baker:

The Department for Exiting the European Union has met a number of stakeholders from the agricultural sector, including the National Farmers Union, National Pig Association, the Country Land and Business Association and the International Meat Trade Association.

The Government is also working closely with the Devolved Administrations. The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is meeting his ministerial counterparts in the Welsh and Scottish Governments, along with a senior official from the Northern Ireland Executive Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, in late September for on-going discussions on the UK's withdrawal from the EU. Further joint ministerial meetings will take place on a regular basis, as well as continued bilateral discussions.

■ Department for Exiting the European Union: Behavioural Insights Team

Jon Trickett: [\[9649\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, how much his Department has paid to the Behavioural Insights Team in each year since his Department's creation.

Mr Steve Baker:

The Department for Exiting the EU has not made any payments to the Behavioural Insight Team since creation.

Jon Trickett: [\[9953\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what services his Department has received from the Behavioural Insights Team since his Department's creation.

Mr Steve Baker:

The Department for Exiting the European Union has not received any services from the Behavioural Insights Team since its creation.

■ Department for Exiting the European Union: Pay

Philip Davies: [\[10307\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, how many of his Department's staff had a pay increase (a) above, (b) at and (c) less than one per cent since his Department's creation.

Mr Steve Baker:

The 2017 annual pay remit review will be the first for the Department for Exiting the European Union. The departmental pay remit is still being considered and therefore, DExEU has not implemented any pay rises since its creation.

■ Department for Exiting the European Union: Redundancy Pay

Jon Trickett:

[\[10049\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, how much has been paid out (a) men and (b) women who left his Department under exit schemes since 31 March 2016.

Mr Steve Baker:

The Department for Exiting the European Union has not run any exits schemes since 31 March 2016. As a result, there have not been any amounts paid out to Civil Servants under exit schemes since that date.

■ Department for Exiting the European Union: Scientific Advisers

Chi Onwurah:

[\[10062\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, whether his Department has taken steps to ensure that its activities and decision-making is informed by independent scientific advice; to what extent his Department relies on other Departments to facilitate such advice; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Steve Baker:

The Department for Exiting the European Union (DEXEU) is committed to ensuring that we access the very best scientific expertise. The Department is actively considering the best way of achieving this and it is important for us to take into account DExEU's role as a co-ordinating department when considering what provisions to put in place. We are currently exploring these options, including considering the appointment of a Chief Scientific Adviser.

■ Department for Exiting the European Union: Secondment

Jon Trickett:

[\[10041\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, how many secondments have been organised from (a) his Department to the private sector and (b) outside Government into his Department since its creation.

Mr Steve Baker:

The Department for Exiting the European Union has a number of secondees from the private sector and the wider public sector. We are not in a position to give a final total for particular groups of staff as recruitment is ongoing and numbers are regularly changing. It is not the Department's policy for people to second out from the Department due to the nature of the Department being temporary.

■ Foreign Investment in UK

Bill Esterson: [\[10291\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, pursuant to the oral contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Trade in the Westminster Hall debate of 12 September 2017, on foreign direct investment, what plans he has to maintain regulatory equivalence with key markets.

Mr Robin Walker:

The UK Government is committed to making the UK the best place in the world to do business. As the Prime Minister set out in the White paper "The United Kingdom's Exit from and new partnership with the European Union", this will mean fostering a high quality, stable and predictable regulatory environment. We want to minimise the regulatory and market access barriers for both goods and services in trade with the EU. Discussions on regulatory equivalence will form part of the negotiations.

■ UK Membership of EU

Tom Brake: [\[10092\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, when his Department expects to complete its review of whether Article 127 of the EEA agreement needs to be triggered for the UK to leave the EEA.

Mr Steve Baker:

As the Secretary of State said when he addressed the House on 7th September, there is agreement that when we leave the EU, the EEA Agreement will no longer operate in respect of the UK. As such, the Government's legal position is clear: Article 127 does not need to be triggered for the Agreement to cease to have effect. We are considering what steps, if any, we might need to take to formally confirm our withdrawal from the EEA agreement as a matter of international law.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

■ Abdulkareem al-Hawaj

David Linden: [\[10181\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has made to his Saudi Arabian counterpart on the case of Abdulkareem al-Hawaj.

Alistair Burt:

We are aware of reports of Abdulkareem al-Hawaj's death sentence being upheld. We continue to raise our opposition to the death penalty in all circumstances and in every country, including Saudi Arabia, especially for crimes other than the most serious and for juveniles, in line with the minimum standards set out in the EU Guidelines on the Death Penalty of 2008 and the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Arab Charter on Human Rights.

■ British Indian Ocean Territory

Patrick Grady: [\[9728\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment his Department has made on the ability of the Government to gain support at the UN from EU member states for its position on the Chagos Islands of the UK leaving the EU.

Sir Alan Duncan:

The vote on the UN General Assembly Resolution 71/292 was a disappointing outcome. Sovereignty of the British Indian Ocean Territory is clearly a matter for the UK and Mauritius to resolve ourselves. Taking this bilateral issue to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) through the General Assembly is an inappropriate use of the ICJ mechanism. This is reflected in the fact that over half of General Assembly members did not vote in favour of the resolution. We will continue to work with EU and other partners in order to present the UK's position effectively at the International Court of Justice.

Patrick Grady: [\[9906\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has received from those EU Member States who abstained in the vote on UN General Assembly Resolution 71/292 on their decision to abstain.

Patrick Grady: [\[9907\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment his Department has made of the effect of 22 EU member states abstaining in the vote on UN General Assembly Resolution 71/292 on diplomatic relations with those states.

Patrick Grady: [\[9933\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations his Department has made to the Governments of those EU member states who abstained in the vote on UN General Assembly Resolution 71/292 on their decision to abstain.

Sir Alan Duncan:

The vote on the UN General Assembly Resolution 71/292 was a disappointing outcome. Sovereignty of the British Indian Ocean Territory is clearly a matter for the UK and Mauritius to resolve ourselves. Taking this bilateral issue to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) through the General Assembly is an inappropriate use of the ICJ mechanism. This is reflected in the fact that over half of General Assembly members did not vote in favour of the resolution. We will continue to work with EU and other partners in order to present the UK's position effectively at the International Court of Justice.

■ Burma: Arms Trade

Afzal Khan: [\[10061\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether military equipment sold by the UK to Myanmar may be used by that country's armed forces in operations involving conflict with citizens of that country.

Mark Field:

In line with the EU Arms Embargo the UK does not sell Burma any equipment which might be used for internal repression. Our engagement with the Burmese military has been focused on educational training, designed to instil knowledge and awareness in the military of the requirement to observe human rights and the rule of international humanitarian law. However, the Prime Minister announced the Government's decision to suspend this engagement on 19 September, sending a clear message to the Burmese military that there must be an immediate end to the violence in Rakhine and full humanitarian access allowed.

■ Burma: International Assistance

Julie Cooper: [\[9955\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps his Department has taken to prepare for a potential humanitarian intervention and assistance mission in Myanmar.

Mark Field:

The Foreign Secretary most recently spoke with State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi on 17 September. He once again raised our concerns about the continuing violence, the need for any allegations of human rights abuses to be investigated and for humanitarian access to be granted to affected communities. Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, made a statement at the 36th session of the Human Rights Council on 11 September which made clear that the UK strongly condemned all violence in Rakhine State and called on all parties to de-escalate tensions and address the humanitarian crisis. Pursuant to the strategy set out in my response to the Urgent Question on 5 September we have also called for a further meeting at the UN Security Council on 13 September which will discuss how humanitarian access can be improved on the ground in Rakhine State.

The UK has long been one of the biggest contributors of humanitarian aid for the displaced population in Rakhine State. We have provided over £30 million in humanitarian assistance since 2012, including food and sanitation for over 126,000 people. In the current context, access to the worst affected populations is seriously constrained. We are working at the highest levels with the government, other donors and the UN to improve access and ensure that aid reaches those that need it most. The UK has also committed £10.9 million to meet the needs of displaced Rohingya and the host communities who support them in Bangladesh. Of this, £5m has already been released to provide critical life-saving assistance – such as food, shelter, water and sanitation to those who are fleeing the violence.

■ Burma: Rohingya

Hilary Benn:

[\[10010\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has made to the Government of Burma on the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights' assessment of Burma's operations against Rohingya Muslims constituting a textbook example of ethnic cleansing.

Mark Field:

[Holding answer 14 September 2017]: Since the UN High Commissioner of Human Rights' statement on 11 September, our Ambassador has raised the situation in Rakhine with Burmese Ministers and has set out our concerns about the violence, the large scale displacement of civilians, and the need for improved humanitarian access. The Foreign Secretary had earlier spoken to State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi on 7 September in similar terms and to underline the need for any allegations of human rights abuses to be investigated. Subsequently, at his press conference on 14 September, the Foreign Secretary described the situation in Rakhine as an "abomination", and urged the displaced Rohingya to be allowed back and for the abuse of their human rights and killings to stop.

Julie Cooper:

[\[10274\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to support discussions with Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the Commander in Chief of the Myanmar armed forces on ending the situation in Rakhine state.

Mark Field:

We have not had direct discussions with the Commander in Chief. The Foreign Secretary spoke with State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi on 7 September. He raised our concerns about the continuing violence, the need for any allegations of human rights abuses to be investigated and for humanitarian access to be granted to affected communities. We continue to raise our concerns with the Burmese authorities.

Afzal Khan:

[\[9931\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, when last he discussed repression and violence in Rakhine State with Aung San Suu Kyi.

Mark Field:

The Foreign Secretary most recently spoke with State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi on 17 September. He one again raised our concerns about the continuing violence, the need for any allegations of human rights abuses to be investigated and for humanitarian access to be granted to affected communities.

Julie Cooper: [9957]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps the Government is taking to support the authorities in Bangladesh in taking refugees from Rakhine State, Myanmar.

Mark Field:

The UK is the largest bilateral donor in Bangladesh supporting displaced Rohingya refugees and the vulnerable communities which host them. DFID has allocated £20.9 million for responding to humanitarian needs between 2017 and 2022. Via this programme, the UK will deliver support through a joint UN programme and through the NGO Action Contre la Faim. I have spoken with my Ministerial opposite number on these issues on 12 September.

In response to the latest violence, the UK has released a further £5 million from existing funds to provide additional critical life-saving assistance – such as food, shelter, water and sanitation to those who are fleeing the violence.

Julie Cooper: [9958]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations his Department has made to the Myanmar Government on the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army ceasefire.

Mark Field:

We note the ceasefire offered by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army to the Burmese Government, and the response of the Government spokesperson. We continue to have discussions with the Burmese Government on the situation in Rakhine. The Foreign Secretary spoke to State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi about the issue on 17 September and our Ambassador raised these issues frequently.

The UK's immediate priority is to ensure humanitarian access is provided to those in desperate need. That is why the UK has released a further £5 million from existing funds to provide additional critical life-saving assistance – such as food, shelter, water and sanitation to those who are fleeing the violence.

Julie Cooper: [9959]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to support the ceasefire offered by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army to the Myanmar Government in order to allow humanitarian relief to enter Rakhine.

Mark Field:

We note the ceasefire offered by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army to the Burmese Government, and the response of the Government spokesperson. We continue to have discussions with the Burmese Government on the situation in Rakhine. The UK's immediate priority is to ensure humanitarian access is provided to those in desperate need. That is why the UK has released a further £5 million from

existing funds to provide additional critical life-saving assistance – such as food, shelter, water and sanitation to those who are fleeing the violence.

Julie Cooper:

[9961]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent meetings his Department has had with the UK Ambassador to the UK on the situation in Rakhine State, Myanmar.

Mark Field:

We have a regular dialogue with the Burmese Ambassador and others at the Burmese Embassy in London on a range of issues including the situation in Rakhine. The Minister for Asia and the Pacific spoke to the Ambassador on 18 September about the situation in Rakhine and other matters.

■ Burma: Sanctions

Julie Cooper:

[9956]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what sanctions the Government has implemented as a result of human rights abuses in Myanmar.

Mark Field:

The UK continues rigorously to impose measures under the EU Arms Embargo. These restrictive measures prohibit the supply of equipment or provision of any training which might strengthen the Burmese military's combat capability.

■ Burma: Sexual Offences

Afzal Khan:

[9934]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent representations he has made to his counterparts in the Government of Myanmar through the office of the Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict on the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict and the use of rape as a weapon of war.

Mark Field:

The Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, made a statement at the 36th session of the Human Rights Council on 11 September which made clear that the UK strongly condemned all violence in Rakhine State and called on all parties to de-escalate tensions and address the humanitarian crisis.

We continue to raise issues of conflict-related sexual violence with the Burmese authorities. In particular we urge them to accept a visit by the Fact Finding Mission established under the UK-sponsored Human Rights Council Resolution in March and to investigate allegations of sexual violence in a thorough and transparent manner in accordance with the principles and best practice set out in the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict.

■ Caribbean: Hurricanes and Tornadoes

Catherine West:

[9320]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps his Department has taken to support (a) British holidaymakers and (b) residents of the Overseas Territories in the Caribbean affected by Hurricane Irma.

Sir Alan Duncan:

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) activated its Crisis Centre on 6 September, before the hurricane made landfall in the Caribbean. Since then, the FCO has led the cross-Government response to this unprecedented crisis. A number of Government Departments are co-located in the crisis centre and are working round the clock to provide the best possible assistance to those affected in the British Overseas Territories and other areas struck by the hurricane.

Royal Fleet Auxiliary Mounts Bay was pre-positioned in the Caribbean in July, ahead of the hurricane season. Two RAF transport aircraft were sent to the region on 7 September carrying and emergency supplies. On 8 September, a further two aircraft delivered a Puma transport helicopter and ancillary supplies. This steady tempo of relief flights has been sustained and on 11 September included a Voyager and a C-17A. That large military effort continues. We now have over 1000 military personnel and over 50 UK police officers in the region.

Over half a million British Nationals have been affected by Hurricane Irma. Since 8 September we have taken over 2,500 calls on our crisis hotline and are handling 2,418 consular cases. Consular teams in Cuba and the US are working closely with tour operators and local authorities to ensure British nationals are getting the support they need.

In St Martin, a four person rapid deployment team (RDT) arrived on 12 September. We also have RDT teams in BVI, Anguilla and TCI. They will be working with the local authorities and supporting British Nationals requiring consular assistance.

We have arranged military-assisted departures for 12 vulnerable eligible persons from the BVI and are planning military-assisted departures for vulnerable persons in other affected Overseas Territories.

In the British Overseas Territories of Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands, we have Foreign Office staff on the ground who are working closely with UK military, Department for International Development colleagues and local authorities to coordinate the humanitarian relief effort and provide assistance. We have already reinforced the teams supporting the Governors and are sending further reinforcements to the region.

In addition to the £32 million already committed to support recovery efforts in the Islands, the Prime Minister made a further commitment of £25 million on 13 September. Restoring security, critical infrastructure and the provision of humanitarian and consular assistance remain our priorities in the region.

Over 40 metric tonnes of DFID aid has now arrived and is being distributed across the region. This includes 2,608 kits, which can provide shelter for over 13,000 people and 2,304 solar lanterns, which can provide essential light and power for over 11,000 people. With our support, the Red Cross are providing drinking water, family hygiene kits, blankets, tarpaulins and other emergency supplies across the islands. We are working with Thomson, Thomas Cook and Virgin who are providing aircraft to help deliver aid to the region. Examples of aid provided includes nine tonnes of food and water and more is on the way.

HMS Ocean has been loaded with 200 pallets of DFID aid, 60 pallets of Emergency Relief Stores, 5,000 hygiene kits, 10,000 buckets and 504,000 Aquatabs as well as equipment of behalf of the French military and a generous gift of vehicles from the Government of Gibraltar. HMS Ocean is now enroute to the region.

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown:

[9951]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what (a) short-term emergency and (b) medium-term reconstruction aid his Department has provided to people affected by Hurricane Irma.

Sir Alan Duncan:

I refer you to the statement I made on 12 September, Hurricane Irma: Government Response, House of Commons, Volume 628:

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2017-09-12/debates/FDF2D795-E713-4FD6-BBEB-1E99DA488897/HurricaneIrmaGovernmentResponse>

■ Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting: Young People

Cat Smith:

[9739]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps the Government is taking to ensure that young people are represented at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in 2018.

Alistair Burt:

In April 2018, the UK will host the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London and Windsor. The summit will involve three days of forums and the two day Heads of Government Meeting. The Commonwealth Youth Forum is a key part of this, providing an opportunity for the young people of the Commonwealth to debate the challenges they face and develop proposals that will be put to decision makers, ensuring they have a voice in the Commonwealth's future.

The agenda for the Commonwealth Youth Forum is developed by an International Taskforce, made up of young leaders from across the Commonwealth and the UK as Host country, working in partnership with the Commonwealth Youth Council.

■ Commonwealth: Young People

Cat Smith: [9738]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether the Government was appointed as a member of the new Commonwealth Youth Ministerial Task Force following the 9th Commonwealth Youth Minister meeting in Uganda, as outlined in point 20 of the Final Communiqué.

Alistair Burt:

The UK is not currently on the new Commonwealth Youth Ministerial Task Force. The Task Force is made up of 10 members representing the Commonwealth's regions; this includes Malta as the representative for Europe.

■ Egypt: Saudi Arabia

Jim Shannon: [10009]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions his Department has had with the Egyptian Government on the transfer of Tiran and Sanafir Islands to Saudi Arabia.

Alistair Burt:

The transfer of the islands of Tiran and Sanafir is a sovereign matter between Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The UK Government has not had any substantive discussions on the matter with the Egyptian Government.

■ Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Behavioural Insights Team

Jon Trickett: [9965]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what services his Department has received from the Behavioural Insights Team since 2014.

Sir Alan Duncan:

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has received services from the Behavioural Insights Team since 2014. This has enabled the department to add to its evidence base to support priority government areas.

Since January 2011, details of central government contracts above the value of £10,000 are published on Contracts Finder. Contracts published prior to 26 February 2015 can be viewed at:

<https://data.gov.uk/data/contracts-finder-archive>

Those published after 26 February 2015 can be viewed at:

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Search>

■ Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Redundancy Pay

Jon Trickett:

[10050]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, how much has been paid out to (a) men and (b) women who left his Department under exit schemes since 31 March 2016.

Sir Alan Duncan:

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not run any exit scheme for its UK based staff in the period since 31 March 2016.

■ Malaysia: Corporal Punishment

Jim Shannon:

[9990]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with the Government of Malaysia on introducing public caning under Sharia law.

Mark Field:

We are aware of the Private Member's Bill proposed by the PAS party to the Malaysian Parliament to expand the jurisdiction of Sharia courts in Malaysia to allow Islamic punishments (hudud). We have a regular dialogue on human rights with the Malaysian government, including at Ministerial level. Former Minister for Asia and the Pacific, Alok Sharma MP, discussed a number of issues, including human rights, with Malaysian Ministers during his visit to Kuala Lumpur in April 2017. Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London meet periodically with representatives of Malaysian Civil Society to hear their concerns. We will continue to monitor human rights issues and internal developments in Malaysia, working with the EU and other foreign missions in Kuala Lumpur, raising our concerns as appropriate.

■ North Korea: Guided Weapons

Emily Thornberry:

[9876]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent estimate the Government has made of the time frame within which the Government of North Korea is likely to develop an operational nuclear-armed intercontinental ballistic missile.

Boris Johnson:

It is the long-standing policy of the Government not to comment on matters relating to intelligence or national security.

■ North Korea: Nuclear Weapons

Emily Thornberry:

[9873]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in countries previously involved in the Six

Party Talks on North Korea's nuclear programme; and what the likelihood is that such talks will reconvene in 2017.

Boris Johnson:

We are working with our international partners, including the five other members of the Six Party Talks, on the need for North Korea to denuclearise and engage in a diplomatic resolution to current tensions. The UK stands ready to support negotiations, under the right circumstances, whether in the Six Party Talks or another agreed format.

Emily Thornberry: [\[9874\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what the Government's policy is on whether the framework of the Six Party Talks on North Korea's nuclear programme provides the most appropriate framework for multilateral negotiations on that programme.

Boris Johnson:

The UK stands ready to support negotiations whether in the Six Party Talks or another agreed format. As I told Parliament in my statement on 5 September, just as North Korea has pursued nuclear weapons with single-minded determination, so the international community must show the same resolve in our pursuit of a diplomatic solution.

Emily Thornberry: [\[9875\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent estimate the Government has made of the number of nuclear weapons controlled by the Government of North Korea within its existing stockpile of such weapons.

Boris Johnson:

It is the long-standing policy of the Government not to comment on matters relating to intelligence or national security.

Emily Thornberry: [\[9879\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what the Government's policy is on whether there should be pre-conditions for any resumption of multilateral diplomacy on North Korea's nuclear programme.

Boris Johnson:

We are focused on working with our international partners to increase pressure on the regime so that they change direction and open the way towards peaceful resolution. The international community has universally and repeatedly condemned North Korea's flagrant disregard for international rules and systems. We are united in increasing the pressure on North Korea's leaders to stop their destabilising actions, including their illegal ballistic missile and nuclear tests. The North Korean regime is the cause of this problem, and they will need to show a serious and measurable change in their behaviour to create the right conditions for talks.

Emily Thornberry: [\[9949\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, with reference to his oral contribution of 5 September 2017, Official Report, column 83, what the basis is for his scepticism about claims that the North Korean nuclear test of 3 September 2017 involved the successful detonation of a hydrogen bomb capable of being delivered on an intercontinental ballistic missile.

Boris Johnson:

It is the long-standing policy of the Government not to comment on matters relating to intelligence or national security. We should always be sceptical of claims made by this closed and autocratic regime. This test is however yet another reminder of the grave danger that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea poses.

■ North Korea: Oil

Emily Thornberry: [\[9870\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of the proportion of North Korean oil imports linked to that country's development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles.

Boris Johnson:

We judge that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) military, which runs the nuclear weapons or ballistic missiles programmes, is one of the major consumers of oil products in the DPRK.

■ North Korea: Sanctions

Emily Thornberry: [\[9869\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of the potential humanitarian effects of a decision to impose sanctions on North Korean oil imports on the civilian population of that country.

Boris Johnson:

Sanctions imposed as a result of UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) are aimed at the regime in charge of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) which has continued to pursue illegal nuclear and missile programmes. By targeting the DPRK's exports we are limiting the funds that can be diverted to these programmes.

The sanctions are not targeted at the Korean people. The latest resolution reaffirms that the measures imposed by UNSCR 2375 and previous UNSCRs relating to the DPRK illegal weapons programmes "are not intended to have adverse humanitarian consequences for the civilian population of the DPRK". The resolution also reaffirms these measures are not intended to affect negatively or restrict those activities such as food aid, humanitarian assistance, and relief activities in the DPRK for the benefit of the civilian population.

We call on the North Korean regime to prioritise the wellbeing of its people over its pursuit of illegal ballistic missile and nuclear programmes.

Emily Thornberry: [\[9871\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in EU member states on the potential imposition of new EU sanctions on North Korea.

Boris Johnson:

I discussed the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) with my European counterparts at the EU Foreign Ministers meeting in Tallinn on 7-8 September. A peaceful solution to this crisis requires a concerted international effort to maximise political and economic pressure on the leadership in Pyongyang and bring the DPRK back to the negotiating table. The EU needs to play its part by stepping up this pressure.

Emily Thornberry: [\[9872\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what the Government's policy is on whether secondary sanctions should be imposed on individuals, entities and governments in activities prohibited by UN Security Council resolutions on North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes in addition to the sanctions already set out in such resolutions.

Boris Johnson:

The UN Security Council has already – and unanimously – imposed increasingly stringent sanctions on North Korea in order to limit its ability to pursue its nuclear weapons programme. As I made clear in my statement to Parliament on 5 September, the UK is looking at measures that can increase the pressure on Pyongyang to change course. We are working with our international partners to ensure that all existing measures currently in place are fully implemented.

Emily Thornberry: [\[9880\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent estimate he has made of the number of UN member states that have not submitted implementation reports on (a) UN Security Council Resolution 2270 and (b) UN Security Council Resolution 2321 to the 1718 DPRK Sanctions Committee; and what recent representations he has made to his counterparts in UN member states on their obligation to submit implementation reports to that committee.

Boris Johnson:

The 1718 DPRK Sanctions Committee has received, as of 9 September 2017, implementation reports from 96 Member States on UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2270 and from 80 Member States on UNSCR 2321. Of the 193 Member States, 97 are yet to submit a report on UNSCR 2270 and 113 on UNSCR 2321. The UK regularly raises the importance of the implementation of UNSCRs, which include the requirement for Member States to submit implementation reports.

Emily Thornberry: [9881]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps the Government is taking to support the work of the 1718 DPRK Sanctions Committee and the Panel of Experts assisting that committee.

Boris Johnson:

The UK takes an active role as a member of the 1718 DPRK Sanctions Committee. The UK has also funded a number of outreach activities by the Panel of Experts, which supports the Committee, to promote the effective implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions. The UK also provides substantive information in response to the Panel's Request for Information letters.

Emily Thornberry: [9882]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, when the Government plans to submit its report on the UK's implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2371 to the 1718 DPRK Sanctions Committee.

Boris Johnson:

The Government plans to submit its implementation report for UN Security Council Resolution 2371 within 90 days of the Resolution's adoption date of 5 August 2017.

Emily Thornberry: [9945]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, with reference to his oral contribution of 5 September 2017, Official Report, column 91, what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in other countries on the potential imposition of multilateral sanctions on North Korean oil imports; and what assessment he has made of the prospects for an agreement by the UN Security Council to impose such sanctions.

Boris Johnson:

I refer the Rt Hon. Member to my statement on 11 September where I welcomed the unanimous adoption of UN Security Council resolution 2375: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-statement-on-adoption-of-uns-c-resolution-on-north-korea>. This Resolution will curtail gas, petrol and oil imports as well as significantly limiting North Korea's exports.

Emily Thornberry: [9946]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, with reference to his oral contribution of 5 September 2017, Official Report, column 87, what recent discussions he has made to his counterpart in China on the implementation by that country of UN sanctions on North Korea; and what specific steps he has urged the Chinese Government to take to improve the implementation of sanctions.

Boris Johnson:

I spoke with my Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on 4 August and then again on 1 September to urge China to use its influence on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) regime and implement sanctions fully. I welcome China's

condemnation of North Korea's activity and its support for the UN Security Council resolutions (UNSCRs) imposing sanctions on DPRK, including the most recent, UNSCR 2375. As I said in my statement to Parliament on 5 September, China has a unique ability to influence the regime. It is important that they take every measure to fully enforce these latest sanctions and that they use their influence to restrain North Korea and guide its leaders towards a peaceful resolution.

Emily Thornberry: [9948]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, with reference to his oral contribution of 5 September 2017, Official Report, column 84, what the basis is for his estimate of the potential financial cost to the North Korean Government of the implementation of sanctions set out in UN Security Council resolution 2371.

Boris Johnson:

The figure provides an order of magnitude for the impact of UN Security Council Resolution 2371, which has been used by partners in the UN Security Council and is consistent with data from global trade databases.

■ North Korea: UN Resolutions

Emily Thornberry: [9947]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, with reference to his oral contribution of 5 September 2017, Official Report, column 83, what recent assessment he has made of progress to negotiate a potential new UN Security Council resolution on North Korea; and what the Government's priorities are for specific measures to be included in such a resolution.

Boris Johnson:

I refer the Rt Hon. Member to my statement on 11 September, where I welcomed the unanimous adoption of UN Security Council resolution 2375.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-statement-on-adoption-of-unsc-resolution-on-north-korea>

■ Qatar: Counter-terrorism

Jim Shannon: [10001]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions the Government has had with the Government of Qatar to reduce terrorism and potential conflict in the Middle East.

Alistair Burt:

The UK Government regularly raises a range of issues with Qatar. This includes terrorism and regional conflicts, notably Syria, Libya, and Yemen. Discussions on these topics are conducted at all levels – by our officials in Doha and the UK, and in ministerial meetings – including the Sharaka bilateral forum.

■ Republic of Ireland: Foreign Relations

Andrew Rosindell:

[9594]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that relations with the Republic of Ireland are not detrimentally affected by the UK leaving the EU.

Sir Alan Duncan:

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is committed to continuing to build and strengthen our close relations with Ireland through regular ministerial contact, as evidenced by the recent visits to Ireland by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and joint commemorative events such as that to commemorate the Battle of Messines Ridge earlier this year. We believe strongly that maintaining close links with Ireland is of benefit to both countries.

■ South Sudan: Violence

Jim Shannon:

[9993]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with the Government of Sudan on the recent outbreak of violence in South Sudan; and what assistance the Government has offered to the Sudanese Government.

Rory Stewart:

The UK Government is deeply concerned by the conflict in South Sudan, which has caused 2 million people to flee to neighbouring countries, including Sudan. The UK Government does not provide any direct funding to the Government of Sudan. However, through the Department for International Development (DFID)'s South Sudanese Refugees and Migration programme, the UK is providing up to £5 million of support this year to meet the essential humanitarian needs of up to 150,000 South Sudanese refugees in Sudan. DFID is also the largest donor to the UN's Sudan Humanitarian Fund, which provides support to South Sudanese refugees and other vulnerable people in Sudan. We regularly discuss the conflict with the Government of Sudan, and welcome the opening of three humanitarian corridors by the Government, which has allowed aid to be delivered to the most affected populations.

■ USA: Gender Recognition

Catherine West:

[10026]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with his counterpart in the US Administration on transgendered rights.

Sir Alan Duncan:

We have not held any specific discussions on transgender rights with the US Administration. The US Administration is aware of our opposition to all forms of discrimination, and our commitment to promoting LGBT+ equality around the world.

■ Yemen: Joint Incidents Assessment Team

Stephen Doughty: [\[10278\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, how many reports from the Joint Incident Assessment Team on operations in Yemen he has received in each of the last two months.

Alistair Burt:

The Joint Incident Assessment Team (JIAT) did not issue any reports in July or August. On 12 September, the JIAT issued 15 reports, bringing the total number of reports it has issued to 36. The British Government welcomes the release of these reports which demonstrate the Saudi-led Coalition's continued willingness to conduct thorough, transparent and conclusive investigations into reports of alleged violations of International Humanitarian Law.

HEALTH

■ Bronchiectasis

Jim Shannon: [\[9995\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people have been diagnosed with bronchiectasis in each of the last five years.

Steve Brine:

The requested information is not held centrally.

■ Children: Food

Ronnie Cowan: [\[9910\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how his Department plans to work with the Scottish Government on protecting children from junk food marketing.

Ronnie Cowan: [\[9911\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what discussions he has had with the Scottish Government on developing advertising powers to enable that government to protect children from junk food marketing.

Ronnie Cowan: [\[9912\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department plans to take to allow the Scottish Government to restrict junk food advertising to children.

Steve Brine:

Departmental officials will continue to work with colleagues in the devolved administrations, sharing our thinking and progress to ensure children across the United Kingdom can have the best start in life.

Current advertising restrictions in the UK on high fat, salt or sugar (HFSS) products are among the toughest in the world. Strict new rules came into effect on 1 July

banning the advertising of HFSS food or drink products in children's media. These restrictions apply across all non-broadcast media including in print, cinema, online and in social media.

In August we announced £5 million investment in a policy research unit on childhood obesity to provide a robust evidence, evaluation and research capability including looking at the impact of marketing on childhood obesity. The unit's findings will be fed into future meetings with colleagues across the UK.

■ Compulsorily Detained Mental Patients

Luciana Berger:

[\[10013\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many detentions there were under the Mental Health Act 1983 by each section of that Act in each year since 2010.

Jackie Doyle-Price:

The information requested is shown in the following table. The Department of Health, with the Home Office, has led the Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat, which brings together both nationally, and in each locality in England, the services and agencies involved in the care and support of people in crisis. These partnerships have worked to reduce the use of police cells for detentions under section 136 of the Mental Health Act. In 2011/12 there were 8,667 such detentions, by 2015-16 this had been reduced by over 80 per cent., to 1,764 detentions.

Detentions under The Mental Health Act 1983 by legal status 2010/11 to 2015/16

	ALL PROVIDERS					
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
All detentions	46,348	48,631	50,408	53,176	58,399	63,622
Detentions on admission to hospital	29,557	30,900	32,224	34,806	37,709	40,785
Detentions under Part II of the Mental Health Act	27,337	28,632	30,253	32,781	35,444	38,873
Section 2	19,163	20,931	22,477	25,300	27,754	30,627
Section 3	8,174	7,701	7,776	7,481	7,690	8,246

	ALL PROVIDERS					
Detentions under Part III of the Mental Health Act	2,138	2,130	1,788	1,847	1,930	1,696
35	85	107	69	77	75	40
36	16	16	16	22	15	17
37 (with S41 restrictions)	508	522	435	448	486	415
37 (without S41 restrictions)	493	459	326	315	307	223
45A	1	8	3	2	9	7
47 (with S49 restrictions)	430	427	404	414	429	385
47 (without S49 restrictions)	40	41	41	43	60	32
48 (with S49 restrictions)	403	398	371	394	440	465
48 (without S49 restrictions)	10	9	14	11	3	5
Other sections - 38, 44 and 46	152	143	109	121	106	107
Under previous legislation (Fifth Schedule) and other Acts	82	138	183	178	335	216
Detentions	13,397	13,680	14,249	14,087	16,078	17,181

ALL PROVIDERS

subsequent
to admission

Informal to 2	3,347	3,398	3,974	4,097	5,079	5,678
Informal to 3	4,199	4,114	3,895	3,483	4,077	4,303
5(2) to 2	2,973	3,264	3,601	3,707	4,015	4,121
5(2) to 3	2,309	2,437	2,361	2,414	2,489	2,631
5(4) to 2	72	63	57	54	56	51
5(4) to 3	40	22	41	44	43	40
4 to 2	401	344	280	260	277	331
4 to 3	56	38	40	28	42	26
Detentions following use of Section 136	2,376	2,582	2,426	2,882	3,185	4,099
136 to 2	1,948	2,142	2,135	2,587	2,882	3,660
136 to 3	428	440	291	295	303	439
Detentions following revocation of Community Treatment orders	1,018	1,469	1,509	1,401	1,427	1,557

Notes:

The 'all detentions' figure excludes:

Short term detention orders under Sections 4, 5(2) & 5(4) or 135 & 136;

Detentions following the use of Section 135 (the KP90 form does not collect changes from Section 135 to 2, or Section 135 to 3); and

Detentions following recalls from conditional discharge (these are out of scope of the current KP90 collection).

Section 136 uses in police custody suites (the KP90 collection is from healthcare providers only).

Source: KP90 - NHS Digital

■ Countess of Chester Hospital: Maternity Services

Justin Madders: [\[10087\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer of 13 July 2017 to Question 3375, on Chester Hospital: maternity services, what recent progress has been made on that investigation.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The investigation by Cheshire Constabulary into a number of baby deaths occurring between June 2015 and June 2016 in the neonatal unit of the Countess of Chester Hospital remains on-going since my previous response in July 2017. We are not able to provide any further details regarding recent progress at this time.

■ Dental Services: Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle

Emma Hardy: [\[9898\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many (a) pre-school, (b) primary school and (c) secondary school children in Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle constituency have undergone total dental clearances in each year since 2010.

Steve Brine:

The information regarding the number of total dental clearances for each year since 2010 undergone by pre-school, primary school and secondary school children is not collected. Public Health England does collect information on the number of children and young people undergoing hospital dental extractions aged zero to four, five to nine, 10 to 14 and 15 to 19 although it does not collect information on how many teeth are removed per procedure. The figures are available for each financial year from 2011/12 to 2015/16 and can be viewed at:

<http://www.nwph.net/dentalhealth/Extractions.aspx>

■ Department of Health: Behavioural Insights Team

Jon Trickett: [\[9967\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what services his Department has received from the Behavioural Insights Team since 2014.

Mr Philip Dunne:

Services received by the Department from the Behavioural Insights Team (BIT) since 2014 are shown in the following table. This has enabled the Department to add to its evidence base to support priority Government areas.

INVOICE POSTED DATE	LINE DESCRIPTION	INVOICE SPEND £
21 October 2014	New approaches to raising awareness among women about folic acid	2,040

INVOICE POSTED DATE	LINE DESCRIPTION	INVOICE SPEND £
	supplementation to promote behaviour change	
4 April 2014	Transferred contract with the Behavioural Insight Team to develop new approaches to tackling obesity.	9,431
18 November 2014	New approaches to raising awareness among women about folic acid supplementation to promote behaviour change	7,310
17 December 2014	New approaches to raising awareness among women about folic acid supplementation to promote behaviour change	5,360
22 January 2015	New approaches to raising awareness among women about folic acid supplementation to promote behaviour change	3,288
4 April 2014	Transferred contract with the Behavioural Insight Team to develop new approaches to tackling obesity.	9,431
25 February 2015	New approaches to raising awareness among women about folic acid supplementation to promote behaviour change	2,010
7 April 2016	Childhood Obesity Strategy: BIT engagement	30,453
7 April 2016	Childhood Obesity Deliberative Forum: BIT engagement	5,538

■ Diabetes: Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle

Emma Hardy: [\[9899\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many patients in Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle constituency have visited a specialist diabetic clinic in each of the last 12 months.

Steve Brine:

The information requested is not held centrally.

■ Diabetes: Pancreatic Cancer

Jim Shannon: [\[9996\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the timetable is for the examination for diabetes which includes a diagnosis for pancreatic cancer becoming available on the NHS.

Steve Brine:

There are currently no plans for the National Health Service to routinely screen patients for pancreatic cancer at the same time they are being tested for diabetes.

■ Endoscopy

Justin Madders: [\[9716\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, whether he plans to develop a national strategy for endoscopy.

Mr Philip Dunne:

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 24 July 2017 to Question [5812](#).

■ Eyes: Diseases

Jim Shannon: [\[10000\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people have been diagnosed with eyesight problems or diseases in each of the last five years.

Steve Brine:

It is not possible to provide data on the number of people diagnosed with eyesight problems or disease diagnosis in each of the last five years given that there are many conditions and diseases of the eye, not all of which will be captured by national statistics.

■ General Practitioners

Emma Hardy: [\[9901\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many (a) did-not-attends and (b) drop-outs from appointments occurred in GP practices in (i) Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle constituency and (b) England in each of the last 12 months.

Steve Brine:

NHS England does not currently hold information on the number of patients who did not attend or dropped out of general practitioner (GP) appointments on either a local or national level. NHS England has directed NHS Digital to gather this information as part of a new national collection of GP workload information. This collection will begin shortly. Within the Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle constituency the number of did-not-attend or drop-outs from appointments are recorded within individual practices and shared with patients.

■ General Practitioners: Attendance

Iain Stewart:

[\[10282\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what plans he has to review the sanctions available to GP practices against patients who repeatedly do not attend appointments.

Steve Brine:

The National Health Service Constitution states that patients are responsible for keeping appointments or cancelling them within a reasonable time. At present there are no sanctions available for general practitioner practices to manage repeated failure to attend appointments. There are no plans at present to review this.

■ General Practitioners: Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle

Emma Hardy:

[\[9900\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many and which GP practices (a) closed and (b) opened in Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle constituency in each year since 2010.

Steve Brine:

NHS England is not aware of any practices having closed in this period, although there have been two mergers involving one or more practices in Hull West.

■ General Practitioners: Migrant Workers

Justin Madders:

[\[10228\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what his future plans are for the recruitment of GPs from overseas.

Steve Brine:

NHS England aims to recruit at least 2,000 doctors into general practice by 2020/21. This compares to an initial target of 500 doctors over the same period of time.

In order to meet this target, NHS England is expanding its current recruitment programme of doctors from the European Economic Area (EEA) whose general practitioner (GP) training is recognised in the United Kingdom under European law and who already get automatic recognition to join the General Medical Council's (GMC) GP register.

NHS England is also establishing a Framework Agreement of International Recruitment Providers, to identify potential overseas doctors and support them through the recruitment process, and a GP international recruitment office to run the recruitment operation.

Finally, the Royal College of General Practitioners is working with the GMC to review the curriculum, training and assessment processes for GPs trained outside the EEA, starting with Australia, to identify whether the GP registration process can be streamlined for those doctors whose training is seen as equivalent to the UK GP programme.

■ GP Surgeries

Justin Madders: [\[9905\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer of 24 July 2017 to Question 5742, how many GP surgeries are tenants in properties owned by NHS Property Services and Community Health Partnerships.

Mr Philip Dunne:

There are 1,220 general practitioner (GP) practices operating in NHS Property Services-owned buildings.

Community Health Partnerships acts as the landlord for 644 GP tenants.

■ Grenfell Tower: Mental Health Services

Mr David Lammy: [\[10248\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer of 11 September 2017 to Question 8586, how many (a) mental health support workers, (b) trauma counsellors, (c) bereavement counsellors and (d) other mental health support professionals have been provided to support the survivors of the Grenfell Tower fire and their families.

Mr David Lammy: [\[10249\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer of 11 September 2017 to Question 8586, what additional resources have been set aside to fund the provision of mental health support and counselling for the survivors of the Grenfell Tower fire and their families in (a) 2017 and (b) each of the next five years.

Jackie Doyle-Price:

We are informed by NHS England that there are about 160 National Health Service staff members providing support to people impacted by the Grenfell Tower Fire. Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (CNWL) have 40 therapists providing trauma support, backed by the primary care liaison and school nursing team. There are also 67 members of staff providing outreach services, including knocking on people's doors and visiting hotels. This work is supported by CNWL clinical management team.

CNWL are also working with a number of bereavement support organisations including CRUSE and Place2Be for children. Additional support is provided by

general practitioners, nurses and existing mental health services with additional sessions from a range of mental health providers led by CNWL.

The NHS is continuing to respond to the needs of those affected by the Grenfell Tower fire, and a substantial recruitment drive is underway for specialist therapy roles for individuals and families.

Additional capacity has been put in mental health crisis teams, general practice, and community teams. This enables Grenfell patients to be seen quickly and have longer appointment times to meet their complex needs. Bespoke services have also been put in place that are more intensive and accessible, specific to the needs resulting from the incident based on what residents have said.

NHS England is currently working with West London Clinical Commissioning Group to ensure that the funding is in place to cover cost pressures incurred to date and for additional services required in future years.

■ Health Professions: Migrant Workers

Justin Madders: [\[9904\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer of 19 July 2017 to Question 4583, how many EU27 workers were employed in NHS trusts and clinical commissioning groups in June 2017.

Mr Philip Dunne:

NHS Digital publishes National Health Service workforce statistics. The nationality data for staff working in trusts and clinical commissioning groups, as at June 2017, will be published on 21 September 2017.

■ Health Services

Justin Madders: [\[9710\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he has taken to inform the public about the Accountable Care System and Accountable Care Organisation process.

Steve Brine:

NHS England published its delivery plan 'Next Steps on the NHS Five Year Forward View' in March 2017. This plan identified likely Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STPs) that had the potential to evolve into Accountable Care Systems (ACSs), whilst also highlighting the specific deliverables that ACSs are expected to contain. For example, some footprints that are starting to work as a locally integrated health system, taking on clear collective responsibility for resources and population health. 'Next Steps on the NHS Five Year Forward View' is available at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/NEXT-STEPS-ON-THE-NHS-FIVE-YEAR-FORWARD-VIEW.pdf>

In his speech, addressing the NHS Confederation in Liverpool in June 2017, Simon Stevens further updated the list of STPs that had the potential to evolve into ACSs. Further information about that can be found here:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2017/06/nhs-moves-to-end-fractured-care-system/>

In relation to Accountable Care Organisations (ACOs), on 4 August 2017 NHS England published an updated draft of the NHS Standard Contract – NHS Standard Contract (Accountable Care Models) (ACO Contract) and support package. NHS England have engaged with key stakeholders in the development of this contract and will continue to work with leading commissioners to develop this contract further over the next year, with a view to consulting on a final version in 2018.

The Department is currently consulting on proposals to make a number of changes to regulations that are required to facilitate this new contract. This consultation is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/accountable-care-models-contract-proposed-changes-to-regulations>.

The Department expects clinical commissioning groups, when procuring ACO contracts, to assure themselves that they have satisfied their legal duties, including the need to consult local populations. The Government has set clear guidelines and tests to ensure that any significant reconfigurations have demonstrated strong public and patient engagements. Furthermore, those changes must be backed by a clear clinical evidence base and a credible plan to improve performance without affecting patient care. NHS England has processes in place to ensure this.

■ Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

Justin Madders:

[10089]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer of 12 July 2017 to Question 2509, on health services: reciprocal arrangements, if he will provide the data referred to for 2016-17.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The figures for the United Kingdom's claims against European Economic Area (EEA) member states and Switzerland for medical costs for 2016/17 are attached.

As stated in the response to Question 2509, under European Union Regulations, other European Economic Area (EEA) countries and Switzerland reimburse the UK for the cost of the National Health Service providing treatment to people they are responsible for under EU law. This includes UK nationals insured in another EEA country or Switzerland. In the same way, the UK Government reimburses other EEA countries and Switzerland for the cost of providing treatment to people we are responsible for under EU law, irrespective of nationality.

The European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) will cover any necessary treatment – including pre-existing medical conditions and routine maternity care - until the holder returns home.

It is not possible to separate out claims to other EEA countries from the UK solely linked to EHIC usage. Claims by, and to, the UK for treatment relating to EHICs, are included in a larger category which also includes pre-authorised planned treatments and coverage for posted and frontier workers. It should be noted that Member States, including the UK, can submit claims up to 18 months in arrears so claims for any 12 month period do not necessarily reflect treatment provided in that period.

Attachments:

1. PQ10089 attached table [PQ10089 attached table.xlsx]

■ Hospitals: Attendance

Iain Stewart: [\[10281\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of patients who do not attend hospital appointments in each of the last 12 months.

Mr Philip Dunne:

This information is not held centrally.

■ Hyperactivity

Sir Vince Cable: [\[9775\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps the Government is taking to improve the (a) diagnosis, (b) early intervention and (c) treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and attention deficit disorder (i) in general and (ii) specifically for girls.

Jackie Doyle-Price:

The Department has asked the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) to update its clinical guideline on attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). The draft guideline, which was published for consultation on 6 September, provides evidence based recommendations on the diagnosis and management of ADHD in children, young people and adults.

The draft guideline recognises that this condition is less likely to be diagnosed in girls and women or that they may be given an incorrect diagnosis as they are more likely to present with symptoms other than hyperactivity. The guideline advises practitioners to be alert in such circumstances to the possibility of ADHD.

We expect clinical commissioning groups to take account of clinical guidelines published by NICE when commissioning services for their local populations. Whilst clinical guidelines are not mandatory, adherence to them will support improvements in the quality of care and services.

■ In Vitro Fertilisation

Justin Madders: [\[10097\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what recent representations he has received on IVF commissioning.

Justin Madders: [\[10207\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many clinical commissioning groups comply fully with NICE recommendations on the commissioning of IVF.

Justin Madders: [\[10208\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what his policy is on IVF therapy being restricted to women aged between 30 and 35.

Justin Madders: [\[10220\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he is taking to ensure that clinical commissioning groups follow NICE recommendations on the commissioning of IVF.

Mr Philip Dunne:

Since June 2017, 24 letters and emails about National Health Service in vitro fertilisation (IVF) provision have been received by the Department together with five Parliamentary Questions about NHS fertility services. I have also received a request to meet from the patient stakeholder organisation, Fertility Fairness, and intend to meet them later in the autumn.

Information about clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) that have fully implemented the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) fertility guidelines is not collected centrally.

CCGs are responsible for commissioning local health services and ensuring the needs of the local health population are met. NHS England is responsible for oversight of the commissioning system. The NICE guidelines are evidence-based best practice for clinicians but are not mandatory.

The Government's policy is that CCGs should implement the NICE guidelines in full. This includes the NICE recommendation that three cycles of IVF is offered to qualifying couples where the woman is under the age of 40 and one cycle where the woman is between the ages of 40 and 42.

NHS England has advised that the IVF benchmark price will be developed during 2017/18 with support from the IVF Expert Advisory Group and all key stakeholders, working towards publishing the IVF benchmark price ready for the financial year 2018/19. It is also planning to develop and test an IVF outcome-based payment approach with a number of CCGs and service providers in 2018/19.

NHS England and professional and stakeholder groups, including the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, are working together to develop commissioning guidance. This guidance aims to improve the quality of commissioning and further encourage the implementation of the NICE fertility guidelines. NHS England has agreed to disseminate and promote the commissioning guidance to all CCGs in England.

■ Joint Replacements

Jim Shannon:

[\[10007\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many (a) knee, (b) hip and (c) shoulder replacements have been undertaken by the NHS in each of the last five years; and how many people aged (i) 30 to 40, (ii) 41 to 50, (iii) 51 and 60 and (iv) over 60 had such replacements.

Mr Philip Dunne:

A count of finished consultant episodes (FCEs)¹ with a main or secondary procedure² for 'joint replacement surgery'³ which includes shoulder, hip and knee⁴ in total and for selected age groups in England from 2011/12 to 2015/16⁵ is provided in the tables below.

KNEE REPLACEMENTS

Year	Total	30-40 years	41-50 years	51-60 years	Over 60 years
2011-12	83,312	263	2,713	12,155	68,089
2012-13	82,976	271	2,838	12,558	67,200
2013-14	85,934	237	2,894	13,199	69,493
2014-15	91,542	228	2,964	14,076	74,148
2015-16	92,735	229	2,964	14,157	75,272

HIP REPLACEMENTS

Year	Total	30-40 years	41-50 years	51-60 years	Over 60 years
2011-12	104,434	1,126	3,895	11,245	87,683
2012-13	105,499	1,145	4,239	11,369	88,249
2013-14	110,635	1,099	4,228	12,113	92,686
2014-15	113,111	1,157	4,386	12,796	94,227
2015-16	112,625	1,075	4,339	12,669	94,010

YEAR

SHOULDER REPLACEMENTS

Total	30-40 years	41-50 years	51-60 years	Over 60 years	
2011-12	5,852	61	222	518	5,010

	YEAR	SHOULDER REPLACEMENTS			
2012-13	6,210	60	216	624	5,281
2013-14	6,827	78	219	676	5,809
2014-15	7,174	62	198	617	6,252
2015-16	7,343	71	229	687	6,326

Source: Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), NHS Digital

Notes:

¹ A FCE is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

² The number of episodes where the procedure (or intervention) was recorded in any of the 24 (12 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and 4 prior to 2002-03) procedure fields in a HES record. A record is only included once in each count, even if the procedure is recorded in more than one procedure field of the record. It should be noted that more procedures are carried out than episodes with a main or secondary procedure. For example, patients undergoing a 'cataract operation' would tend to have at least two procedures – removal of the faulty lens and the fitting of a new one – counted in a single episode.

³ Included in the codes are for both partial and total joint replacements as well as conversion and revision codes. The 'Conversion to' codes provided in this resolution (e.g. W40.2) are assigned when the procedure has converted to the specified type of joint replacement from a different type of joint replacement. Examples could include conversion to a cemented total shoulder replacement following previous partial shoulder replacement or conversion to a total shoulder replacement following a previous uncemented shoulder replacement. This principle would apply to all 'Conversion to' prosthetic joint procedures provided. The 'Conversion to' codes could be considered 'revisions' in clinical terms, and you may wish to include these codes in your data search.

⁴ A range of OPCS codes covering knee replacements, hemiarthroplasty knees, unicompartmental knee replacements, hip replacements, hemiarthroplasty hips, shoulder replacements and hemiarthroplasty shoulder have been included.

⁵ HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in National Health Service practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data. Conversely, apparent increases in activity may be due to improved recording of diagnosis or procedure information. It should be noted that HES include activity ending in the year in question and run from April to March, e.g. 2012-13 includes activity ending between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2013.

■ Maternity Services

Jack Dromey: [\[10021\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer of 5 September 2017 to Question 6776, what steps his Department will take to include the recommendations of the national neonatal review due to publish its initial report in September 2017 for consultation in the Local Maternity System Plans which must be in place by October 2017; and what the timetable is for incorporating those recommendations in the period between publication of that review and the putting in place of those plans.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The Neonatal Critical Care Review has this month, set out initial themes and recommendations supported by detailed data packs at Neonatal Care level and Local Maternity Systems level. The Local Maternity System Plans are being incorporated into local planning arrangements.

■ Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency

Justin Madders: [\[10225\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many products were seized by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available.

Steve Brine:

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is the United Kingdom Regulatory Agency with responsibility for the regulation of medicinal products (for human use) and medical devices and also acts as the law enforcement authority with statutory powers including rights of entry, inspection and seizure of products.

Medicinal products are not ordinary consumer goods and, consequently, there is strict legislative control on their sale, supply, manufacture and distribution. Medicines that do not comply with regulatory requirements pose potential health risks and once identified, either in the UK or at the UK border, are liable to detention and seizure.

The tables below set out the number of units / doses seized yearly.

Seizures by MHRA on operational activities.

OPS SEIZURES	UNITS/DOSES
2009-10	244,627
2010-11	528,769
2011-12	1,383,495
2012-13	512,633
2013-14	266,545
2014-15	1,079,570
2015-16	244,627
2016-17	2,721,673
2017- date	285,649 *
	7,267,588

Note: *this figure is year to date

Seizures made on Operation Pangea

Operation Pangea is a global initiative targeting illegal online sales of medical products.

PANGAEA SEIZURES FROM OPERATION PANGAEA	UNITS/DOSES
2007	100,000
2008	200,000
2009	334,000
2010	296,711
2011	94,806
2012	2,100,000
2013	3,700,000
2014	3,600,000
2015	6,200,000
2016	4,664,885

Seizures made by UK Border Force

PANGAEA SEIZURES FROM OPERATION PANGAEA

UNITS/DOSES

Seizures at UK BorderUnits/doses2013 – September 201721,641,816

To combine, this represents total seizures of 50,199,806 to date.

■ Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency: Finance

Justin Madders:

[\[10224\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the budget was of the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available.

Steve Brine:

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) for each of the last 10 years is shown in the following table. The majority of the Agency's funding is from fees.

	2016/7	2015/16	2014/15	2013/14	2012/13	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08
Page number[1]	88	81	86	80	56	42	44	51	52	35
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Total Trading Income	157,293	152,963	152,767	141,813	108,815	117,247	121,387	112,690	112,812	93,463

Information about the Agency's funding is published in the Annual Report and Accounts.

The MHRA's Annual Report and Accounts for each year is published on the Gov.UK website at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?keywords=&publication_filter_option=corporate-reports&topics%5B%5D=all&departments%5B%5D=medicines-and-healthcare-products-regulatory-agency&official_document_status=all&world_locations%5B%5D=all&from_date=&to_date

[1] Page number in the Annual Report and Accounts of the MHRA for each of the years since 2007/08

■ NHS Professionals: Privatisation

Justin Madders: [\[9708\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the costs were of the privatisation process of NHS Professionals.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The Department spent approximately £2.8 million on external advisers' costs during the sale process for NHS Professionals until the decision was announced on 7 September that NHS Professionals will remain wholly in public ownership. The Government concluded that none of the offers received for NHS Professionals reflected the Company's growing potential and improved performance.

These costs will be recovered by taking a divided payment from NHS Professionals, so this will not impact on delivering frontline National Health Service services. It is normal practice for limited companies such as NHS Professionals to make dividend payments from their distributable profits to their shareholder, in this case the Department. Sufficient cash will be retained in the company though to ensure its operations and any necessary investment can be properly funded.

■ NHS Shared Business Services

Justin Madders: [\[10221\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will make an assessment of whether NHS Shared Business Services has produced ongoing lower costs for the NHS since its sale.

Mr Philip Dunne:

NHS Shared Business Services (SBS) is a joint venture company that is in approximately equal ownership between the Department and the multi-national outsourcing company, SopraSteria. It provides a range of services for National Health Service customers in the following broad areas:

- Finance and Accounting;
- Employment services, including Payroll and
- Procurement.

It currently holds altogether 116 provider and 69 commissioner contracts for providing these services. It also provides the Integrated Single Financial Environment (a platform to process all non-pay spend) to all clinical commissioning groups across the country. In the main the work is won as a result of the trusts and other NHS bodies requiring the services running tendering processes with SBS and other suppliers being invited to tender, along with an in-house option where the services are not already outsourced. Where SBS wins contracts it has therefore won them on the basis of offering savings compared to the other alternatives.

SBS has, in the last 12 months, won 82 contract renewals and 13 new contracts. Ongoing customer-side management of these contracts and assurance of any savings is a matter for the NHS customers of SBS.

Using a methodology agreed with the National Audit Office, the Company's most recently audited accounts for the year end 2016 state that over £400 million of savings to the NHS have been achieved to date.

■ NHS: Complaints

Luciana Berger: [\[10016\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many formal complaints (a) mental health services and (b) the NHS received in 2016-17.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The total number of complaints in respect of National Health Service mental health services for 2016/17 is 14,106.

The total written complaints in 2016/17 that the NHS received was 208,400.

■ NHS: Data Protection

Justin Madders: [\[9903\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer of 21 July 2017 to Question 5810, when he plans to publish revised guidance on compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Jackie Doyle-Price:

The Department is working with colleagues in regulatory bodies, the National Health Service and industry to test and refine guidance, ahead of publication. It is intended that the document will clearly signpost what regulations are applicable, and which bodies, trusts and their suppliers should contact, at each stage of research, development, validation and deployment of products, whilst ensuring it is clear which standards and relevant legislation should be complied with.

■ NHS: Finance

Justin Madders: [\[10086\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer of 29 June 2017 to Question 820, on NHS: finance, what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the UK leaving the EU on future funding for the NHS.

Mr Philip Dunne:

In line with the rest of Government, the Department is analysing the impact of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union. For the Department this includes understanding the financial implications of Brexit for the National Health Service and wider care system and, where appropriate, mitigating for any risks associated with different negotiated options.

The Department is working to ensure the best outcome for the health and social care system. All relevant policy teams within the Department are involved with this work and are assessing the implications of the UK leaving the EU on their area. This includes working with NHS England and other arm's length bodies.

Justin Madders: [\[9712\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the public consultation process used was before the Capped Expenditure Process was introduced in each of the areas impacted.

Mr Philip Dunne:

As with all public services, local National Health Service areas need to live within the budget agreed – otherwise they effectively take up resources that could be spent on general practitioners, mental health care, and cancer treatment. As part of their financial planning, NHS England and NHS Improvement have been running a process to look at how a small number of areas could do more to balance their financial plans, as many already have. This is an extension of the annual national planning process and so no dedicated consultation has taken place. Where specific service changes that result from the process require public consultation, this will follow in the normal way.

■ NHS: Flexible Working

Justin Madders: [\[10223\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will take steps to improve the entitlement to flexible working for NHS staff.

Mr Philip Dunne:

Employers are responsible for ensuring that staff requests for flexible working are fully considered, balancing operational delivery requirements with what staff want.

Legally, all staff who have been employed for 26 weeks or more are entitled to ask for flexible working.

The Government wants to improve opportunities for flexible working. The Department is working with system leaders at NHS Improvement, NHS England and NHS Employers, to explore whether best use is being made of existing flexible working arrangements in the National Health Service; improving the use of e-rostering across the NHS to help trusts better plan the use of their workforce; reviewing whether staff contracts and/or terms and conditions of service can give greater emphasis to encouraging flexible working; encouraging line manager training to improve conversations in response to flexible working requests and ensuring staff have a clear understanding of what flexible working arrangements may be available to them locally.

■ NHS: Land

Justin Madders: [\[9706\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the receipts were for NHS Property Services from the sale of land in its possession in each of the last five financial years; and for what purposes those receipts were used.

Mr Philip Dunne:

Information relating to receipts to NHS Property Services from the sale of land in its possession in each year since it commenced operations (2013) can be found in the following table.

YEAR	NUMBER OF SITES	SALES RECEIPT £ MILLION
2013-14	46	24.98
2014-15	118	57.73
2015-16	59	67.08
2016-17	72	53.51
Total	295	203.30

All monies raised by the Company – which is 100% owned by the Department – are reinvested into capital expenditure and property maintenance in the National Health Service.

■ NHS: Private Sector

Justin Madders:

[\[9707\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what proportion of NHS floor space was occupied by private providers in each of the last seven years for which figures are available.

Mr Philip Dunne:

This information is not held centrally.

■ NHS: Procurement

Justin Madders:

[\[10085\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer of 13 July 2017 to Question 3138, if he will publish the constituent costs which make up the sum referred to as the forecast costs for the set-up of the new NHS Intelligent Client Coordinator body.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The constituent activities underpinning the forecast cost for the setup of the new NHS Intelligent Client Coordinator body can be categorised into Design, Build, and Support (time limited) activities. As one provider has been selected to undertake these activities through a competitive process, the associated costs are commercially sensitive and therefore cannot be publicly disclosed.

■ NHS: Property

Justin Madders: [9718]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what proportion of the profits of NHS Property Services and Community Health Partnerships are reinvested into capital expenditure on property maintenance.

Mr Philip Dunne:

All monies raised by NHS Property Services and Community Health Partnerships – which are 100% owned by the Department – are reinvested into the National Health Service. Both companies are consolidated into the Department's Group accounts, which means they are part of and subject to the capital expenditure plan and limits which apply across the NHS.

Although NHS Property Services made a loss last financial year, the company invested £67 million through the capital investment programme to deliver improvements to the NHS property portfolio.

Community Health Partnerships (CHP) acts as the head tenant for all 305 of the buildings it is responsible for operating and maintaining for 25 years terms. CHP has a capital investment programme to rationalise and modernise its estate as required, but property maintenance is mostly ensured through its tenancy agreements under which the local NHS LIFT companies (in which CHP is a shareholder) are responsible for the full repair and maintenance costs across the building lifecycle for the full term. CHP made a profit before tax of £1.9 million in 2016/17.

Justin Madders: [9913]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, which properties NHS Property Services has sold in each of the last five financial years; and who the purchasers were for each of those properties.

Mr Philip Dunne:

Information relating to the properties sold by NHS Property Services in each year since it commenced operations (2013) can be found via the property disposals section company's website at:

<http://www.property.nhs.uk/download/disposals-programme-july-2017/>

Details of individual purchasers would be available via the Land Registry's Title Register, at the following link:

http://www.land-registry-deeds.co.uk/?gclid=EAlaIQobChMIs5rW1PGh1gIVz7vtCh2XIQu3EAAYASAAEgImnPD_BwE

■ NHS: Reorganisation

Justin Madders:

[\[9711\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, through what mechanism he will ensure that sustainability and transformation partnerships comply with obligations with respect to consultation.

Steve Brine:

Individual organisations that constitute each of the 44 Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STPs) are accountable to local communities for activities of each STP. Each is working to its own, locally appropriate timetable but many have already carried out extensive engagement with the public. When there are proposals to substantially change services, National Health Service and local government organisations have a duty to consult their local communities. There are longstanding rules laid to assure this.

All significant service change is subject to a full public consultation and proposals must meet the Government's four reconfiguration tests. These are support from clinical commissioners, clarity on the clinical evidence base, robust patient and public engagement and support for patient choice. There is additional NHS England guidance which means that proposed service reconfigurations should be tested for their impact on overall bed numbers in the area.

■ Nurses: Schools

Justin Madders:

[\[10226\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many practising school nurses there were in each of the last 10 years.

Jackie Doyle-Price:

School nurses can be employed by a range of organisations including health trusts and, more recently, local authorities. Current data collections do not cover the complete range of these organisations. As a result, it is not possible to provide accurate data on the total size of the school nurse workforce. The data in the table below presents statistics on school nurses employed by National Health Service trusts and clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) in England only.

NHS Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): Qualified Nurses working in the area of School Nursing in NHS trusts and CCGs in England as at 30 September each specified year and 31 May 2017 (full-time equivalent).

	ALL REGISTERED (QUALIFIED) NURSES WORKING IN THE CARE SETTING OF SCHOOL NURSING (FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT)
2007	2,225
2008	2,606

	ALL REGISTERED (QUALIFIED) NURSES WORKING IN THE CARE SETTING OF SCHOOL NURSING (FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT)
2009	2,915
2010	2,933
2011	2,928
2012	2,730
2013	2,772
2014	2,763
2015	2,715
2016	2,570
May-2017	2,433

Source: NHS Digital, Provisional HCHS monthly workforce statistics.

Note: Due to the change in methodology figures for 2007 and 2008 are not directly comparable to figures from September 2009 onwards.

■ Pancreatic Cancer

Jim Shannon: [\[9989\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the timetable is for the blood test diagnosis for pancreatic cancer becoming available on the NHS.

Steve Brine:

Clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) are responsible for commissioning care that will provide the best possible outcomes for their patients. In doing so, they should take into account best practice and National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidance. There is currently no timetable for making the blood test diagnosis for pancreatic cancer available on the National Health Service.

■ Pathology

Justin Madders: [\[10222\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what recent assessment he has made of trends on waiting times in cellular pathology.

Mr Philip Dunne:

This information is not held centrally.

■ Physiology

Justin Madders: [\[9709\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will take steps to introduce statutory regulation of clinical physiologists.

Mr Philip Dunne:

This Government believes that the statutory regulation of healthcare professionals should be used proportionately and only where the risks to public and patient protection cannot be addressed in other ways, such as through employer oversight, or accredited voluntary registration (AVR).

The Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists maintains a voluntary register for clinical physiologists, and has recently applied for AVR status with the Professional Standards Authority (PSA). Voluntary registers that pass the PSA's assessment can use its quality mark and appear in its list of accredited registers. This list is used by employers, patients, public and service users to choose a practitioner to meet their needs and be assured they are safe and competent to practise.

■ Prisons: Health Services

Justin Madders: [\[10209\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment he has made of recruitment and retention levels in the prison health system; and if he will make a statement.

Justin Madders: [\[10210\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many NHS staff are seconded to the prison health system.

Justin Madders: [\[10227\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many full-time GPs there were working within the prison health system in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available.

Jackie Doyle-Price:

It is expected that all prisons have access to a full range of health professionals as per services within the community.

Since 2013, NHS England has been responsible for commissioning all healthcare services for prisoners in England. Services are commissioned for individual prisons by NHS England's local commissioners, based on a local health needs assessment which informs the provision of services required.

NHS England has commissioned a report looking at the workforce, market management and recruitment and retention in the adult prison estate in England, to support providers in their recruitment approaches.

The information on the number of National Health Service staff seconded to, and the number of full time general practitioners working in the prison health system is not collected centrally.

■ Prostate Cancer

Justin Madders: [9717]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what progress has been made within the National Cancer Strategy to ensure all men with prostate cancer have access to a clinical nurse specialist or key worker.

Steve Brine:

NHS England, along with partners Health Education England, have carried out a series of engagement and consultation exercises with a wide group of stakeholders, including Macmillan Cancer Support, to explore the best approach to improving access to clinical nurse specialists for all patients, including men with prostate cancer.

NHS England's Patient Experience Team has identified a number of alternative and sustainable models of providing access to clinical nurse specialists or key worker to support all patients through their cancer treatment and beyond. NHS England plan to identify a Cancer Alliance best suited to pilot these models with a view to evaluating the outcomes of this work and share learning in December 2018. Part of the learning will be how Cancer Alliances roll out best practice in this area including prostate cancer care.

■ Prostate Cancer: Screening

Jim Shannon: [10002]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that men are able to access early prostate tests.

Steve Brine:

The National Health Service Prostate Cancer Risk Management Programme (PCRMP) provides general practitioners and primary care professionals with information to counsel men who ask about prostate cancer and/or prostate-specific antigen (PSA) testing. Men over 50 who decide to have a PSA test based on this information can do so for free on the NHS.

The PCRMP information pack was revised and updated in March 2016 and is available at the following link:

www.gov.uk/guidance/prostate-cancer-risk-management-programme-overview

The PCRMP has also produced information leaflets that healthcare professionals can use when discussing the test with eligible men, which are available at the following link.

www.gov.uk/government/collections/prostate-cancer-risk-management-programme-supporting-documents

■ Sleep Apnoea

Jim Shannon:

[9994]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people have been diagnosed with sleep disorders in each of the last five years.

Steve Brine:

Data on the number of people diagnosed with sleep disorders is not collected.

Estimates suggest that disorders of sleep are common, with conditions such as insomnia affecting around one in every three people in the United Kingdom.

■ Tobacco: Health Education

Mr Nigel Evans:

[9914]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how much his Department spent on tobacco prevention education in the UK in 2016.

Steve Brine:

In 2016 Public Health England spent £33,700 on tobacco prevention education as part of its Rise Above online marketing campaign. The campaign aims to prevent or delay the uptake by 11-16 year-olds of risky behaviours including smoking, drinking alcohol, drugs and sexual relationships.

Some local authorities use funding from the public health grant to undertake smoking prevention and education activities in their communities.

■ Transvaginal Mesh Implants

Justin Madders:

[9714]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many transvaginal mesh implants have been removed by the NHS in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available.

Mr Philip Dunne:

This information is not collected centrally.

Justin Madders:

[9715]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the re-admission rate is for patients who have undergone a transvaginal mesh implant procedure.

Mr Philip Dunne:

This information is not collected centrally.

■ Urinary System: Diseases

Justin Madders:

[9713]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he is taking to improve diagnosis of urinary tract infections.

Steve Brine:

In June 2017 Public Health England updated the Diagnosis of Urinary Tract Infections: Quick Reference Guide for Primary Care, which gives primary care givers, including doctors, nurses and pharmacists, simple, effective, economical and empirical approach towards the diagnosis and treatment of urinary tract infections.

HOME OFFICE

■ Anti-social Behaviour: Motorcycles

Catherine West: [8521]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the rate of conviction for anti-social behaviour related to moped use was in each of the last five years.

Sarah Newton:

The information requested is not held by the Home Office. Anti-social behaviour is not a substantive offence in law therefore it is not possible to be convicted for anti-social behaviour. Furthermore, convictions data are the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice.

Anti-social behaviour incidents recorded by the police are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and can be found here:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/crimeinenglandandwalesbulletintables>

■ Arts: EU Nationals

Stephen Gethins: [7330]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has to ensure that it will have the capacity efficiently to process short-term work visas for EU residents in the creative industries wishing to do project work in the UK after the UK leaves the EU.

Brandon Lewis:

The Government is considering a range of options for the future immigration arrangements that will apply after the UK leaves the EU. The Home Office constantly reviews its capabilities in order to deliver the Government's agenda. Any resultant changes to resource requirements will be factored into strategic planning.

■ Borders: Personal Records

Sir Edward Davey: [9655]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of how many non-EU international students left the UK on the basis of exit check data collected between April 2015 and April 2016.

Brandon Lewis:

Analysis on Exit Checks data was published on 24 August 2017 in the Home Office's 'Second report on statistics being collected under the exit checks programme' (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/second-report-on-statistics-being-collected-under-the-exit-checks-programme>). This is the second report in a programme of work to develop experimental statistics and the first time that it has been possible to present results from the analysis of exit data. However, our understanding of this new data source is still developing and as the report sets out there are a variety of reasons why the data does not yet provide a complete estimate of the number of departures.

Additional information on international student departures relating to 2015/16 is also contained in ONS's 'International student migration research update: August 2017' report

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/articles/internationalstudentmigrationresearchupdate/august2017>

■ Cannabis: Prescription Drugs

Ronnie Cowan:

[8282]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she has had with (a) Cabinet colleagues and (b) the devolved administrations on making cannabis available through pharmaceuticals where use of that drug can be helpful.

Sarah Newton:

Cannabis, in its raw form, has no recognised medicinal benefits in the UK.

There is a clear regime in place, administered by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), to enable medicines (including those containing controlled drugs such as cannabis) to be developed, licensed and made available for medicinal use to patients in the UK.

The Minister for Safeguarding, Vulnerability and Crime has recently written to and met with the Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Public Health and Primary Care to consider how to ensure cannabis-based medicines are available where appropriate.

Minister of State, Baroness Williams wrote to her counterpart Lord O'Shaughnessy on the same issue earlier in September.

Officials in the Home Office remain in frequent dialogue with officials of the devolved administrations on all aspects of drug policy.

■ Deportation: EU Nationals

Sir Edward Davey:

[8889]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons her Department erroneously sent deportation letters to EU citizens lawfully living in the UK.

Sir Edward Davey:

[8890]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what level of seniority the Official holds who was responsible for signing-off deportation letters which were erroneously sent by her Department to EU citizens lawfully living in the UK.

Brandon Lewis:

There has been no policy change with regards to EEA citizens living in the UK and the Home Office is absolutely clear that the rights of EEA citizens living in the UK remain unchanged. It is Home Office policy that any person who is not lawfully resident in the UK is liable for removal and may be notified accordingly by the Home Office. I regret that, in this instance, officials made an operational error and issued enforcement letters incorrectly.

The Home Office acted swiftly to correct the error and I have personally written to all those affected to apologise for any stress or concern that this caused.

■ Ending Gang Violence and Exploitation Forum

Lyn Brown:

[10034]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much funding from the public purse her Department has made available to the Ending Gang Violence and Exploitation Forum since its creation.

Sarah Newton:

In December 2016 we provided a £100,000 fund for Ending Gang Violence and Exploitation (EGVE) Forum members and we supported 11 local projects. These included projects to support work with students, providing help to parents of gang affected children, providing interventions for gang affected women and girls, and delivering messages in schools about not carrying knives.

In August this year we invited bidding for a further round of EGVE funding which is open to EGVE Forum members, of which over 200 different organisations are now represented in the Forum and able to put forward a bid for funding for a specific project if they are interested. We have made up to £300,000 available.

Lyn Brown:

[10035]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many times the Ending Gang Violence and Exploitation Forum has met since it was established; and how many representatives of (a) local authorities and (b) other public bodies were represented at each of those meetings.

Sarah Newton:

The Ending Gang Violence and Exploitation Forum (EGVE) has over 200 members representing a range of organisations.

The EGVE Forum has met on four occasions since July 2016 and each meeting has been attended by over 60 members. We do not hold information on the exact breakdown of representatives from each sector in attendance at each meeting.

However each meeting has been attended by members from local authorities, the police, and voluntary sector.

■ Entry Clearances

Mike Gapes: [10258]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many entry clearance applications for a (a) spouse and (b) fiancé have not been processed within 12 weeks in each of the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement.

Brandon Lewis:

The specific data requested is not published by the Home Office.

Published data on visa processing times, including the percentage of visas processed within published service standards, is published online at the following address:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data> (then listed by publication date under 'UK Visas & Immigration').

Mike Gapes: [10262]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of entry clearance applications were processed within (a) 12 and (b) 24 weeks in each of the last 12 months.

Brandon Lewis:

The specific data requested is not published by the Home Office.

Published data on visa processing times, including the percentage of visas processed within published service standards, is published online at the following address:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data> (then listed by publication date under 'UK Visas & Immigration').

■ Entry Clearances: Sheffield

Mike Gapes: [10261]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many settlement applications were processed by Sheffield Visa Section between May and August 2017.

Brandon Lewis:

The specific data requested is not published by the Home Office.

Published data on the numbers of visas processed within published service standards, is published online at the following address:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-operations-transparency-data-august-2017>

■ Entry Clearances: South Asia and Abu Dhabi

Mike Gapes: [10257]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time taken was to process entry clearance applications for a (a) spouse and (b) fiancé at visa offices

in (i) New Delhi, (ii) Mumbai, (iii) Chennai, (iv) Islamabad, (v) Dhaka and (vi) Abu Dhabi in each of the last 12 months.

Brandon Lewis:

The specific data requested is not published by the Home Office.

Published data on visa processing times, including the percentage of visas processed within published service standards, is published online at the following address:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data> (then listed by publication date under 'UK Visas & Immigration').

Mike Gapes:

[10259]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time taken was to process priority entry clearance applications for a (a) spouse and (b) fiancé at visa offices in (a) New Delhi, (b) Mumbai, (c) Chennai, (d) Islamabad, (e) Dhaka and (f) Abu Dhabi in each of the last 12 months.

Brandon Lewis:

The specific data requested is not published by the Home Office.

Published data on visa processing times, including the percentage of visas processed within published service standards, is published online at the following address:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data> (then listed by publication date under 'UK Visas & Immigration').

■ Gangs: Research

Lyn Brown:

[10030]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to allocate funding from the public purse for the Economic and Social Research Council's additional research on the state of criminal gangs and their activities.

Sarah Newton:

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) is a non-departmental public body (NDPB). The Government is committed to the Haldane principle, whereby funding decisions are made by independent experts and as such government departments are not in a position to intervene in that decision making process on behalf of particular projects or individuals.

Research funding is awarded on a competitive basis and the decision to fund projects such as potential work on criminal gangs is taken by the ESRC following a peer review and wider commissioning process. Grant funding is very competitive, and it is not possible to fund all fundable proposals. The commissioning processes are, however, designed to ensure that all research areas are treated fairly.

■ Home Office: Arms Length External Organisations

Jon Trickett: [\[8244\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of new arms-length bodies her Department plans to establish once the UK has left the EU.

Brandon Lewis:

Whether or not any new arms-length bodies will be required by the Home Office once the UK has left the EU, remains subject to a final assessment and is in part dependent on the outcome of negotiations.

Prior to any decisions on establishing new bodies, the Government will, however, always look to minimise disruption and costs, which will include considering alternative options.

■ Home Office: Behavioural Insights Team

Jon Trickett: [\[9968\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what services her Department has received from the Behavioural Insights Team since 2014.

Mr Ben Wallace:

Since 2014 the Home Office have worked with the Behavioural Insights Team on a number of policy evaluations across the department.

■ Home Office: Redundancy Pay

Jon Trickett: [\[10051\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much has been paid to (a) men and (b) women who left her Department under exit schemes since 31 March 2016.

Sarah Newton:

The Home Office had a total of 110 staff that left the Department under exit schemes since 31 March 2016 to date. This was split between 59 men, at a cost of £2.8M, and 51 women at a cost of £1.98M. All Exit payments are made on the basis of length of service and final salary, which means that there is a consistent approach to the way in which exit payments are calculated.

■ Humberside Police: Mental Health Services

Emma Hardy: [\[10069\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent estimate her Department has made of the cost to Humberside Police Service of providing support to people with mental health needs.

Mr Nick Hurd:

Information on the cost of providing support to people with mental health needs, by the police service, is an operational matter for individual police forces and is not held centrally by the Home Office.

■ Immigration

Lyn Brown: [10032]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what average gross and net income her Department has derived from each category of migration application.

Brandon Lewis:

Your question relates to Home Office income categories which are published in the "Visa fees transparency data":

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/606616/Unit_cost_table_2017.pdf

Lyn Brown: [10033]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the net income was for (a) her Department and (b) providers of services contracted by her Department from migration applications in each of the last five financial years.

Brandon Lewis:

(a) Your question relates to Home Office income which can be found in the Annual Report and Accounts:

16-17 Page 117 -

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/627853/ho_annual_report_and_accounts_2016_2017.pdf

15-16 Page 134 -

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/539638/HO_AR_16_gov.pdf

14-15 Page 126 – [https://www.gov.uk/mwg-](https://www.gov.uk/mwg-internal/de5fs23hu73ds/progress?id=tNys4IKDcM-N1kzOo5KUI2WQj0Y5-Oh-71pY3aycKfE,&dl)

[internal/de5fs23hu73ds/progress?id=tNys4IKDcM-N1kzOo5KUI2WQj0Y5-Oh-71pY3aycKfE,&dl](https://www.gov.uk/mwg-internal/de5fs23hu73ds/progress?id=tNys4IKDcM-N1kzOo5KUI2WQj0Y5-Oh-71pY3aycKfE,&dl)

13-14 Page 111 -

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/321446/ARA_web_enabled_18_June.pdf

12-13 Page 133 -

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/210660/Annual_Report_and_Accounts_FINAL_updated_logo.pdf

(b) We do not have access to the accounts of our suppliers and therefore cannot comment on their net income.

Anneliese Dodds: [10083]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time taken to make decisions on applications for further leave to remain on the basis of family and private life has been in each of the last 24 months.

Brandon Lewis:

Data on processing times, including the percentage of applications processed within published service standards, is published online at the following address:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data> (then listed by publication date under 'UK Visas & Immigration').

Lyn Brown: [10157]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of the gross income of her Department less the gross income generated from migration application fees has been accrued in the form of net income gained from migration applications in each of the last five financial years.

Brandon Lewis:

Your question relates to Home Office income which can be found in the Annual Report and Accounts:

16-17 Page 117 -

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/627853/ho_annual_report_and_accounts_2016_2017.pdf

15-16 Page 134 -

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/539638/HO_AR_16_gov.pdf

14-15 Page 126 – <https://www.gov.uk/mwg-internal/de5fs23hu73ds/progress?id=tNys4IKDcM-N1kzOo5KUI2WQj0Y5-Oh-71pY3aycKfE,&dl>

13-14 Page 111 -

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/321446/ARA_web_enabled_18_June.pdf

12-13 Page 133 -

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/210660/Annual_Report_and_Accounts_FINAL_updated_logo.pdf

Dr Matthew Offord: [8543]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons her Department has reduced the operational hours of the Immigration and Asylum Unit for hon. Members during the 2017 Summer Recess.

Brandon Lewis:

The UKVI MP Account Management teams have offered a reduced phone service from 11am – 4pm since the beginning of recess to enable them to respond to an unprecedented increase in written enquiries from Members of Parliament. Hon.

Members continue to be able to contact their MP Account Managers direct to raise urgent enquiries outside of these operating times. Records show that the teams are handling similar call volumes in the reduced operating hours.

Reducing the operational hours of the service helps ensure that the teams continue to deliver high levels of service both on the phones and in writing.

■ Immigration Controls: Heathrow Airport

Gavin Robinson: [\[10155\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many ePassport gates there are in each terminal at Heathrow Airport; and what proportion of those gates were operational in each month between August 2016 and August 2017.

Gavin Robinson: [\[10156\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect of the use of ePassport gates on queue waiting times at Heathrow Airport.

Brandon Lewis:

There are a total of 69 ePassport gates across the 4 Heathrow terminals:

Terminal 2 = 15

Terminal 3 = 15

Terminal 4 = 10

Terminal 5 = 24 in main arrivals hall and 5 in International/Domestic Transfer area

An average of 1 million passengers use the eGates every month, across Heathrow, which is 79.4% of the total number of passengers who are eligible. Whilst the number of eGates open is demand led, current performance addresses volume of passengers with very limited wait times.

Mr Virendra Sharma: [\[10311\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of UK Border Force officers deployed to Heathrow Airport were absent on each day in August 2017.

Mr Virendra Sharma: [\[10312\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many UK Border Force officers were deployed to Heathrow Airport in each month between August 2016 and August 2017.

Brandon Lewis:

Border Force does not release port-specific staffing numbers for national security reasons.

■ Immigration: EU Nationals

Sir Edward Davey: [9652]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether a policy decision was taken to send letters to EU citizens lawfully living in the UK asking them to leave.

Brandon Lewis:

There has been no policy change with regards to EEA citizens living in the UK and the Home Office is absolutely clear that the rights of EEA citizens living in the UK remain unchanged. It is Home Office policy that any person who is not lawfully resident in the UK is liable for removal and may be notified accordingly by the Home Office. I regret that, in this instance, officials made an operational error and issued enforcement letters incorrectly.

The Home Office acted swiftly to correct the error and I have personally written to all those affected to apologise for any stress or concern that this caused.

■ Immigration: Syria

Stephen Doughty: [10279]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people from Syria have been granted indefinite leave to remain in each of the last 12 months; and how many are resident in each local authority area.

Brandon Lewis:

Annual statistics on the number of Syrian nationals granted settlement (indefinite leave to enter or remain) are published in settlement table se_03 in the Home Office's 'Immigration Statistics, April - June 2017'

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2017/list-of-tables#settlement>.

Information on how many Syrian nationals granted settlement are resident in each local authority area is not available.

■ Immigration: Yorkshire and the Humber

Emma Hardy: [10090]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people with dependents who are resident in (a) Hull West and Hessle constituency, (b) Hull City Council area and (c) East Riding of Yorkshire Council area have been classified as having no recourse to public funds in each of the last five years.

Brandon Lewis:

The Home Office does not publish this data in the format requested.

Emma Hardy: [10103]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been classified as having no recourse to public funds in (a) Kingston upon Hull West and

Hessle constituency, (b) Hull City Council area and (c) the East Riding of Yorkshire Council area in each of the last five years.

Brandon Lewis:

I refer the Hon Member to the answer given on the 19th September 2017 to UIN 9894

Emma Hardy: [\[9894\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been classified as having no recourse to public funds in (a) Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle constituency, (b) Hull City Council area and (c) the East Riding of Yorkshire Council area in each of the last five years.

Brandon Lewis:

The Home Office does not publish this data in the format requested.

■ Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation

Lyn Brown: [\[10158\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the comments of the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation, Max Hill QC, published in the Independent newspaper on 19 August 2017, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of expanding the use of disruptive arrests, charges and sentences as part of the criminal justice response to terror suspects.

Mr Ben Wallace:

On 4 June 2017 the Prime Minister announced that the Government would review the UK's counter-terrorism strategy to make sure the police and security services have all the powers and capabilities they need to keep our country safe. This review is ongoing.

■ Islam

Jim Shannon: [\[9991\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to prevent subscription to Islamic extremist groups or ideology within the UK.

Sarah Newton:

The Government is committed to defeating extremism wherever it occurs, and is establishing a Commission for Countering Extremism to support this effort. The Commission will identify extremism and advise the Government on how best to tackle it. It will also support communities and the public sector to confront all forms of extremism and promote and defend our fundamental values.

This builds on existing work under the Government's comprehensive Counter-Extremism Strategy to countering extremist ideology, develop partnerships with all those opposed to extremism, disrupt the most dangerous extremists, and build cohesive communities.

■ Missing Persons: Databases

Ann Coffey: [10254]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress the Government is making towards the introduction of a national missing persons register.

Sarah Newton:

The Government is working with the National Police Chiefs' Council to deliver a National Register for Missing Persons (NRMP) through the Home Office National Law Enforcement Data Programme (NLEDP).

The National Policing Lead for Missing Persons is currently working with the NLEDP to ensure that the NRMP will meet the needs of officers.

The NRMP will be made available through the National Law Enforcement Data Service, which is expected to go live in late 2018.

■ Poisons: Sales

Lyn Brown: [10251]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability, to Question 8330, if she will publish guidance provided by her Department on informing online retailers how to identify suspicious transactions within the terms of the Poisons Act 1972.

Sarah Newton:

As well as frequently engaging with online retailers of substances under the control of the Poisons Act 1972, guidance for both online and physical sellers can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hazardous-sites-and-substances#epp-licensing:-guidance-for-businesses>

■ Police

Rebecca Long Bailey: [8275]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the types of incidents police have provided an immediate response to in (a) 2015-16, (b) 2016-17 and (c) 2017-18; and whether there has been any change in the ability of the police to respond to crimes such as burglary, shoplifting and anti-social behaviour.

Mr Nick Hurd:

It is a matter for Chief Constables, working with their Police and Crime Commissioners, to manage their available resources according to local priorities.

Ministers have recently written to police leaders setting out a programme of engagement to better understand the impact of changing demands on the sector and what more can be done to improve productivity and efficiency.

■ Police and Crime Commissioners: Finance

Ian C. Lucas: [9847]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the total budget of each police and crime commissioner was in England and Wales in each of the last five years.

Mr Nick Hurd:

I would refer the Hon Gentleman to the Police Grant Reports and accompanying Written Ministerial Statements which set out the core funding provided by the Home Office and are available online at the address below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-finance>

■ Police Stations: Hornsey

Catherine West: [10028]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what representations she has received on the closure of Hornsey Police Station; and if she will make a statement.

Mr Nick Hurd:

I refer the Hon. Member to the answer I gave on the 13th September 2017, UIN 8520, 8522 and 8524.

■ Police: Finance

Zac Goldsmith: [8981]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that areas with historically low levels of crime continue to receive necessary levels of funding for local police.

Mr Nick Hurd:

The 2015 Spending Review protected overall police spending in real terms. Since 2015/16 police forces have received broadly flat cash budgets and we are increasing investment in transformation, improved communications and technology capabilities

Decisions on the most effective use of the Metropolitan Police's resources are for Chief Officers and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) who are held to account by the communities they serve.

■ Police: Greater Manchester

Andrew Gwynne: [10100]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions she has had with the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner and the Mayor of Greater Manchester on the level of police resources provided to that city region.

Andrew Gwynne: [10101]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made an assessment of any correlation between changes to levels of funding for police officers and police and community support officers in (a) Greater Manchester, (b) the Stockport

division and (c) the Tameside division on trends in crime statistics for the most recent period covering those areas.

Mr Nick Hurd:

I recently wrote to all Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables setting out a programme of engagement to better understand the impact of changing demands on the sector and what more can be done to improve productivity and efficiency. As part of this engagement I will be speaking to the Mayor of Greater Manchester.

The Government protected overall police spending in the 2015 Spending Review, and the 2017/18 police funding settlement maintains that commitment. The Greater Manchester Mayor's direct resource funding for his Police & Crime Commissioner functions (including council tax precept) is £545.4 million in 2017/18, an increase of £4.2 million on funding levels for 2015/16. It is a matter for Chief Constables, working with their Police and Crime Commissioners, to manage their available resources according to local priorities.

The Home Office collects and publishes data on the size of the police workforce at police force area level, the latest of which are available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-workforce-england-and-wales-31-march-2017>

■ Police: Reserve Forces

Louise Haigh: [9336]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of police forces whose reserves are below the National Audit Office recommended level; and if she will make a statement.

Mr Nick Hurd:

The National Audit Office do not set a recommended level of reserves for police forces. The level of reserves is a matter for individual Police and Crime Commissioners, who have a legal duty to set balanced annual budgets and ensure they have adequate reserves.

The latest available audited financial statements from March 2016 showed that PCCs held around £1.8bn in resource reserves (up from £1.4bn in 2011) and every PCC held the equivalent of at least 6% of their annual direct resource funding in reserves.

■ Police: Stockport

Andrew Gwynne: [10102]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will meet the hon. Members for Denton and Reddish and for Stockport to discuss central government police resourcing for the Stockport division.

Andrew Gwynne:

[10206]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will meet with the hon. Member for Denton and Reddish, the hon. Member for Stalybridge and Hyde and the hon. Member for Ashton under Lyne to discuss central government police resourcing to the Tameside division.

Mr Nick Hurd:

Home Office Ministers have regular meetings as part of the process of policy development and delivery. I expect to engage with all Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables, including the Mayor of Greater Manchester, to discuss my programme to better understand the impact of changing demands on the sector and what more can be done to improve productivity and efficiency.

I am also happy to meet with Members of Parliament to discuss local policing issues at their request.

■ Visas

Stephanie Peacock:

[9158]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 20 July 2017 to Question 5241, what her Department's definition is of an exceptional circumstance that would validate a refund to people who have submitted a visa application under her Department's Priority Service scheme.

Brandon Lewis:

UK Visas and Immigration consider all requests for refunds on a case by case basis. Whether a refund is issued will depend on the specific circumstances of each case.

Requests should be made via the complaints process:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration/about/complaints-procedure#how-to-complain>

■ Visas: Married People

Afzal Khan:

[9327]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how her Department plans to assess whether an individual applying for a spouse visa will meet the specific circumstances criteria if they (a) do not meet the minimum income requirement of £18,600 a year or (b) they have one child but earn less than £22,400.

Brandon Lewis:

Guidance on assessing whether a spouse visa application which fails to meet the minimum income requirement raises exceptional circumstances is contained in section 13 of the Immigration Directorate Instruction Family Migration Appendix FM Section 1.0a: Family Life (as a Partner or Parent): 5-Year Routes. This is published on GOV.UK at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chapter-8-appendix-fm-family-members>

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT■ **Burma: Refugees**

Afzal Khan:

[10020]

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what aid the Government is providing for refugees arriving in Bangladesh from Myanmar.

Alistair Burt:

Between 2014 and 2016, DFID has provided nearly £8 million to support humanitarian assistance to Rohingya refugees and the vulnerable host communities that support them.

Prior to this influx, DFID committed a further £5.9 million to meet the needs of the most vulnerable refugees and the host communities that support them.

The UK has been a leader in responding to the crisis – in speed and size – mobilising an additional £30 million to meet the urgent humanitarian needs of vulnerable men, women and children in both Bangladesh and Burma.

UK assistance in Bangladesh will continue to focus on the critical needs of the most vulnerable among new arrivals, and among existing refugees and host communities. We are supporting work inside and outside camps providing lifesaving assistance, including emergency shelter, food and nutrition assistance and safe water and sanitation.

■ **Department for International Development: Behavioural Insights Team**

Jon Trickett:

[9682]

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, how much her Department has paid to the Behavioural Insights Team in each year since 2014.

Jon Trickett:

[9969]

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what services her Department has received from the Behavioural Insights Team since 2014.

Rory Stewart:

The Department for International Development has received services from the Behavioural Insights Team since 2014. This has enabled the department to add to its evidence base to support priority government areas.

Since January 2011, details of central government contracts above the value of £10,000 are published on Contracts Finder. Contracts published prior to 26 February 2015 can be viewed at: <https://data.gov.uk/data/contracts-finder-archive>. Those published after 26 February 2015 can be viewed at: <https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Search>

■ Department for International Development: Procurement

Anneliese Dodds: [\[10149\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what progress her Department has made on its commitment to buy a quarter of its activities locally by 2020.

Rory Stewart:

DFID seeks to broaden the supplier base in developing countries by building capability and capacity in the places where we deliver aid, encouraging new entrants and local suppliers.

Details of contracts and upcoming tenders can be searched on Contracts Finder (<https://www.gov.uk/contracts-finder>).

■ Department for International Development: Redundancy Pay

Jon Trickett: [\[10052\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, how much has been paid to (a) men and (b) women who left her Department under exit schemes since 31 March 2016.

Rory Stewart:

Details of the number, type, compensation levels and cost of exits from the Department for International Development are routinely published in the Department's Annual Report and Accounts.

■ Department for International Trade: Pay

Philip Davies: [\[10309\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, how many of her Department's staff had a pay increase (a) above, (b) at and (c) less than one per cent in each of the last three years for which information is available.

Rory Stewart:

Information of the level of DFID staff's pay increases over the last 3 years is included in the attached table. A pay deal for 2016 has not yet been concluded.

Attachments:

1. PQ 10309 table [PQ 10309.docx]

■ Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Stephen Doughty: [\[10256\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, if she will publish a list of projects funded by her Department which have been tagged with the HIV/AIDS marker; and what the value of each project was in each of the last three years.

Alistair Burt:

The UK is a global leader in tackling HIV and we are proud to be the second largest international investor in the response. The UK's recent £1.1 billion investment to the

Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria makes us the second largest donor during the fifth replenishment period. This support will help provide enough lifesaving anti-retroviral therapy for 1.3million people living with HIV.

DFID tracks our spending on HIV/AIDS using sector codes recommended by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) reporting system. This information is published on the Development Tracker website and in Statistics for International Development.

■ International Assistance

Anneliese Dodds:

[\[10148\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, whether and to what extent her Department has implemented its commitments made at the 2005 Paris Declaration, the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action and the 2014 Busan Declaration to align aid programmes with local priorities.

Rory Stewart:

The Aid Reviews, Civil Society Partnership Review and Economic Development Strategy set out the Department's high ambition on delivering effective development partnerships, including with partner countries. We continue to promote development effectiveness with our international partners, such as the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, which has responsibility for reporting on global progress with development effectiveness commitments.

DFID's internal guidance encourages alignment of programmes with developing countries' own strategies for poverty reduction; and providing assistance in a way that strengthens local responsibility, capacity, accountability and leadership.

■ Overseas Aid

Jim Shannon:

[\[10005\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what monitoring her Department undertakes to ensure that aid granted to specific areas is used for the purposes for which it was intended; and if she will liaise with religious missionaries in the destination country to ensure that UK aid is effectively distributed.

Alistair Burt:

Effective use of the UK Aid budget is central to the Department for International Development's work. All funding is subject to rigorous due diligence checks and we have strict auditing and monitoring controls in place to ensure all funding is used as it should be. Every project is subject to an annual performance review and a project completion review to ensure that the objectives have been achieved and aid has been delivered to the intended beneficiaries. The Department uses multiple sources of information, including its partnerships with Civil Society, to be confident UK Aid reaches those intended.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

■ Arms Trade: Trade Fairs

Ann Clwyd:

[\[10243\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what support the Government is providing to the DSEI arms exhibition in London from 12 to 15 September 2017; and if he will make a statement.

Mark Garnier:

The Government provides a range of support to Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI), including the provision of military assets. The Department for International Trade's (DIT) Defence and Security Organisation invites a number of international delegates on behalf of the Government, including overseas Ministers and senior Government officials and military staff. All invitations to overseas delegations follow a stringent process of scrutiny and approval involving both DIT and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Ann Clwyd:

[\[10244\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, which Government ministers visited the DSEI arms exhibition in London from 12 to 15 September 2017.

Mark Garnier:

The following Government Ministers have visited Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI):

Secretary of State for Defence, The Rt Hon Sir Michael Fallon MP

Minister of State for the Armed Forces, Mark Lancaster TD MP

Minister for Defence Procurement, Harriet Baldwin MP

Minister for Defence, People and Veterans, The Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood MP

Minister of State for Defence, The Rt Hon Earl Howe

Secretary of State for International Trade, The Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox MP

Minister of State for Trade Policy, The Rt Hon Greg Hands MP

First Secretary of State, The Rt Hon Damian Green MP

Secretary of State for Wales, The Rt Hon Alun Cairns MP

Minister of State for Security Ben Wallace MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Lord Prior of Brampton

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Aviation, International and Security, Lord Callanan.

■ Department for International Trade: Behavioural Insights Team

Jon Trickett: [9650]

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, how much his Department has paid to the Behavioural Insights Team in each year since his Department's creation.

Jon Trickett: [9954]

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what services his Department has received from the Behavioural Insights Team since his Department's creation.

Greg Hands:

The Department for International Trade has received services from the Behavioural Insights Team since the department's creation in 2016. This has enabled the department to add to its evidence base to support priority government areas.

Since January 2011, details of central government contracts above the value of £10,000 are published on Contracts Finder. Contracts published after 26 February 2015 can be viewed at: <https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Search>.

■ Department for International Trade: Pay

Philip Davies: [10306]

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, how many of his Department's staff had a pay increase (a) above, (b) at and (c) less than one per cent since his Department's creation.

Greg Hands:

The Department for International Trade (DIT) became a legal entity and an employer in its own right on 9th November 2016.

The first pay award by DIT is for the 2016/17 financial year and the award for grades below SCS (Senior Civil Servants) has not yet been finalised.

The overall pay increase for SCS staff for 2016/2017 was 1% in line with Cabinet Office and Treasury guidelines.

■ Department for International Trade: Redundancy Pay

Jon Trickett: [10040]

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, how much has been paid to (a) men and (b) women who have left his Department under exit schemes since its creation.

Greg Hands:

Details of the number, type, compensation levels and cost of exits from Department for International Trade are routinely published in the Department's Annual Report and Accounts.

■ Foreign Investment in UK

Bill Esterson: [\[10286\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, pursuant to the oral contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Trade in the Westminster Hall debate of 12 September 2017, on foreign direct investment, what steps he plans to take to encourage investment in the (a) devolved nations and (b) regions.

Mark Garnier:

The Department for International Trade (DIT) promotes trade and investment across all parts of the UK through our overseas network, international events programme, bespoke sector support, online services and regional teams. DIT follows the “UK first” approach, which means we support investors to make or expand their investments in the UK, but do not prioritise certain places or regions within the UK above others.

Bill Esterson: [\[10287\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, pursuant to the oral contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Trade in the Westminster Hall debate of 12 September 2017, on foreign direct investment, what plans he has to prioritise certain industry sectors.

Mark Garnier:

The Department for International Trade prioritises attracting Foreign Direct Investment where it has the most potential to add value to the UK economy.

This year, we have targeted our global network across a broad range of technology-driven business sectors, based on the opportunity identified in specific overseas markets to bring high value investment into the UK to establish new, or expand existing operations.

The sectors, based on their strategic importance to the UK economy, include Advanced Engineering, Automotive, Aerospace, Bio-economy, Energy, Technology, Creative, Financial services, Life Science, and Infrastructure.

Bill Esterson: [\[10288\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, pursuant to the oral contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Trade in the Westminster Hall debate of 12 September 2017, on foreign direct investment, what plans he has to enable foreign investors to operate within (a) global and (b) intra-EU supply chains; and what assessment he has made of the effect of Rules of Origin regulations on the ability of such investors to operate in the UK.

Greg Hands:

The UK welcomes foreign investors, and we lead in Europe on foreign direct investment. The Department for International Trade is working closely with counterparts across a wide range of markets in order to promote the UK as a great place to do business, and the UK Government is seeking a bold and ambitious Free Trade Agreement with the EU.

Bill Esterson:

[\[10289\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, pursuant to the oral contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Trade in the Westminster Hall debate of 12 September 2017, on foreign direct investment, what plans he has to introduce trade defence mechanisms; and how he plans to use trade remedies to address any unfair practices undertaken by foreign competitors.

Greg Hands:

We will bring forward legislation to put in place the essential and necessary legislative framework to allow the UK to operate its own independent trade policy upon exit from the European Union. This includes introducing legislation for a trade remedies system that will allow the UK to appropriately address alleged cases of unfair practice by foreign companies, while also remaining a champion of global free trade.

Bill Esterson:

[\[10290\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, pursuant to the oral contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Trade in the Westminster Hall debate of 12 September 2017, on foreign direct investment, what plans he has to ensure standards are maintained to prevent market distortion resulting from imports to the UK from markets outside the UK with less stringent regulations and standards than the UK has.

Greg Hands:

The Government is fully committed to ensuring the maintenance of high levels of consumer, worker and environmental standards in trade agreements. High standards and high quality are what our domestic and global customers demand, and that is what we should provide.

Until we have left the EU, the UK remains a full member of the EU and all the rights and obligations of EU membership remain in force.

Bill Esterson:

[\[10292\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, pursuant to the oral contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Trade in the Westminster Hall debate of 12 September 2017, on foreign direct investment, what investment dispute settlement mechanism he plans to introduce in future trade agreements.

Greg Hands:

The UK is currently developing an independent trade and investment policy. As part of this we will be considering our approach to investment protection in future trade agreements and options for associated investment dispute settlement mechanisms.

■ Foreign Investment in UK: Manufacturing Industries

Bill Esterson:

[\[10293\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, pursuant to the oral contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Trade in the Westminster Hall debate of 12 September 2017, on foreign direct investment, when the decisions were

announced on foreign direct investment by the car manufacturers to which the Minister referred.

Mark Garnier:

Investment decisions by BMW, Toyota and Nissan were announced as follows:

- On 25 July 2017, BMW announced that a fully electric version of the Mini will be built at the Cowley plant in Oxford.
- On 16 March 2017 Toyota Motor Europe announced that it is investing £240 million to upgrade its car plant in Burnaston, Derbyshire.
- On 27 October 2016 Nissan announced it would build the next models of the Qashqai and the X-Trail at its Sunderland plant.

■ Trade Agreements

Stephen Gethins: [\[10215\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what representations the Government has made to countries with trade deals with the EU on renegotiating the terms of those deals for trade with the UK after the UK leaves the EU.

Stephen Gethins: [\[10216\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what representations the Government has made to countries with trade deals with the EU about applying the terms of those deals to UK trade after the UK leaves the EU.

Greg Hands:

The UK Government is committed to seeking continuity in its current trade and investment relationships, including those covered by EU Free Trade Agreements or other EU preferential arrangements.

Our objective is to provide continuity for UK businesses as we leave the European Union.

■ Trade Agreements: South Korea

Stephen Gethins: [\[10214\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, if he will make an assessment of the potential economic effect of transferring the terms of the EU-South Korea trade deal to the UK after the UK leaves the EU without renegotiating those terms.

Greg Hands:

Total trade between the UK and South Korea in goods and services has increased to approximately £11bn in 2015, from £6bn in 2010 when the EU-Korea Free Trade Agreement was signed. The UK Government is committed to seeking continuity in its current trade and investment relationships, including those covered by EU free trade agreements or other EU preferential arrangements.

Sources

Data has been extracted from the latest release of the ONS Pink Book 2016, available here:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/unitedkingdombalanceofpaymentsthepinkbook2016>

Stephen Gethins:

[10218]

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what plans the Government has to renegotiate the terms of the EU-South Korea trade deal in the event that it is transferred to the UK after the UK leaves the EU.

Greg Hands:

The UK Government is committed to seeking continuity in its current trade and investment relationships, including those covered by EU free trade agreements or other EU preferential arrangements. The UK-Korea Trade Working Group, which was established in December 2016, will discuss tackling barriers to trade and investment, wider global trade issues and how to ensure continuity for businesses, as well as exploring future trade opportunities following the UK's exit from the EU.

Stephen Gethins:

[10219]

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what representations his Department has received from industry on renegotiating the terms of the EU's trade deal with South Korea before its terms are transferred to the UK after the UK leaves the EU.

Greg Hands:

The Department engages widely with businesses, representative bodies, civil society, and other stakeholders, and will continue to do so as it works with trading partners to seek continuity in current trade and investment relationships.

■ UK Export Finance: Staff

Caroline Lucas:

[9632]

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, how many staff recruited to UK Export Finance in the last 24 months are specialists in renewable energy projects.

Mark Garnier:

Renewable energy is a priority sector for UK Export Finance (UKEF), which has recruited four new employees who are specialists in renewable energy projects. Three work in underwriting and one in its Environment and Social Management team. One of the four branches in the Civil, Infrastructure and Energy (CIE) division is now dedicated to low carbon and renewable energy. Before joining UKEF the Head of CIE, one of the three Senior Civil Servants within UKEF's Business Group, has led an award-winning renewable financing team at a major UK bank, and been Head of Finance for a low carbon energy consortium.

■ UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation

Ann Clwyd:

[10275]

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, pursuant to the Answer of 7 September 2017 to Question 8329, on the UK Trade and Investment Defence and

Security Organisation, how decisions are made on which countries should be designated as core or priority markets.

Mark Garnier:

The Department for International Trade (DIT) undertakes an annual exercise to assess where it can best focus its resource to help UK exporters. DIT's Defence and Security Organisation (DSO) consults with an extensive overseas network, other government departments and industry organisations to understand the international export opportunities available to UK companies, and to judge which markets present the most significant defence and security export opportunities.

■ UK Trade with EU

Kit Malthouse: [\[9211\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what proportion and value of UK exports to the EU were destined for markets outside the EU in each of the last five years.

Mark Garnier:

Accurate Information on the proportion and value of UK exports to the EU that were destined for markets outside the EU in each of the last five years is not available.

This is because many businesses do not report the final destination of their export.

JUSTICE

■ Criminal Injuries Compensation: Sexual Offences

Sarah Champion: [\[10039\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many victims of sexual abuse have been refused compensation by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority since 1996 because they (a) had a criminal conviction related to the coercion aspect of the grooming process and (b) lived in the same household as their abuser and the abuse was committed prior to 1979.

Dominic Raab:

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) does not hold information about how many victims of sexual abuse have been refused compensation since 1996 because they had a criminal conviction related to the coercion aspect of the grooming process.

It has only been mandatory for applicants to provide an indication of the type of incident for which they are claiming compensation since 1 January 2015. Since that date, 180 applications from victims of sexual abuse have been refused compensation by CICA as a result of the non-discretionary Scheme rule that excludes compensation in circumstances where the criminal injury was sustained before 1 October 1979 and, at the time of the incident, the applicant and assailant were living together as members of the same family.

■ Domestic Violence: Court Orders

Liz Saville Roberts:

[\[6902\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether his Department plans to review the penalties for breach of a restraining order where that order was issued following proven domestic violence.

Dominic Raab:

The maximum penalty for breach of a restraining order is 5 years in prison. There are no current plans to increase this though we are determined to do more to tackle Domestic Abuse more broadly as set out in the Queen's Speech.

■ Elections: ICT

Cat Smith:

[\[10235\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of an electronic system for the delivery, receipt and return of the Writ at UK parliamentary elections.

Dominic Raab:

There are no immediate plans to do so. The process for serving election Writs is set out in the Representation of the People Act 1983. However, the Government continues to work with the Law Commissions, as well as other stakeholders such as the Electoral Commission, to streamline the electoral process.

■ Employment and Support Allowance: Appeals

Stephanie Peacock:

[\[9646\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the average time between the commencement of an employment and support allowance appeal and a decision was in (a) Barnsley, (b) South Yorkshire and (c) the UK in the most recent 12-month period for which data is available.

Stephanie Peacock:

[\[9647\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the average time between the commencement of a personal independence payment appeal and a decision was in (a) Barnsley, (b) South Yorkshire and (c) the UK in the most recent 12-month period for which data is available.

Dr Phillip Lee:

The table below contains the requested information.

	UNITED KINGDOM ¹		BARNSELEY ²		SOUTH YORKSHIRE ³	
	Average Clearance Time (Weeks) ⁴					
Year ⁵	PIP ⁶	ESA ⁷	PIP ⁶	ESA ⁷	PIP ⁶	ESA ⁷
2016-2017	15.6	14.4	15.2	15.2	15.9	15.2

Notes

1. HM Courts and Tribunals Service administers appeals for appellants living in England, Scotland and Wales. Data are therefore for those appellants only. The Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service administers ESA and PIP appeals for appellants living in Northern Ireland.

2 Barnsley data include all cases attributed to this venue.

3. South Yorkshire includes the venues: Barnsley, Sheffield and Doncaster. Data include all cases attributed to these venues.

4 Average Clearance Time - time taken for appeal receipt to outcome. This includes both those cleared at hearing and those cleared without the need of a tribunal hearing.

5. Financial year April to March.

6. Personal Independence Payment (New Claim Appeals), which replaced Disability Living Allowance on 8 April 2013, also includes Personal Independence Claims (Reassessments).

7. Includes Employment & Support Allowance and Employment & Support Allowance (Reassessments).

Although care is taken when processing and analysing the data, the details are subject to inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale case management system and are the best data available.

The data may differ slightly to those of the published stats as these data were run on a different date.

■ Employment Tribunals Service: North Wales

Chris Ruane: [\[9719\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, for what reasons there is an average waiting time of 34 weeks for a tribunal date in North Wales; and what the longest time is for which a person has had to wait for such a date.

Dr Phillip Lee:

The average waiting times for Employment Tribunal hearings in 2016/17 for Wales is 28 weeks. Information broken down specifically for Employment Tribunals in North Wales waiting times is not recorded.

Chris Ruane: [\[9776\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps are being taken to address the shortage of panel members needed for tribunals in the North Wales area.

Dr Phillip Lee:

The panel member resource for the Employment Tribunals hearings in Wales is managed across Wales on a case by case basis. No cases are delayed due to lack of panel members.

The Regional Judge keeps this under close monitoring and currently the overall resource in Wales is sufficient to deploy judiciary to meet demand on a case by case basis.

■ Ministry of Justice: Behavioural Insights Team

Jon Trickett: [9683]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how much his Department has paid to the Behavioural Insights Team in each year since 2014.

Dr Phillip Lee:

The Ministry of Justice has received services from the Behavioural Insights Team since 2014. This has enabled the department to add to its evidence base to support priority government areas.

Since January 2011, details of central government contracts above the value of £10,000 are published on Contracts Finder. Contracts published prior to 26 February 2015 can be viewed at: <https://data.gov.uk/data/contracts-finder-archive>

Those published after 26 February 2015 can be viewed at:
<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Search>

Jon Trickett: [9970]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what services his Department has received from the Behavioural Insights Team since 2014.

Dr Phillip Lee:

The Ministry of Justice has received services from the Behavioural Insights Team since 2014. This has enabled the department to add to its evidence base to support priority government areas.

Since January 2011, details of central government contracts above the value of £10,000 are published on Contracts Finder. Contracts published prior to 26 February 2015 can be viewed at: <https://data.gov.uk/data/contracts-finder-archive> Those published after 26 February 2015 can be viewed at:
<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Search>

■ Ministry of Justice: Fringe Benefits

Philip Davies: [10082]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many staff in his Department and non-departmental public bodies received (a) home to work travel allowance, (b) a car allowance and (c) subsidised health insurance in the last 12 months.

Dominic Raab:

Within the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and its non-departmental public bodies: a) 1,536 staff are in receipt of Excess Fares Allowance; b) 51 staff are in receipt of High Mileage Allowance; and c) There are currently 0 staff in receipt of subsidised healthcare benefits.

The MoJ, including HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) pay an Excess Fares Allowance in respect of home to work travel in exceptional cases where staff incur additional travel expenses and/or do not qualify for removal expenses or choose to move home when they are permanently and compulsorily transferred to a new location. This is normally payable for a maximum of three years. The cost of home to office travel is reimbursed in limited cases such as where staff are required to work late night and public transport is no longer available; where an employee is on a posting term such as Dual Workplace (travel costs being reimbursed from home to the additional permanent workplace only); and where staff are on long term detached duty over 2 years.

MoJ excluding HMPPS pays a High Mileage Allowance to reimburse staff who undertake over 5,000 miles for official duties in their own car per year. The value is linked to motoring costs and the number of staff in receipt of this allowance has reduced significantly from 303 to 51.

MoJ and HMPPS do not provide subsidised health insurance to staff. Staff may however choose to buy membership of Civil Service originated healthcare organisations such as Benenden out of post taxed income.

It has not been possible to provide the information from the Youth Justice Board in the time allowed. I will write to the honourable member in due course providing the requested information.

■ Offences against Children

Melanie Onn:

[7373]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, if he will seek to quash convictions for child prostitution of any victim of child abuse.

Dr Phillip Lee:

There is not an offence of child prostitution. Section 1 of the Street Offences Act was amended by section 68(7) of the Serious Crime Act 2015 so that the offence of loitering or soliciting applies only to persons aged 18 or over. In so doing, it recognises children as victims in such circumstances.

Before the statutory amendment was introduced the legislation applied equally to adults and children, although policing guidance and legal guidance to prosecutors advised that it was not in the public interest to prosecute anyone under the age of 18. The legislation in 2015 confirmed the position in law.

The Secretary of State does not have the power to quash a conviction and there are currently no plans to extend the statutory pardon scheme for historical criminal convictions, including those for child prostitution.

■ Offences Against Children

Sarah Champion: [\[9796\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether it is the Government's position that no child can consent to their own abuse.

Dr Phillip Lee:

The abuse and neglect of children is abhorrent. There is a range of criminal offences and robust sanctions that deal with this cruel and serious offending. A child's alleged consent to any abusive activity should not be a defence against any criminal offence.

A child's consent to sexual activity is not recognised under criminal law if the child is under the age of 16.

■ Personal Independence Payment: North Wales

Chris Ruane: [\[10183\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, for what reasons there is an average waiting time of 34 weeks for a personal independence appeal date in North Wales; and what the longest time is for which a person has had to wait for such a date.

Chris Ruane: [\[10184\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps are being taken to address the shortage of panel members needed for personal independence appeals in the North Wales area.

Dominic Raab:

The average waiting time for a Personal Independence Payment (PIP) appeal date in North Wales is not 34 weeks. That is the average clearance time for such appeals in the latest period for which data are available (April to June 2017).

The average clearance time is the time taken from appeal receipt to final outcome and may include cases which have more than one hearing. PIP appeals are complex and could be adjourned for further evidence, or case management. Appeals may also have been heard by the First-tier Tribunal (F-tT), appealed to the Upper Tribunal, and subsequently re-heard by the F-tT, time which would then be included in average waiting times for the F-tT. Data are not collected on the time that an appeal takes to get to first hearing. As such it is not possible to identify which case took the longest to get there.

Over 350 judicial officer holders are being recruited to provide long term capacity in the Social Security and Child Support Tribunal including Wales.

■ Prisoners' Release

Philip Davies: [\[10080\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what offences were committed by each prisoner released from prison on temporary licence to work in the last 12 months.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

PUBLIC PROTECTION IS OUR PRIORITY. ALL OFFENDERS MUST MEET STRICT CRITERIA AND PASS A FULL-RISK ASSESSMENT BEFORE BEING CONSIDERED FOR RELEASE ON TEMPORARY LICENCE (ROTL). ROTL IS USED TO PREPARE PRISONERS FOR THEIR EVENTUAL RELEASE FROM CUSTODY AND HELPS WITH FINDING WORK AND STABLE ACCOMMODATION, AND TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN FAMILY TIES, ALL OF WHICH HELPS REDUCE REOFFENDING. THE TABLE BELOW SHOWS THE PRINCIPAL OFFENCE FOR WHICH PRISONERS WERE SERVING A SENTENCE WHILE RELEASED ON ROTL FOR WORK PURPOSES IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS FOR WHICH DATA IS AVAILABLE. TABLE 1: INDIVIDUALS RELEASED ON TEMPORARY LICENCE FOR WORK RELATED PURPOSES BY OFFENCE GROUP, APRIL 2016 - MARCH 2017, ENGLAND AND WALES

OFFENCE GROUP	NUMBER
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	578
SEXUAL OFFENCES	6
ROBBERY	164
THEFT OFFENCES	198
CRIMINAL DAMAGE AND ARSON	27
DRUG OFFENCES	728
POSSESSION OF WEAPONS	71
MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	98
FRAUD OFFENCES	165
SUMMARY NON-MOTORING	10
OFFENCE NOT RECORDED	3
TOTAL	2,048

DATA SOURCES AND QUALITY THE FIGURES IN THESE TABLES HAVE BEEN DRAWN FROM ADMINISTRATIVE IT SYSTEMS WHICH, AS WITH ANY LARGE SCALE RECORDING SYSTEM, ARE SUBJECT TO POSSIBLE ERRORS WITH DATA ENTRY AND PROCESSING.

Philip Davies: [\[10081\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many serving prisoners were not in prison accommodation overnight on New Year's Eve 2015; what offences were committed by each such offender; and how many such offences were in which category of violent offences against the person.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

Public protection is our priority. All offenders must meet strict criteria and pass a full-risk assessment before being considered for release on temporary licence (ROTL).

ROTL is used to prepare prisoners for their eventual release from custody and helps with finding work and stable accommodation, and to build and maintain family ties, all of which helps reduce reoffending.

Records indicate that, on 31 December 2015, 80 prisoners were in the community having been released overnight on ROTL. The table below shows the principal offence for which these prisoners were serving a sentence by offence category and, within the "violence against the person" category, by offence.

TABLE: PRISONERS ON OVERNIGHT TEMPORARY RELEASE ON 31 DECEMBER 2015, ENGLAND & WALES

TABLE: PRISONERS ON OVERNIGHT TEMPORARY RELEASE ON 31 DECEMBER 2015, ENGLAND & WALES

	Number	Percentage of total number released
Prisoners on overnight temporary release on 31 December 2015	80	100%
Violence against the person	19	24%
Murder	8	10%
Attempted murder	*	-
Kidnapping	*	-
Manslaughter	*	-
Causing death or serious injury * by dangerous driving	*	-
Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	*	-
Assault with intent to cause serious harm	4	5%
Endangering life	*	-
Sexual offences	3	4%
Robbery	6	8%
Theft offences	6	8%
Drug offences	35	44%
Possession of weapons	3	4%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	3	4%
Fraud offences	5	6%

An asterisk (*) has been used to suppress values of two or less. This is to prevent the disclosure of individual information. Further disclosure control may be completed where this

TABLE: PRISONERS ON OVERNIGHT TEMPORARY RELEASE ON 31 DECEMBER 2015, ENGLAND & WALES

alone is not sufficient.

Data sources and quality

The figures in these tables have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

■ Prisons

Kate Green:

[\[9651\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether he plans to introduce a Prisons Bill during the current session of Parliament.

Dr Phillip Lee:

We remain committed to continuing to reform our prisons to make them places of safety and reform. The most pressing priorities can be delivered without legislation and we are currently working to implement the necessary operational changes.

The Bill contained measures to strengthen the role of the Chief Inspector of Prisons and the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman. To strengthen their role we:

- have created a new Unit within HM Prison and Probation Service that is responsible for responding to recommendations our independent scrutiny bodies make;
- are implementing the Urgent Notification process contained in the Bill to ensure the Chief Inspector can go directly to the Secretary of State in the most severe and urgent cases, who will respond promptly 28 days later;
- will develop a Protocol between the Ombudsman and Ministry of Justice to set out the role of both organisations in relation to each other, similar to the protocol agreed between HM Chief Inspector of Prisons and the Department earlier this year.

The Bill also contained measures on psychoactive substances and combatting illicit mobile phones in prisons. To address these issues we have already:

- rolled out new tests for psychoactive substances across the estate;
- trained 300 dogs to detect psychoactive substances;
- made the supply of psychoactive substances into prisons, and possession of them, criminal offences; and

- invested £2 million to equip every prison across the estate with hand-held mobile phone detectors and portable detection poles to step up the detection of illegal phones.

■ Prisons: Food

Luciana Berger: [\[10014\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the cost of food (a) per prison inmate per day and (b) all prison inmates was in each year since 2010.

Dr Phillip Lee:

Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS), on behalf of the MoJ, is responsible for allocating food budgets to all adult public sector prisons across England and Wales. As the food in each prison reflects the specific needs of the prisoner population locally, the ultimate decision on what is provided and the cost of each meal rests with the individual Governors, and as such, financial data is not readily available.

There are separate budget arrangements in place for the private sector prisons.

■ Rape: Prosecutions

Diana Johnson: [\[8452\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the average length of time was from (a) offence to charge, (b) listing to magistrates' court completion, (c) charge to listing, (d) listing to Crown Court hearing and (e) Crown Court hearing to completion for cases of alleged rape under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 in each Crown Court in England and Wales in each year since 2009-10.

Dominic Raab:

The average length of time by stage for rape offences completed in each Crown Court in England and Wales 2011-2016 is shown in the attached table. Timeliness data for 2009-10 are not available.

Table 1 - Mean number of days taken from offence to completion for rape cases completed in the Crown Court in England and Wales by Crown Court, 2011-2016.

Attachments:

1. Table 1 [PQ 8452 Table.xls]

■ Reoffenders

Philip Davies: [\[10075\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many offenders received one fixed-term recall in the last year for which information is available; and what the (a) violence against the person and (b) other offence category was relating to each of those recalls.

Philip Davies: [\[10076\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many offenders received more than one fixed-term recall in the last year for which information is available; and what the (a) violence against the person and (b) other offence category was relating to each of those recalls.

Philip Davies: [\[10077\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what proportion of recalls to prison were fixed-term in each of the last two years for which information is available.

Philip Davies: [\[10078\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many previous convictions each offender had who received more than one fixed-term recall in the latest year for which information is available.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

NUMBER OF OFFENDERS WHO RECEIVED ONE FIXED-TERM RECALL DURING 2016, BY OFFENCE TYPE; ENGLAND & WALES

	2016
Total	6,073
<i>Offence type:</i>	
Violence Against the Person	585
Other	5,488

NUMBER OF OFFENDERS WHO RECEIVED MORE THAN ONE FIXED-TERM RECALL DURING 2016, BY OFFENCE TYPE; ENGLAND & WALES

	2016
Total	790
<i>Offence type:</i>	
Violence Against the Person	40
Other	750

FIXED-TERM RECALLS AS A PROPORTION OF ALL RECALLS, 2015 AND 2016; ENGLAND & WALES

	2015	2016
Total recalls	21,467	21,559
<i>Of which:</i>		
Fixed-term	8,294	6,988
<i>As a percentage of total</i>	39%	32%

The figures in these tables have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Whilst information on previous convictions of offenders who receive a fixed term recall is held, to produce the number of convictions for those who had received more than one fixed term recall could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

■ **Small Claims: Personal Injury**

Mrs Madeleine Moon:

[\[7819\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether he has plans to bring forward legislative proposals to increase the small claims limit for road traffic accident-related personal injury claims to £5,000 and to increase the small claims limit for all other personal injury claims to £2,000.

Dominic Raab:

On 23 February 2017 the Government published details of reforms relating to road traffic accident-related personal injury claims in its response to the 'Reforming the Soft Tissue Injury ('whiplash') Claims Process consultation - <https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/reforming-soft-tissue-injury-claims/>, which sets out reforms to increase the small claims track limit for road traffic accident related personal injury claims to £5,000, and for all other personal injury claims to £2,000.

■ **Witnesses: Video Recordings**

Ann Coffey:

[\[9902\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, when he expects to complete the roll-out of the Section 28 pilots in Kingston upon Thames, Liverpool and Leeds Crown courts; and if he will make a statement.

Dr Phillip Lee:

Section 28 is one of the Special Measures introduced under the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999. It was commenced for vulnerable witnesses under 16 year olds and those lacking mental or physical capacity in Kingston upon Thames, Liverpool and Leeds Crown Court Centres in December 2013. This was extended to under 18 year olds in January 2017, and will be rolled out nationally for all vulnerable witnesses in a phased approach from this autumn. We are also testing s.28 for certain eligible intimidated victims of sexual offences and modern slavery in Kingston upon Thames, Liverpool and Leeds Crown Court Centres this autumn.

■ Youth Custody: Food

Luciana Berger: [\[10015\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the cost of food (a) per inmate per day and (b) for all inmates in youth custody was in each year since 2010.

Dr Phillip Lee:

Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS), on behalf of the MoJ, is responsible for allocating food budgets to public sector establishments in the Youth Custody estate in England and Wales. As the food in each prison reflects the specific needs of the prisoner population locally, the ultimate decision on what is provided and the cost of each meal rests with the individual Governors, and as such, financial data is not readily available.

There are separate budget arrangements in place for the private sector establishments.

■ Youth Custody: Restraint Techniques

Luciana Berger: [\[10017\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many injuries were sustained by children during restraint in each custodial institution in each year since 2010.

Dr Phillip Lee:

The safety and welfare of young people held in custody is our highest priority. Restraint should only be used as a last resort, where there is a risk of harm to self or others, and no other form of intervention is possible or appropriate.

Minimising and Managing Physical Restraint (MMPR) has been specifically developed for use by staff working with children and young people in custody. It has been designed so that physical restraint is avoided as far as possible by recognising young people's behaviour, and by using a range of de-escalation, diversion and behaviour management techniques to help them deal with it effectively and appropriately.

MMPR has been implemented, on a roll-out basis since September 2012, in all Secure Training Centres (STCs) and Young Offender Institutions (YOIs). There are no plans to roll this out to Secure Children's Homes (SCHs), who each have their own restraint procedures.

The three tables below provide data, by establishment type, relating to any injury sustained as a result of a Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI) for each establishment. RPI is defined as “Any occasion when force is used with the intention of overpowering or to overpower a young person”. Overpower is defined as “restricting movement or mobility.

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Secure Children's Home Total	204	169	158	156	123	123
Aldine House	2	1	2	14	3	0
Atkinson Unit*
Aycliffe	42	36	51	24	15	14
Barton Moss	0	0	0	1	3	25
Clayfields	2	16	11	29	32	16
East Moor (Adel Beck)	102	15	35	30	27	28
Gladstone Unit*
Hillside	6	29	9	12	3	5
Kyloe House*
Lincolnshire	6	16	14	6	17	19
Orchard Lodge*
Redbank*	20	29	14	12	0	..
Sutton Place*
Swanwick Lodge	7	15	11	20	5	6
Vinney Green	17	12	11	8	18	10

**SECURE
TRAINING
CENTRE**

TOTAL	397	336	243	247	136	148
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Hassockfield*	188	140	78	82	28	..
Medway	101	78	96	54	24	30
Oakhill	40	31	23	34	34	58
Rainsbrook	68	87	46	77	50	60

**YOUNG
OFFENDER
INSTITUTION**

TOTAL	566	685	590	309	170	106
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Ashfield*	48	84	53	1
Brinsford*
Castington*	2
Castington (Oswald Unit)*	0
Cookham Wood	56	61	28	22	85	26
Downview*	0	3	6	0
Eastwood Park*	1	1	0	0
Feltham	56	50	19	9	11	11
Feltham (Heron Unit)*	2	6	1	0
Foston Hall*	0
Hindley*	139	164	131	121	24	..
Huntercombe*	5
Lancaster Farms*

**YOUNG
OFFENDER
INSTITUTION**

TOTAL	566	685	590	309	170	106
New Hall*	1	0	1	0
Parc	49	79	36	24	16	35
Stoke Heath*	23	0
Thorn Cross*						
Warren Hill*	48	52	71	2
Warren Hill (Carlford Unit)*	0	1	1	0
Werrington	52	85	53	23	10	13
Wetherby - Keppel Unit	17	17	23	14	2	4
Wetherby	67	82	167	93	22	17

Please note :

* = The YJB withdrew from this establishment at some point during the time period given.

.. = Not applicable

NORTHERN IRELAND
■ Flood Control: Northern Ireland

Mr Gregory Campbell:

[\[8881\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what additional steps the Government plans to take in Northern Ireland to mitigate the risk of flooding as a result of recent flooding in the north-west of Northern Ireland.

James Brokenshire:

[Holding answer 11 September 2017]: The recent flooding in the north west of Northern Ireland has been devastating for many people and it is important that householders, farmers and businesses are assisted to get back on their feet as soon as possible.

Decisions surrounding flood support and mitigation are a devolved matter for the NI Executive. The UK Government stands ready to respond to any requests for support

from The Executive Office. My colleague Lord Bourne visited the north-west of Northern Ireland on the 18 September to see some of the repair work being carried out and to talk to a number of those worst affected by the flooding.

■ Northern Ireland Office: Redundancy Pay

Jon Trickett: [\[10154\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, how much has been paid to (a) men and (b) women who left his Department under exit schemes since 31 March 2016.

Chloe Smith:

Details of the number, type, compensation levels and cost of exits from Northern Ireland Office are routinely published in the Department's Annual Report and Accounts.

SCOTLAND

■ Domestic Visits: Glasgow East

David Linden: [\[10239\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, pursuant to the Answer of 11 September 2017 to Question 7642, if he or a Minister in his Department plans to attend an official engagement in Glasgow East constituency this year.

David Mundell:

I receive a large number of invitations and travel throughout Scotland to meet with stakeholders to discuss a variety of issues on a regular basis. I am always open to considering invitations from Honourable members.

■ Free Movement of People: Scotland

David Linden: [\[10237\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, pursuant to the Answer of 11 September 2017 to Question 7297, how many representatives of the hospitality sector have raised concerns about the potential negative effect to the sector of restricted freedom of movement after the UK leaves the EU.

David Mundell:

Scotland Office Ministers regularly meet with representatives of the sector to listen, exchange views and address concerns and will continue to do so to ensure the sector can take full advantage of the new opportunities that Brexit will bring.

■ Scotland Office: Redundancy Pay

Jon Trickett: [\[10153\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, how much has been paid to (a) men and (b) women who left his Department under exit schemes since 31 March 2016.

David Mundell:

The Scotland Office does not run its own staff exit scheme. Any departures would be under schemes run by the parent employers of staff; who join the office on assignment, loan or secondment from other government bodies, principally the Ministry of Justice and the Scottish Government.

Due to the small numbers involved, specific details and costs cannot be provided to protect the privacy and identity of individuals concerned.

TRANSPORT

■ A1: Scotland

John Lamont:

[\[9895\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what discussions he has had with the Scottish Government on road improvements to the A1 in Scotland and the effect on that part of the road of improvements to the A1 from Newcastle to the Scottish border.

Jesse Norman:

I refer to my previous answer to the honourable member dated 11 September that the Department has had Board level discussions with Transport Scotland about improving the remainder of the A1 from Newcastle to Scotland, and will continue to look at the case for completing the dualling of the route, taking into account Scotland's revised Transport Strategy upon its publication. Improvements to the A1 in Scotland are the responsibility of the devolved administration, but Highways England will consider the effects that improvements in Scotland may have on the A1 in England.

■ Aviation: Brexit

Tom Brake:

[\[10160\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what contingency plans the Government plans to adopt in the event that no replacement for the single aviation market and open skies agreement is available when the UK leaves the EU.

Mr John Hayes:

We want our future relationship with the EU to be based on mutual economic and security interests.

To which end, it will be in the interests of all parties to maintain closely integrated aviation markets. The opening up of access to air services helps to deliver connectivity, choice and value for money that benefits consumers and businesses both here and abroad.

The Government continues to work closely with the aviation sector to ensure this industry continues to be a major success story for the British economy. As well as seeking suitable aviation arrangements with the EU, the Department for Transport is

also working closely with the aviation community to ensure that this global industry continues to be a major success.

■ Aviation: Compensation

Stuart C. McDonald: [\[9729\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps he is taking to ensure that air passengers can effectively and easily access compensation for long flight delays under EU Regulation 261/2004.

Jesse Norman:

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has been designated by the Secretary of State for Transport as the National Enforcement Body (NEB) for Regulation (EC) 261/2004 regarding compensation, and assistance to passengers in the event of denied boarding, and of cancellation and long delay of flights. The CAA offers advice to passengers and is able to take enforcement action against airlines that are not fulfilling their obligations.

In addition, the Government and the CAA, have introduced an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) scheme into the sector, which now covers more than 70% of passengers.

The provision of ADR services for consumer disputes stemming from contracts for aviation services is designed to benefit consumers and lead to quick, fair, low cost (if not free) and binding solutions to their problems. ADR means passengers can settle disputes without asking a court to decide on the issue.

■ Bridges: Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle

Emma Hardy: [\[10096\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether he plans to provide a temporary bridge over Castle Street in Hull West and Hessle constituency; and if he will make a statement.

Jesse Norman:

The provision of a temporary bridge is not considered to be feasible on the A63, especially in a location likely to be used by pedestrians, cyclists and disabled users, due to land constraints. It also clashes with the location of the permanent Princes Quay Bridge.

In the short term we will work closely with Hull County Council, to increase awareness of the alternative Humber Dock Street pedestrian crossing by providing additional signage and information.

In the medium term Highways England are investigating whether construction of the Princes Quay Bridge could begin in advance of the main A63 Castle Street improvement scheme works currently programmed for Spring 2020. In order to deliver this element early, Highways England would need the support of key

stakeholders including Hull County Council in securing the land to construct the bridge and co-ordinating traffic management.

■ Cabotage: Fines

Charlie Elphicke:

[\[9703\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many fines have been (a) issued and (b) paid for breaches of cabotage and combined transport rules in each of the last five years for which data is available.

Jesse Norman:

The Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency issues fines, known as 'fixed penalties', for breaches of cabotage and combined transport rules.

The number of fixed penalties *issued* for breaches of cabotage and combined transport rules in each of the last five years is:

YEAR	NUMBER OF FINES (FIXED PENALTIES) ISSUED
2012	235
2013	281
2014	299
2015	517
2016	313

A cabotage offence is against the operator of a vehicle, not the driver, and can only be issued to non-GB operators.

The number of fixed penalties *paid* for breaches of cabotage and combined transport rules in each of the last five years is:

YEAR	NUMBER OF FINES (FIXED PENALTIES) PAID
2012	154
2013	125
2014	151
2015	273
2016	162

■ Cycling

Andy McDonald: [\[10038\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many (a) officials, (b) other staff and (c) private contractors in his Department are responsible for Government policy on cycling.

Jesse Norman:

The Department's Active and Accessible Travel team includes approximately 15 officials and 4 secondees from local authorities and other organisations who work full-time or part-time on cycling and walking policies. The team does not employ any private contractors. Around a dozen or so other officials elsewhere in the Department also work in a full-time or part-time capacity on matters relevant to cycling.

■ Cycling: Safety

Theresa Villiers: [\[9877\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if he will include, as part of the Think public information campaign on road safety, messages which highlights the risks of harm to cyclists and motorbike riders when people open car doors without looking to see who is coming up behind them.

Jesse Norman:

We are committed to improving safety for all vulnerable road users. We will continue to deliver safety advice to motorcyclists, cyclists, motorists and pedestrians through the THINK! and THINK BIKER social media channels, and work with partners to develop cycling/motorcycling campaign messages that raise awareness of specific dangers, including those mentioned.

The purpose of THINK! is to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads. Campaign priorities are determined on this basis. They are thoroughly researched and evidenced using casualty data, road safety literature and audience insight.

■ Department for Transport: Behavioural Insights Team

Jon Trickett: [\[9686\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how much his Department has paid to the Behavioural Insights Team in each year since 2014.

Mr John Hayes:

The Department for Transport has received services from the Behavioural Insights Team since 2014. This has enabled the department to add to its evidence base to support priority government areas.

Since January 2011, details of central government contracts above the value of £10,000 are published on Contracts Finder. Contracts published prior to 26 February 2015 can be viewed at: <https://data.gov.uk/data/contracts-finder-archive>

Those published after 26 February 2015 can be viewed at:
<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Search>

Jon Trickett: [9973]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what services his Department has received from the Behavioural Insights Team since 2014.

Mr John Hayes:

The Department for Transport has received services from the Behavioural Insights Team since 2014. This has enabled the department to add to its evidence base to support priority government areas.

Since January 2011, details of central government contracts above the value of £10,000 are published on Contracts Finder. Contracts published prior to 26 February 2015 can be viewed at:

<https://data.gov.uk/data/contracts-finder-archive>

Those published after 26 February 2015 can be viewed at:
<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Search>

■ Department for Transport: Redundancy Pay

Jon Trickett: [10152]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how much has been paid to (a) men and (b) women who left his Department under exit schemes since 31 March 2016.

Mr John Hayes:

Details of the number, type, compensation levels and cost of exits from the Department for Transport are routinely published in the Department's Annual Report and Accounts.

■ Heathrow Airport: Railways

Jim Fitzpatrick: [9794]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what progress has been made on bringing forward a new southern rail access link to Heathrow Airport.

Paul Maynard:

On 25 October 2016, this Government announced that a Northwest Runaway at Heathrow Airport, combined with a package of supporting measures, was its preferred scheme to deliver additional airport capacity in the South East of England. The supporting measures would include improved rail access to the airport and we are actively looking at what we could do to accelerate these.

The next step for the proposed Southern Rail Access is a GRIP 1-2 study to permit informed option appraisal. This is being considered alongside the detailed

development of Western Rail Access plans for the airport, in order to ensure that we provide maximum benefit for airport and non-airport passengers and exploit the new journey opportunities this may provide.

■ High Speed 2 Railway Line

Antoinette Sandbach: [10283]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how much and what proportion of the funding available for the second phase of High Speed 2 has been allocated to (a) contingency and (b) rolling stock.

Paul Maynard:

The 2015 Spending Review set a funding envelope for Phase Two of £28.55bn (in 2015 prices). Following the transfer of scope of Crewe Tunnel between phases, £3.48bn has been allocated to Phase 2a and £25.07bn to Phase 2b (including provision for rolling stock). HS2 Ltd is expected to manage all elements of the delivery of Phase 2b from within the overall funding provision. As such, there is no separately designated Rolling Stock budget within the Phase 2b allocation.

The amount of contingency available in these allocations has been calculated in line with HM Treasury's Green Book guidance. Further detail can be found in the Phase Two financial case:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/629165/high-speed-two-phase-two-financial-case.pdf

■ High Speed 2 Railway Line: Eddisbury

Antoinette Sandbach: [10295]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many environmental surveys have been conducted on the proposed route of the second phase of High Speed 2 through Eddisbury; and how many land access agreements have been signed between HS2 Ltd and property owners in Eddisbury.

Paul Maynard:

As of the week ending 8-9-17, approximately 217 environmental surveys had been recorded in and around the Eddisbury area.

To date, HS2 Ltd has recorded a total of 90 land access licences as having been agreed entirely or partially within Eddisbury. The corresponding number for those entirely within Eddisbury is 52.

These figures are subject to change.

■ High Speed Two: Redundancy

Jon Trickett: [10187]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the Answer of 12 September 2017 to Question 7698, on High Speed Two: Redundancy, whether he has plans to publish the (a) new governance arrangements and (b) senior appointments.

Paul Maynard:

HS2 Ltd is working with the Department for Transport to agree new governance arrangements relating to redundancy payments including a revised Framework Document which will become public when finalised.

The senior appointments at HS2 Ltd include a new Interim Finance Director, and a permanent Finance Director who has been appointed and will start in early 2018. Work is underway to appoint a permanent HR Director. In addition, there have been a number of other senior appointments in both teams including Finance Managers, Senior HR Business Managers, a Head of Employee Relations and an Interim Director of Organisational Development. Some of these posts are new roles and some have arisen as a consequence of HS2's relocation to Birmingham.

■ Large Goods Vehicle Drivers

Charlie Elphicke:

[R] [\[9700\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the reasons for the shortage of qualified HGV drivers in the road haulage industry; what steps he is taking to address that shortage; and if he will make a statement.

Jesse Norman:

The Departments for Transport, Work and Pensions and Education are working with stakeholders to address this issue. This includes the development of a new Trailblazer Apprenticeship standard for HGV drivers funded through the Apprenticeship Levy, help for jobseekers to enter the logistics sector and work to address the gender imbalance in the industry.

As part of efforts to improve the image of the profession the Department for Transport has also commissioned a survey of roadside facilities and is working with Highways England, local authorities and operators to ensure more and better quality facilities for drivers.

The Department and its agencies have also worked to minimise delays in obtaining an HGV test appointments and licence renewals.

■ Mersey Gateway Project: Tolls

Mike Amesbury:

[\[9654\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether he has made an assessment of the economic effect on people reaching their place of work of toll charges on the Merseygateway Project.

Jesse Norman:

The Department's assessment of the business case for the Crossing, which included a consideration of the overall effects of tolling levels on road users, showed that the new Crossing will reduce congestion and improve journey times for users. Tolling levels for the new Mersey Gateway Crossing are the responsibility of Halton Borough Council. Any assessment of the local impact of these tolls is a matter for the Council rather than this Department.

■ Railways: Repairs and Maintenance

Jack Lopresti: [\[9704\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what guidance his Department provides to local authorities on their powers to take noise abatement enforcement against companies undertaking engineering work on the railways with respect to the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and section 122 of the Railways Act 1993.

Paul Maynard:

It is local authorities who are responsible for enforcing the requirements of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and section 122 of the Railways Act 1993.

The ORR as the regulator of the rail industry is responsible for ensuring that engineering work is carried appropriately and those undertaking these tasks have adequate systems and procedures to ensure compliance with these Acts.

■ Taxis

Andy McDonald: [\[10037\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many (a) officials, (b) other staff and (c) private contractors in his Department are responsible for Government policy on taxi and private hire vehicles.

Mr John Hayes:

The Department has three officials working on taxi and private hire vehicle policy within the Buses and Taxis Division, of which one works solely on this policy area and it forms a core part of the work load of the other two. An official will shortly join the Department on secondment to work on policy development. There are no contracted workers.

There are a number of other officials elsewhere in the Department who contribute to work on related policy issues including analysts, economists and statisticians, this figure is not centrally recorded.

■ Tyne and Wear Metro: Finance

Julie Elliott: [\[9734\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what his Department's plans are for funding of the Tyne and Wear Metro after the current funding arrangement ends in 2021.

Jesse Norman:

The Department for Transport is currently in discussions with Nexus about funding options for the renewal of the Metro fleet. These discussions include consideration of revenue and capital support for the existing network beyond the current funding arrangement.

■ Tyne and Wear Metro: Rolling Stock

Julie Elliott:

[9733]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, when he plans to announce a decision on the delivery of a new train fleet for the Tyne and Wear Metro.

Jesse Norman:

The Department for Transport and HM Treasury officials continue to work with Nexus regarding their proposals for new rolling stock on the Metro.

WALES

■ Food: Wales

Ben Lake:

[10179]

To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, what assessment his Department has made of the effect on the Welsh food processing sector of access to labour of the UK leaving the European (a) single market and (b) customs union.

Alun Cairns:

The Government recognises the challenges and opportunities facing businesses across the UK, including in the food processing sector in Wales, and we're committed to getting a deal that works for all parts of the UK.

We do not seek membership of the Single Market after we leave the EU, but a bold and ambitious Free Trade Agreement as part of a new, deep and special partnership. We start from a unique position with regulatory frameworks and standards that match. We want to have the greatest possible tariff- and barrier-free trade with our European neighbours, as well as to negotiate our own trade agreements around the world. We want to ensure that UK companies have the maximum freedom to trade with and operate within European markets – and to let European businesses do the same in the UK.

Last month we published *Future customs arrangements: a future partnership paper*, which sets out very clearly the Government's objectives for a new customs arrangement with the EU, and our proposals to achieve them. As we leave the Customs Union, the Government will seek a new and ambitious customs arrangement with the EU that facilitates as frictionless trade as possible in goods between the UK and EU and allows us to forge new trade relationships with our partners in Europe and around the world.

We will always welcome those with the skills, the drive and the expertise to make our nation better still. We will be setting out initial proposals for a new immigration system later in the autumn.

■ Meat: Wales

Ben Lake: [\[10177\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, what assessment his Department has made of the effect on the Welsh red meat sector of the UK leaving the European (a) single market and (b) customs union.

Alun Cairns:

The Government recognises the challenges and opportunities facing businesses across the UK, including in the red meat sector in Wales, and we're committed to getting a deal that works for all parts of the UK.

We do not seek membership of the Single Market after we leave the EU, but a bold and ambitious Free Trade Agreement as part of a new, deep and special partnership. We start from a unique position with regulatory frameworks and standards that match. We want to have the greatest possible tariff- and barrier-free trade with our European neighbours, as well as to negotiate our own trade agreements around the world. We want to ensure that UK companies have the maximum freedom to trade with and operate within European markets – and to let European businesses do the same in the UK.

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■ South Wales Railway Line: Electrification

Chris Elmore: [\[10023\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the electrification of the Cardiff-Swansea railway line.

Alun Cairns:

I hold regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Transport to discuss Wales' rail infrastructure. From this Autumn, passengers travelling on the Great Western Main Line to and from Swansea will benefit from new, innovative bi-mode Intercity Express trains, experience faster journeys, with each train having an additional capacity of 130 seats. This will improve the travel experience of commuters and passengers and boost businesses in Swansea and South Wales.

■ Wales Office: Redundancy Pay

Jon Trickett: [\[10151\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, how much has been paid to (a) men and (b) women who left his Department under exit schemes since 31 March 2016.

Guto Bebb:

No staff working at the Wales Office have left under exit schemes since 31 March 2016.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

■ Migrant Workers: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield:

[6822]

To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what assessment she has made of whether uncertainty around the future status of non-UK EU citizens in the UK will lead to discrimination in the job market; and if she will make a statement.

Nick Gibb:

Employment discrimination on grounds of nationality is in most cases prohibited by the Equality Act 2010 and will remain so.

The Government has made clear that workers' rights that are enjoyed under EU law, including anti-discrimination rights, will also continue to apply after we have left the European Union. Unlawful discrimination against non-UK EU citizens is and will remain unacceptable.

The Government Equalities Office (GEO) is aware of, and is looking into, the reports of discrimination against non-UK EU nationals seeking employment which the hon. Member has recently forwarded to the Secretary of State for Exiting the EU. The GEO sponsors the Equality and Human Rights Commission, which has powers to enforce the Equality Act 2010 in cases where it suspects unlawful discrimination in employment may have occurred.

WORK AND PENSIONS

■ Access to Work Programme

Kate Green:

[9243]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, when he plans to extend the Access to Work scheme to (a) internships and (b) apprenticeships.

Penny Mordaunt:

1. Young people who start a work placement with an employer as part of the Department for Education supported internship programme or a Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy traineeship are eligible to apply for Access to Work support for the period of the work placement.
1. People undertaking apprenticeships are also eligible for Access to Work support, as they receive a wage and have a contract of employment.

We will publish our response to “*Improving Lives: The Work, Health, and Disability Green Paper*” this autumn, in which we will explore options for improving the service offered through AtW.

■ Children: Maintenance

Emma Hardy: [10095]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much is owed to resident parents by non-resident parents in child support arrears in (a) Hull and (b) the East Riding of Yorkshire in the latest period for which figures are available.

Caroline Dinenage:

The table below shows the amount of Child Support Agency arrears owed by non-resident parents to parents with care in Kingston upon Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire as of June 2017;

LOCAL AUTHORITY	ARREARS OWED
Kingston upon Hull	£20,028,000
East Riding of Yorkshire	£18,737,000

This can be found in the regional data tables published as part of the Child Support Agency quarterly summary of statistics, available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/child-support-agency-quarterly-summary-of-statistics-june-2017>.

■ Children: Poverty

Ben Lake: [9789]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment he has made of the merits of replicating the Welsh Government's child poverty strategy.

Ben Lake: [9790]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what plans he has to introduce annual reporting against targets for the Government's child poverty strategy.

Ben Lake: [9791]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what plans he has to introduce quantifiable targets for the Government's next child poverty strategy.

Ben Lake: [9792]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will publish a report on the progress of the delivery of the Government's child poverty strategy against its initial objectives.

Ben Lake:

[9793]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what plans he has to introduce a child poverty strategy for 2018 to 2021.

Caroline Dinenage:

Tackling child poverty and disadvantage is a priority for this government. To do this requires an approach that goes beyond the safety net of the welfare state to tackle the root causes of poverty and disadvantage. This is why the income-related targets and the requirement to publish a child poverty strategy set out in the Child Poverty Act 2010 have been repealed. In their place, we have introduced statutory measures to drive action on parental worklessness and children's educational attainment – the two areas that we know can make the biggest difference to disadvantaged children.

Improving Lives: Helping Workless Families, published on 4 April, set out a framework for a continued focus on improving children's outcomes, now and in the future. It introduced seven non-statutory indicators and underlying measures to track progress in other areas, such as parental conflict, problem debt and homelessness, that are important in tackling the disadvantages that can affect families' and children's outcomes.

The Government has a statutory duty to report annually to Parliament on parental worklessness and children's education attainment. The latest data on the non-statutory indicators will also be published each year.

■ Department for Work and Pensions: Behavioural Insights Team

Jon Trickett:

[9975]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what services his Department has received from the Behavioural Insights Team since 2014.

Caroline Dinenage:

The information requested is not collated centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

■ Disability

Kate Green:

[9306]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what progress has been made on reviewing disabled people's access and amending regulations where necessary to improve disabled access to licensed premises, parking and housing.

Penny Mordaunt:

Government is concerned about issues raised in relation to access and inclusion of disabled people and the problems with ensuring businesses and service providers comply with their duties under the Equality Act 2010. We are keen to remove the barriers that some disabled people face so they can take a full part in their communities; socialise with their friends; and live where they want to.

Too many licensed premises are still difficult for disabled people to access. The House of Lords Select Committee on the Licensing Act 2003 published its report in April 2017 and recommended that the 2003 Act should be amended to require that an application for a premises licence is accompanied by a disabled access and facilities statement. The Government will respond to the recommendation made by the Lords Select Committee in due course.

The government is currently examining how the Blue Badge scheme works in practice for people with non-physical disabilities in order to ensure the rules and guidance are clear for both local authorities and citizens and to improve the way the scheme is administered across the country.

The Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 introduced statutory obligations on the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to provide guidance on housing to meet the needs for older and disabled people, and we are in the process of developing that additional guidance in consultation with the sector and other interested parties. We have commissioned research into Part M of the Building Regulations and are considering the results of that research in order to determine whether there is a need to review current Building Regulation guidance.

In addition to the actions above, I am also working more widely to improve access for disabled people. Earlier this year I appointed eleven Sector Champions, leaders in their particular sectors, to champion accessibility for disabled people as consumers. Sectors covered include, retail, transport, hotels, banking and tourism. My officials are also working with those in DCLG and with the Changing Places Consortium to ensure that, when the opportunity arises Building Regulations will include provisions for fully accessible toilets. There are currently 1033 Changing Places facilities in the UK

Kate Green:

[9307]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what progress has been made on working with providers of (a) energy, (b) telecoms and (c) other essential services on reducing the extra costs that disability can incur.

Penny Mordaunt:

A Social Tariff is provided by BT (and KCom in Hull) in relation to telecommunications for those on particular benefits including disabled people.

With regard to energy, a cap on the prices energy suppliers can charge customers on pre-payment meters, many of whom are disabled people and/or on low incomes, came into effect on 1 April 2017. The price cap covers around 4.5m households, saving many dual fuel customers £70 a year

In addition, my colleague the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has written to Ofgem asking the regulator to advise what action it intends to take to safeguard customers on the poorest value tariffs. Ofgem is committed to helping the more disadvantaged in society and has launched work on measures to

protect and empower vulnerable energy consumers. This work includes considering extending the current safeguard tariff in place for consumers on pre-payment meters.

To support disabled and other people when asking work coaches in Jobcentres for advice on budgeting and saving money, DWP has prepared 'Need help managing your money?' a factsheet which has a section on household bills. It explains you should get in touch with your supplier if you're having difficulty paying bills or to find out if they offer a cheaper tariff. It signposts to the Money Advice Service for further information on how to save money on household bills, including switching supplier. The factsheet also covers budgeting information, basic bank accounts and the basic phone and broadband packages mentioned above.

■ Employment and Support Allowance

Neil Coyle:

[8680]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of sanctioning employment and support allowance claimants on assisting such people into work; and if he will undertake to review the use of sanctions on such claimants.

Penny Mordaunt:

Sanctions are only used in a minority of cases. For Employment and Support Allowance claimants the proportion of those sanctioned each month on average is 0.6% (based on the last year).

ESA claimants are able to apply for hardship payments from the first day of a sanction. If the application is successful they will receive the payment from day 1 of the sanction.

To keep the sanctions system clear, fair and effective in promoting positive behaviours, we keep the operation of the conditionality and sanction policies and processes under continuous review. Where we identify an issue, we act to put it right.

However, the use of conditionality and sanctions is only part of the story and cannot be seen in isolation to the work we are doing to continually improve the support we offer. The government continues to invest in trials, proofs of concept and feasibility studies to test ways to provide specialist support for people with health conditions, including those with mental health problems, and ensure that we are providing access to the most effective health and employment support when it is needed.

Next steps for longer-term reform will be set out in the autumn in response to the *Improving Lives: The Work, Health and Disability Green Paper*.

■ Employment and Support Allowance: Parkinson's Disease

Mrs Madeleine Moon:

[10093]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people with Parkinson's disease have been placed in the (a) support group and (b) work-related activity group with a prognosis statement (i) of three months, (ii) of six months, (iii) of 12 months, (iv) of

18 months, (v) of two years and (vi) in the longer term since the introduction of employment and support allowance in 2008; and if he will make a statement.

Penny Mordaunt:

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 5 September 2017 to Question UIN 6544

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-20/6544/>

■ Employment Services: Disability

Kate Green:

[9309]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what progress has been made on bringing forward legislative proposals to give unemployed disabled claimants personalised and tailored employment support.

Penny Mordaunt:

We rolled out the Personal Support Package (PSP) from April 2017 for people with health conditions, including a £330m package to deliver a broad range of employment and health support for new ESA Work Related Activity Group and UC Limited Capability for Work claimants. This also includes an expansion of the national employment support provision.

We have additionally recruited 300 new Disability Employment Advisers, assigned an additional £15 million to the Flexible Support Fund, made changes to the permitted work rules, and almost completed the roll out of the Health and Work Conversation. This is in line with our ambition to provide a support system which can be personalised and tailored to the needs of the individual.

Moreover, we consulted on a range of proposals in the Green Paper, *Improving Lives*, and we are carefully considering how to take these forward in consultation with a range of stakeholders.

■ Employment: Disability

Kate Green:

[9308]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether the Government plans to support one million more people with disabilities into employment over the next 10 years.

Penny Mordaunt:

The Government is committed to improving employment outcomes for disabled people. The manifesto commitment underpins this with a clear and time-bound goal - to see 1 million more disabled people into work over the next 10 years.

We know that there is much more that needs to be done, so that everyone who can work is given the right support and opportunities to do so.

That is why we published *Improving Lives; the Work, Health and Disability Green Paper*, which set out the action we plan to take and consulted on proposals for wider reform. We will respond to the consultation and set out our plans in due course.

■ Families: Disadvantaged

Lyn Brown:

[10204]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, with reference to his Department's publication entitled *Improving lives: helping workless families analysis and research pack*, published in April 2017, what proportion of families experiencing each Children and Young People's Outcome Indicator from 2 to 9 were included in the (a) workless family, (b) working family in the bottom 40 per cent of the income distribution and (c) working family in the top 60 per cent of the income distribution category.

Caroline Dinenage:

The publication "*Improving lives: helping workless families: analysis and research pack*" presents analysis on worklessness, other associated disadvantages and how they impact on children's outcomes. The publication includes analysis of nine indicators and the most interesting and useful breakdowns.

It is not possible to produce the majority of the breakdowns requested because of the different data sources, definitions and availability of data.

Lyn Brown:

[10205]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, with reference to his Department's publication entitled *Improving lives: helping workless families analysis and research pack*, published in April 2017, for what reason workless families are compared to families with work from the bottom 40 per cent of the income distribution in that publication.

Caroline Dinenage:

The "*Improving lives: helping workless families analysis and research pack*", compares workless families to working families from the bottom 40 per cent of the income distribution, because this represents a more useful comparison than comparing to all working families.

■ High Rise Flats: Insulation

Andrew Gwynne:

[9540]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the Answers of 7 September 2017 to Question 7375 and of 13 July 2017 to Question 3059, whether the installation of cladding and external wall insulation systems requires assessment under health and safety at work legislation.

Penny Mordaunt:

Health and safety at work legislation requires duty holders installing cladding and external wall insulation systems to manage and control risks from their work activities. To enable them to do this, they are required to carry out a suitable and sufficient

assessment of the risks to the health and safety of their employees and others from their work activities.

The fire and structural safety of cladding and external wall insulation systems is subject to the requirements of Building Regulations. Building control bodies, not HSE, are responsible for checking compliance with Building Regulations' requirements.

■ Housing Benefit: Private Rented Housing

Mr David Lammy: [\[10250\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the Answer of 11 September 2017 to Question 8560, what steps the Government is taking to reduce (a) the total sum of housing benefit being paid to private landlords and (b) the total sum of housing benefit being paid to private landlords providing unsafe and unsuitable accommodation.

Caroline Dinenage:

Reform to housing benefit is a central part of this Government's plan to create a welfare system that supports the most vulnerable and is fair to taxpayers. In order to limit HB expenditure in the private rent sector, Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates were frozen for 4 years from April 2016. This means rates are either frozen at April 2015 levels or are set at the 30th percentile of local rents if lower. In line with the 'freeze' to LHA rates, the LHA national caps (which no individual rate can exceed) are also frozen at April 2015 levels.

Local authorities have strong and effective powers under the Housing Act 2004 to deal with poor quality and unsafe accommodation in the private rented sector, including mandatory/additional licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), selective licensing of other privately rented properties and the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) to assess the health and safety risks in all residential properties. We have further strengthened these measures through the Housing and Planning Act 2016, introducing civil penalties of up to £30,000 and Rent Repayment Orders for a wider range of offences.

■ Jobcentres: Glasgow

David Linden: [\[10238\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the Answer of 11 September 2017 to Question 7645, if he will make it his policy that no compulsory redundancies will occur at any point in time as a result of the planned closure of Parkhead Jobcentre.

Damian Hinds:

I refer the Honourable Member to my reply to Question [7645](#) on 11 September 2017.

David Linden: [\[10240\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the Answer of 11 September 2017 to Question 7646, if he will make it his policy that no compulsory

redundancies will occur at any point in time as a result of the planned closure of the Easterhouse Jobcentre.

Damian Hinds:

I refer the Honourable Member to my reply to Question [7646](#) on 11 September 2017.

David Linden:

[10242]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the Answer of 11 September 2017 to Question 8086, if he will make it his policy to collect data on the number of people using the food bank signposting services at (a) Easterhouse, (b) Parkhead and (c) Shettleston jobcentres.

Damian Hinds:

The Department has no plans to introduce a policy of collecting data on the number of claimants using food bank signposting services.

■ Personal Independence Payment: Yorkshire and the Humber

Emma Hardy:

[10071]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many claims for personal independence payment in (a) Hull and (b) East Riding have been due to a mental health illness in each of the last five years.

Penny Mordaunt:

The requested information for Personal Independence Payment (PIP) applications is not available as information on PIP claimants' disabling conditions is not collected at the initial claim application stage. Only those who have a disability assessment determination decision will have a primary disabling condition recorded for them. The Department does not therefore hold data on the number of individuals with a particular condition who make a claim for PIP.

The latest available data on PIP claims in payment, including by main disabling condition and geography (e.g. local authority), are published on Stat-Xplore: <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk>. To filter for mental health illness, select 'Psychiatric Disorders' from the Disability menu on the left.

Guidance on how to use Stat-Xplore can be found here: <https://sw.stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/online-help/index.html>.

These data relate to the claimant's main disabling condition. Claimants may often have multiple disabling conditions, but these cannot be identified from the data the department holds. Therefore there may be other claimants in receipt of PIP who have been diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder who are not captured in the above data.

Emma Hardy:

[10094]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people in (a) Hull and (b) East Riding of Yorkshire have appealed against his Department's decision not to grant them personal independence payments in each of the last five years; and how many of those appeals have been successful in those years.

Penny Mordaunt:

The tables below show the number of appeals lodged against Personal Independence Payment claims which were disallowed at initial decision and where this decision was upheld at mandatory reconsideration, the number of these appeals where a decision has been made and the number of these appeals that were subsequently successful for the appellant, for Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire over the last five years.

a) Hull

YEAR OF APPEAL LODGE	NUMBER OF APPEALS LODGED	NUMBER OF APPEALS WITH A DECISION	NUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL APPEALS (FOR THE APPELLANT)
2013	#	#	#
2014	80	60	40
2015	280	260	180
2016	390	350	240
2017 (to July'17)	340	110	70
Total	1,090	830	520

*Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

**'#' used for instances where there are less than 5 cases.

b) East Riding of Yorkshire

YEAR OF APPEAL LODGE	NUMBER OF APPEALS LODGED	NUMBER OF APPEALS WITH A DECISION	NUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL APPEALS (FOR THE APPELLANT)
2013	#	#	#
2014	40	40	20
2015	180	170	100
2016	250	230	160
2017 (to July'17)	210	90	60
Total	680	560	330

*Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

**'#' used for instances where there are less than 5 cases.

■ Social Security Benefits

Debbie Abrahams: [\[9943\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether he has plans to increase mental health training for personal independent payment and employment and support allowance assessors.

Penny Mordaunt:

Training for Health Professionals on how to identify the impact of mental health conditions on a claimant's ability to carry out the activities in either assessment, is already a key feature of the training programmes provided by the Assessment Providers.

All Assessment Providers frequently engage with medical experts, charities and relevant stakeholders including mental-health organisations, to strengthen, review and update training programmes for all their Health Professionals.

■ Social Security Benefits: Cancer

David Simpson: [\[9396\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what financial support the Government provides to people who have terminal cancer and their families.

David Simpson: [\[9397\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what support is currently available to children and young people diagnosed with cancer for claims for (a) disability living allowance and (b) personal independence payments.

David Simpson: [\[9398\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps his Department is taking to ensure access to benefits for children and young people who have been diagnosed with cancer.

Penny Mordaunt:

Children and young people with serious or critical illnesses such as cancer are able to apply for Disability Living Allowance (DLA) if they are aged under 16 or Personal Independence Payment (PIP) if aged 16 and above. DLA and PIP are tax free allowances, which are designed to contribute to the extra costs incurred as a result of long-term health conditions and/or disabilities. Children and young people in receipt of DLA or PIP can receive up to £141.10 a week. Entitlement to DLA and PIP depends on the effects that severe disability has on a person's life and not on a particular disability or diagnosis. This is because people living with the same illnesses or disabilities may not necessarily have the same care or mobility needs.

Special considerations do however apply to children and adults who are terminally ill, and our arrangements recognise the particular difficulties faced by people who have only a short time to live. Their claims are fast-tracked and they are awarded the highest rate of the care component of DLA and the enhanced rate of the daily living

component of PIP automatically without having to complete a qualifying period. This means that, if they claim straight away, they can get benefit as soon as they have been diagnosed as being terminally ill. The arrangements ensure that claims are dealt with quickly and sensitively. The legislation defines a person as terminally ill if 'he suffers from a progressive disease and his death can reasonably be expected within six months'.

People over the age of 16 who are unable to work due to an illness or disability can claim Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) which has both a contributory strand accessible via a National Insurance contribution test and an income-related strand accessible via an income test. For cancer sufferers, a light touch evidence gathering process exists, to help determine eligibility. There is also a presumption that claimants receiving or recovering from cancer treatment will be placed in the Support Group which could entitle them to up to £109.65 per week, subject to suitable evidence from a healthcare professional such as a GP or oncologist.

Carers may also be able to qualify for Carer's Allowance, which is currently £62.70 a week if they meet the eligibility criteria.

Trudi Hills, our Sector champion for banking, has been working with Macmillan to improve how the banking industry supports people when they receive a cancer diagnosis

■ Supported Housing: Housing Benefit

Julie Elliott:

[\[9735\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will assess the likely effects of plans to limit the amount of housing benefit that can be claimed by people living in supported housing to the level of local housing allowance on the ability of vulnerable people to afford adequate accommodation.

Caroline Dinenage:

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.

■ Work Capability Assessment

Kate Green:

[\[9612\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what evidence he has that releasing the work capability assessment outcome report in answer to Freedom of Information request FS50645849 would damage the reputation of the Centre for Health and Disability Assessments, Maximus or Atos.

Penny Mordaunt:

As this Freedom of Information request is the subject of an on-going appeal, the Department is unable to comment further at this stage.

MINISTERIAL CORRECTIONS

HEALTH

■ Measles: Vaccination

John Spellar:

[8870]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the immunisation rate is for measles; and what steps the Government is taking to improve measles immunisation coverage.

An error has been identified in the written answer given on 13 September 2017. The correct answer should have been:

Steve Brine:

Protection against measles is provided in the combination measles, mumps and rubella vaccine (MMR).

The latest **England** vaccine coverage figures **for the United Kingdom** (January to March 2017) show that uptake of one dose of MMR vaccine at two years was 91.7% and at five years was 95.4%, exceeding the World Health Organisation's elimination target. Uptake of two MMR doses at five years was 88.1%.

In November 2016, a measles and rubella elimination strategy group was established to oversee the development of a United Kingdom-wide Measles and Rubella elimination strategy. This strategy will focus on sustaining very high coverage of MMR in children below five years of age and on providing opportunities for MMR catch-up to older population groups at risk for measles and/or rubella. Public Health England (PHE) continues to work with others to supply information for health professionals and the public on the benefits and risks associated with MMR.

PHE and NHS England work closely with providers at a local level to target specific communities where uptake of the MMR vaccine is known to be poor.

JUSTICE

■ Community Rehabilitation Companies

Liz Saville Roberts:

[8401]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether any additional funds above the agreed contract for 2016-17 were given to community rehabilitation companies in England and Wales.

An error has been identified in the written answer given on 12 September 2017. The correct answer should have been:

Mr Sam Gyimah:

A total of £37.15m was paid to CRCs above their agreed contracts in 2016/17. These payments were made for a variety of reasons and cannot be broken down by CRC

because the information is commercially sensitive. Furthermore, some concessions were agreed with CRCs on a case-by-case basis to enable them to re-invest contractual payment deductions in key areas of the business and improve services.

In addition, we have made changes to how CRCs are paid for future years so they can focus on activities that best rehabilitate offenders and keep society safe. This additional investment will see projected payments to providers being no higher than originally budgeted for at the time of the reforms. A summary of the variations can be found below. Relevant OJEU notices can be found at <http://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:45770-2015:TEXT:EN:HTML&tabId=4>

Attachments:

1. **8401 Table.png**

■ Prisons: Electronic Cigarettes and Tobacco

Richard Burgon: [\[9456\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many (a) e-cigarettes and (b) tobacco products were sold in prison shops in each of the last 12 months.

An error has been identified in the written answer given on 12 September 2017. The correct answer should have been:

Mr Sam Gyimah:

Numbers of units of e-cigarettes, vaping products and tobacco items sold in prisons in England and Wales in each month for the last year are as set out in the attached annex.

Prisons are rolling out the smoke free policy, subject to a series of assessments which will test the operational stability, readiness and health readiness of the prisons to implement the policy in a safe, decent and secure way. HMPPS' health partners in England and Wales are fully involved in supporting prisoners with appropriate smoking cessation services in place.

The open estate across England and Wales has been smoke free indoors since October 2015.

Attachments:

1. ~~9456 Annex A.docx~~
2. **9456 Annex A.docx**