



Daily Report

Monday, 18 June 2018

This report shows written answers and statements provided on 18 June 2018 and the information is correct at the time of publication (06:35 P.M., 18 June 2018). For the latest information on written questions and answers, ministerial corrections, and written statements, please visit: <http://www.parliament.uk/writtenanswers/>

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Notes:

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

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

ANSWERS

BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

■ Carbon Capture and Storage: Research

Kirsty Blackman:

[\[153299\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will take steps to ensure that all carbon capture and storage-related R&D investment received by UK educational institutions and businesses from the EU will be secured in the long-term.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

The Government wants the UK to be the go-to place for researchers, innovators and investors across the world. As we exit the European Union, we intend to secure the right outcome for UK research and innovation. In our future partnership with the EU, the UK will look to establish an ambitious future agreement on science and innovation that ensures the valuable research links between us continue to grow. As part of this, my rt. hon. Friend the Prime Minister has said that we want the option to fully associate to the excellence-based European science and innovation programmes, including Horizon Europe.

The UK continues to be eligible to fully participate in all aspects of Horizon 2020, the EU's Research and Innovation Framework Programme, while we remain a member of the EU. This includes aspects of the programme related to carbon capture and storage. The UK and EU negotiators' Joint Report, reflected in the draft Withdrawal Agreement, envisages that UK entities' right to participate will remain unaffected by the UK's withdrawal from the EU for the duration of the programme. On this basis, the UK Government encourages the UK research and innovation community to continue to bid for Horizon 2020 funding and participate in Horizon 2020 projects.

In addition, the UK Government has committed to underwrite Horizon 2020 funding if necessary. This guarantees funding for UK participants in projects ongoing at the point of exit, as well as any successful bids submitted before the UK leaves the EU.

Furthermore, in order to promote research in the UK, we are investing an additional £7 billion in R&D funding over five years to 2022 and as part of the Industrial Strategy the Government made clear our ambition to increase R&D investment to 2.4% of GDP by 2027.

■ Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: Senior Civil Servants

Carol Monaghan:

[\[153352\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how many senior civil servants (a) are employed and (b) have been employed by his Department and its predecessor Departments in each of the last 10 years.

Richard Harrington:

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy regularly publishes its workforce management information, by month, including the numbers of staff in Senior Civil Servant grades. March data has yet to be published and that number is 214. The remaining information for BEIS is available here:

www.gov.uk/search?q=BEIS+workforce

Where the information is available for each of its immediate predecessors, the Departments for Business, Innovation and Skills, and Energy and Climate Change, including the numbers of staff in Senior Civil Servant grades, it is available here:

www.gov.uk/search?q=bis+workforce

www.gov.uk/search?q=DECC+workforce

Carol Monaghan:**[153353]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how many senior civil servant vacancies there are in his Department.

Richard Harrington:

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy is currently advertising the following number of senior civil servant vacancies:

SCS PB3 – 1

SCS PB1 – 5.

■ Energy: Scotland**Carol Monaghan:****[153351]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, whether it is his policy to use energy policy to increase R&D investment in Scotland.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

The Government is committed to investing in science, research and innovation across the UK and across the energy sector. The Government is committed to increasing support for R&D as a key pillar of our Industrial Strategy and have committed to raise total R&D investment to 2.4% of GDP by 2027.

The Department is investing £505m under our Energy Innovation Programme between 2015/16-2020/21, as part of the Government's wider £2.5bn clean growth innovation activities that will support projects across the UK. Scottish innovators are eligible to bid into competitions under this programme, alongside all constituent parts of the UK.

■ Hinkley Point C Power Station**Chris Stephens:****[153361]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, whether his Department holds a risk register on the Hinkley C nuclear power station project; and if he will make a statement.

Richard Harrington:

Development of HPC and the management of project risks are a matter for the developer. The Government meets the developer regularly to receive updates on progress and seeks assurance on the timely delivery of the project.

■ Iron and Steel: Scotland**Gavin Newlands:**[\[153341\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what discussions he has had with (a) the Scottish Government and (b) representatives of industry in Scotland on protecting the Scottish steel sector from forthcoming increases in US tariffs.

Richard Harrington:

We are in constant contact with the steel industry on this issue, indeed Minsters from the Department of Business Energy & Industrial Strategy, together with Ministers from the Department for International Trade last met the steel companies impacted on 5 June. We have also convened a Steel Council meeting on 18 June to discuss this further and the Scottish Government has been invited to attend.

Ministers are in regular contact with the Scottish Government on a range of issues and my rt. Hon Friend the Minister of State for International Trade has spoken and written to Keith Brown MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Economy, Jobs and Fair Work since tariffs were put in place on 1 June on this important issue. Alongside this, BEIS and DIT officials have been in regular contact with officials from the Welsh and Scottish Governments to ensure that they have been kept fully abreast of these developments over the last year.

■ Land Registry: Cybercrime**John Mann:**[\[151096\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the level of threat of a cyber attack on the UK Land Registry; what steps the Land Registry has taken to protect people's land registrations from cyber attacks; and how much and what proportion of the Land Registry's data has been put on a secure blockchain since the Registry's announcement to do so in July 2017.

Richard Harrington:

HM Land Registry has a strong security culture and works with colleagues from across government to protect the organisation from cyber threats. The land register is protected by a broad and effective range of security controls which are regularly verified and tested by experts inside and outside of the organisation. HM Land Registry implements all cyber standards published by the National Cyber Security Centre. Future digital developments are subjected to significant scrutiny including by specialists from the National Cyber Security Centre who are undertaking a review of all cyber security risks and how these are managed by HM Land Registry.

HM Land Registry do not currently hold any of their data on a blockchain. In July 2017 HM Land Registry announced that they are working on 'Digital Street', a research and development project exploring the future of digital conveyancing, including the potential use of new technologies such as blockchain and artificial intelligence.

■ Local Enterprise Partnerships: Directors

Dan Jarvis:

[R] [\[153276\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what proportion of Local Enterprise Partnership boards comprise representatives from (a) the private sector, (b) the public sector, (c) trade unions, (d) universities, (e) further education colleges and (f) chambers of commerce.

Andrew Griffiths:

Local Enterprise Partnerships bring together business and civic leaders across a functional economic area to prioritise investment to where it will most effectively drive growth.

As set out in the Government's National Assurance Framework, all Local Enterprise Partnership boards must have a private sector chair, with at least 50% of the rest of the members also coming from the private sector. Other board membership should be drawn from local authority leaders and other relevant public sector organisations. It is for individual Local Enterprise Partnerships to determine the specific composition of their boards, reflecting the economic priorities of their areas.

■ Nuclear Power Stations: Construction

Carol Monaghan:

[\[153355\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what criteria the Government will apply when assessing the value for money of any new financing arrangement for new nuclear power sites.

Richard Harrington:

The Government published a value for money assessment for Hinkley Point C at the time of the deal being signed and will carry out a value for money assessment for any future new nuclear project before a final deal is agreed.

The Government will, at the appropriate time, publish this assessment which would set out the criteria used to determine value for money of the financing arrangements.

■ Sharing Economy: Insurance

Steve McCabe:

[\[153178\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps his Department has taken to assess the readiness of the insurance sector to offer on-demand insurance to workers in the gig economy; and whether the availability of such

insurance products will be assessed as part of the Government's consultation on implementing the recommendations of the Taylor Review of Modern Working Practices.

Andrew Griffiths:

The availability of insurance products, or the type of insurance products available to employees, was not within the scope of the Taylor Review or subsequent consultations.

■ **Wylfa Power Station**

Carol Monaghan:

[153354]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what value for money assessment the Government has conducted on the Wylfa Newydd nuclear project.

Richard Harrington:

The Government published a value for money assessment for Hinkley Point C at the time of the deal being signed and will carry out a value for money assessment for any future new nuclear project before a final deal is agreed.

The Government will, at the appropriate time, publish this assessment which would set out the criteria used to determine value for money of the financing arrangements.

CABINET OFFICE

■ **Cabinet Office: Non-departmental Public Bodies**

Rachel Reeves:

[148750]

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many (a) women and (b) men his Department has appointed to each of his Department's non-Departmental Public Bodies in each of the last five years.

Mr David Lidington:

The Cabinet Office has responsibility for nine NDPBs covering a range of advisory functions. Appointments to these bodies each year are few in number. The Commissioner for Public Appointments completes and publishes an annual data survey of all new appointments and reappointments made to boards of public bodies by Government including the overall gender diversity.

<https://publicappointmentscommissioner.independent.gov.uk/publications/annual-reports/>

Data on the gender diversity of new non-executive appointees to public boards for 2012 to 2015 is published on Gov.uk

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/diversity-in-public-appointments>. For the period 2015/16, 50% of new appointments to CO NDPBs were women. For the period of 2016/17 the number of appointments made would mean any statistic on gender diversity could lead to identification of individuals.

■ Cyber Innovation Fund: National Security Strategic Investment Fund

Nia Griffith: [\[146783\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the Answer of 22 May 2018 to Question 143809, when the decision was taken to merge the Cyber Innovation Fund with the National Security Strategic Investment Fund.

Nia Griffith: [\[146784\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the Answer of 22 May 2018 to Question 143809, what discussion his Department had with the Secretary of State for Defence on the decision to merge the Cyber Innovation Fund with the National Security Strategic Investment Fund prior to that decision formally being made.

Nia Griffith: [\[146785\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the Answer of 22 May 2018 to Question 143809, whether the £10 million previously allocated to establish a Cyber Innovation Fund was spent; and if he will make a statement.

Mr David Lidington:

During conversations with potential private sector investment partners and the British Business Bank over the course of 2017 on how best to deliver the Cyber Innovation Fund, the decision was taken to integrate the funding available into the National Security Strategic Investment Fund (NSSIF).

The objectives were aligned and this approach will deliver greater economies of scale and return on investment. The original £10m allocated is still available and will be invested in addition to the NSSIF funding. There were no conversations with the Secretary of State for Defence prior to this decision being taken.

Nia Griffith: [\[146786\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the Answer of 22 May 2018 to Question 143809, whether any of the £165 million Defence and Cyber Innovation Fund was merged with the National Security Strategic Investment Fund.

Mr David Lidington:

The £165 million Defence and Cyber Innovation Fund is comprised of a £155 million Defence Innovation Fund and a £10 million Cyber Innovation Fund. The £10 million Cyber Innovation Fund has been merged with the National Security Strategic Investment Fund. None of the £155 million Defence Innovation Fund has been merged with the National Security Strategic Investment Fund.

■ Elections: Freedom of Information

Cat Smith: [\[150180\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the Answer of 17 January 2018 to Question 121010, whether he plans to extend the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to apply to (a) an acting returning officer appointed to discharge a returning officer's functions in England and Wales under section 28, (b) an electoral registration officer

appointed under section 8, (c) a returning officer appointed under section 25, (d) a returning officer appointed under section 35 and (e) a returning officer appointed under section 25 of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

Chloe Smith:

As the Government set out in its answer of 17 January, it is our intention to bring Returning Officers (ROs) under the Freedom of Information Act when legislative time allows.

■ **Elections: Proof of Identity**

Cat Smith:

[\[152798\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, whether his Department conducted its own equality impact assessment of voter ID pilots separate to those conducted by the local authorities participating in the pilot schemes prior to the delivery of those schemes in May 2018.

Chloe Smith:

Voter ID is an important step to ensuring the public can have greater confidence in our democratic system.

We remain committed to ensuring that inclusivity and equality is integral to everything we do

and that whatever we do has the rights of electors and the fairness, equality and inclusivity of our electoral system at its centre.

Local authorities best understand the needs of their electors. Each local authority was required to consider the impact on voters with protected characteristics. Each local authority completed an equality impact assessment, which was subject to expert and detailed scrutiny from the Cabinet Office, the Electoral Commission and the Association of Electoral Administrators. The authorities built on their expertise and local knowledge and engaged with local groups to take into account the needs of all of their respective electorates.

The Government places great importance on promoting equality and diversity and will continue to develop the inclusivity in democratic processes which is so important, while underpinning confidence in our democratic processes and the security and resilience of the electoral system.

■ **Electoral Register: Internet**

Cat Smith:

[\[148891\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that people with no (a) fixed and (b) permanent address will be able to register to vote using the online registration service.

Chloe Smith:

People with no fixed or permanent address can register to vote at an address or place where they spend a large part of their time. The Government has worked, and

will continue in the future to work, with homeless charities to make sure that the paperwork required to register without a fixed address can be readily accessed. Citizens can access the paper application to register to vote if they don't have a fixed abode at the following url; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-to-vote-if-you-havent-got-a-fixed-or-permanent-address>.

■ Government Departments: Buildings

Laura Smith:

[149044]

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how much has accrued to the public purse in capital receipts from estate disposals since the publication of the Government's Estate Strategy in October 2014.

Oliver Dowden:

The annual breakdown of receipts raised since 2014 is:

FINANCIAL YEAR	RECEIPTS (£ BILLION)
2014/15	0.22
2015/16	1.06
2016/17	0.6
Total	1.88

The 2014/15 receipts number is embedded in the total of the sales for the period 2010-2015. The total number for 2010-2015 is £1.8 billion and this number has been published in the State of the Estate 2014-15 (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachm ent_data/file/497449/2014-15_State_of_the_Estate_accessible.pdf) and the reference can be found on page 31.

The 2015/16 and the 2016/17 receipts have been published in the Transparency Report: Government's land and property disposals in 2015-16 and 2016-17 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sales-of-government-assets>). The total numbers for 2015/16 and 2016/17 can be found on page 9 of the report. The report lists all individual asset sales from page 10 onwards. The full list of asset sales can also be found on the same link in CSV format.

The 2017/18 asset sales are in the process of being validated and will be published in the next Transparency Report.

Laura Smith:

[149048]

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how much has accrued to the public purse in capital receipts from the disposal of government property in each year since 2015.

Oliver Dowden:

The annual breakdown of receipts raised since 2015 is:

YEAR (FY)	RECEIPTS (£ BILLION)
2015/16	1.06
2016/17	0.6
Total	1.66

The 2017/18 asset sales are in the process of being validated and will be published in the next Transparency Report.

■ **India: Sikhs**

Mr Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi: [\[153428\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, when he plans to declassify confidential papers on the Amritsar massacre in June 1984.

Chloe Smith:

The British government acknowledges the strength of feeling in Sikh community regarding events of 1984. Almost all records from the Cabinet Office from 1984 to 1988 have been released at The National Archives. As is usual a small amount of material has been withheld to protect either international relations or intelligence. Nothing in the retained material or any other records contradict the conclusion of the Cabinet Secretary's 2014 Review of UK involvement in the Indian Army's operation at Sri Harmandir Sahib, Amritsar in 1984.

■ **Service Industries: Employment**

Mr Jim Cunningham: [\[152636\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many people have been employed in the hospitality sector in each of the last eight years.

Chloe Smith:

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

Attachments:

1. UKSA response [PQ152636.pdf]

■ **Vote Leave**

Tom Watson: [\[150605\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, whether the Prime Minister's office has received an advance copy of the Electoral Commission's report into electoral fraud in the Vote Leave campaign; and what information he holds on the publication date of that report.

Chloe Smith:

The Electoral Commission is accountable to Parliament, via the Speaker's Committee, and does not report directly to Ministers.

In that context, the Government has not received advance copy of such a report, and would not normally expect to receive advance reports on its casework decisions.

■ Zero Hours Contracts: Young People**Alison Thewliss:**[\[153347\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many 18-25 year-olds are on zero-hours contracts.

Chloe Smith:

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

Attachments:

1. UKSA response [PQ153347.pdf]

DEFENCE**■ Armed Forces: Ethnic Groups****Lady Hermon:**[\[153212\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what proportion of Armed Forces personnel are from minority ethnic communities.

Guto Bebb:

The Ministry of Defence is dedicated to achieving a more diverse workforce and is undertaking a wide range of activities to increase the number of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) recruits into the Armed Forces. Work to increase BAME representation includes better understanding and greater engagement with BAME communities, reviewing recruitment processes; and better targeted marketing and communications towards potential BAME applicants.

As at 1 April 2018, BAME personnel made up 2.4% of officers and 8.7% of other ranks in the UK Regular Armed Forces. Further information, including historical trends and a breakdown by Service, can be found at the following address:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-biannual-diversity-statistics-2018>.

■ Army Foundation College**Liz Saville Roberts:**[\[153416\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the Answer of 12 June 2018 to Question 150193 on Army Foundation College, if he will provide that data for the last three years.

Guto Bebb:

Postcode district information, based on primary contact addresses, for recruits who have attended AFC Harrogate over the last three financial years (FY) is set out in the attached table.

Individuals from 48 Northern Ireland postcode districts have attended Harrogate over the last three years, in compliance with security requirements these have been grouped into one postcode area.

To limit disclosure and ensure confidentiality numbers fewer than five are represented by '~'. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5 and zero is represented by '-'.

These figures are Single Service estimates and are not official statistics produced by Defence Statistics.

Only UK postcodes have been included.

Attachments:

1. 153416 - Postcodes for AFC Harrogate Recruits [153416 - Liz Saville Roberts.docx]

■ Members: Correspondence**Mrs Madeleine Moon:**[\[153222\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the Answer of 11 June 2018 to Question 150610, on Members: Correspondence, when his Department plans to respond to the letter dated 15 May 2018 from the hon. Member for Bridgend on access to Service Inquiries; and what the reasons are for the time taken for the response to be sent.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

I responded to the hon. Member on 13 June 2018.

■ MOD St Athan**Mrs Madeleine Moon:**[\[150612\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what alternative options to the re-signing of the lease for MoD St. Athan have been considered by his Department.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

[Holding answer 15 June 2018]: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is committed to retaining a presence at MOD St Athan and officials at the Defence Infrastructure Organisation are taking forward engagement on the future arrangements, on behalf of the Department. A number of potential options are being considered, the nature of which are commercially sensitive while discussions are ongoing.

■ NATO: Joint Exercises**Mr Kevan Jones:**[\[153213\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, which of the Armed Forces (a) units and (b) ships he plans to participate in Exercise Trident Juncture 18.

Mark Lancaster:

While the precise details of our participation in this exercise are yet to be confirmed, on current planning assumptions, the following UK Armed Forces units and personnel are due to participate in Exercise Trident Juncture 2018: from the Naval Service, at least three destroyers and/or frigates, four mine counter measures vessels, a mine warfare battle staff and command platform, and in excess of one Royal Marines Company; from the Army, a Light Mechanised Infantry Task Force led by Headquarters 4th Infantry Brigade with forces principally drawn from 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment, The Light Dragoons, 32 Engineer Regiment, 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, 2 Signal Regiment, 2 Close Support Battalion Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers, 6 Regiment The Royal Logistics Corps; from the Royal Air Force, four Hawk aircraft from 100 Squadron based at RAF Leeming.

It is also expected that in the region of 3,000 Service personnel will deploy on the exercise, subject to our operational requirements.

Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund**Royston Smith:**[\[153392\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what recent discussions his Department has had with the RAF Benevolent Fund; and what subjects were discussed at those meetings.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The RAF has extensive meetings with the RAF Benevolent Fund at all different levels across Defence from local/regional level through to Defence Ministers.

Royal Fleet Auxiliary: Tankers**Luke Pollard:**[\[153440\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether he plans to sell any RFA Wave-class tankers to Brazil; and if he will make a statement.

Luke Pollard:[\[153441\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many Wave-class RFA tankers are planned to enter service with the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

Luke Pollard:[\[153443\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what estimate he has made of the number of RFA tankers the Royal Navy requires in order to service the (a) carrier strike and (b) other Royal Navy commitments over the next 10 years.

Guto Bebb:

There are no plans to sell the Wave Class ships to Brazil. No further Wave Class ships will enter service as the Royal Fleet Auxiliary is receiving four Tide Class tankers: Tidespring, Tiderace, Tidesurge and Tideforce. These ships will support the Royal Navy over the next 10 years.

■ Veterans: Radiation Exposure

Royston Smith: [152240]

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether his Department has made a recent assessment of the potential merits of issuing a medal to UK nuclear test veterans; and if he will make a statement.

Royston Smith: [152241]

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what support his Department (a) has provided and (b) is providing to nuclear test veterans.

Royston Smith: [152242]

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what information his Department holds on the number of UK nuclear test veterans who are still alive.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The Government continues to recognise and be grateful to all Servicemen who participated in the British Nuclear testing programme. As part of Sir John Holmes' independent medal review in 2012, the issue of possible medallic recognition for veterans of the British Nuclear Tests was considered.

The final decision was that the type of duty undertaken did not meet the risk and rigour criteria historically associated with UK Operational Medals. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has, therefore, made no recent assessment of medallic recognition for Nuclear Test Veterans (NTV). However, as discussed during Defence Oral Questions on 11 June 2018, Defence Ministers will meet with the right hon. Member for South Holland and The Deepings (Mr Hayes) and representatives from the NTV community to discuss their concerns.

For details of the support provided to NTVs I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr Lancaster) on 9 December 2016 to Question 55999 to the hon. Member for Arfon (Mr Williams):

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-12-02/55999/>.

The MOD does not hold information which could confirm the number of UK NTVs.

Attachments:

1. Veterans: Radiation Exposure [Hansard Extract 16 December 2016 HOC 55999.docx]

DIGITAL, CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT**■ Broadcasting: European Union**

Hywel Williams: [152068]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps his Department has taken to prepare for the situation in which companies licensed by Ofcom

to broadcast throughout the EU are unable to do so after the UK leaves the EU; and if he will make a statement.

Margot James:

We understand the importance of broadcast licensing arrangements for the sector. As stated by the Prime Minister in her Mansion House speech earlier this year, we are seeking to strike a unique deal with the EU, which would allow for continued cross-border broadcasting post EU Exit. We are committed to working with the broadcasting sector to understand their needs and concerns, and will work hard to negotiate the right future relationship with the EU over the coming months.

■ **Local Press**

Bill Wiggin:

[\[152069\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what discussions he has had with representatives of the BBC to ensure that the BBC's local democracy reporting service scheme stories are available to all licence-fee payers.

Margot James:

Ministers and officials have regular discussions with the BBC on a range of matters, including Local Democracy Reporter Service.

■ **Young People**

Cat Smith:

[\[152213\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, pursuant to the Answer of 11 June 2018 to Question 148944, how many times officials of his Department have met with officials of the (a) Cabinet Office, (b) Department for Education, (c) Department for Exiting the European Union, (d) Department for International Development, (e) Department for Transport, (f) Department for Work and Pensions, (g) Department for Health and Social Care, (h) Home Department, (i) Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and (j) Ministry of Justice to discuss the implementation of cross-departmental youth policy since July 2016.

Tracey Crouch:

Ministers and officials across government have regular discussions with their Cabinet counterparts on a range of issues. DCMS regularly consults with other government departments on policy areas affecting young people, including on the Civil Society Strategy, to ensure a joined-up approach to policy making.

EDUCATION**■ Adult Education****Gordon Marsden:****[153197]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment he has made of the effect on further education of the 33 per cent decline in the number of Level 3 qualifications awarded to adults between 2010-11 and 2016-17.

Anne Milton:

Funding is in place to support adult learning through the Adult Education Budget and Advanced Learner Loans and we are doing more to encourage adults into learning and retraining.

We have recently announced major reviews into post-18 funding and Level 4/5 provision which aim to make sure all stages of tertiary education are adequately supported. This will provide learners with the best chance in life and make sure the economy has the skills base it needs to thrive. Together with ongoing sector support, this will take us further towards increased awareness and take-up of adult learning opportunities.

We are also investing in identifying the barriers to adult learning – at the Spring Budget 2017 we announced Career Learning Pilots to test new approaches to tackling the barriers to learning for adults over the next two years. The Flexible Learning Fund, is providing funding of £11.7 million to support 32 innovative projects across England. The Fund is encouraging more people to take part in new training or courses that will help them progress in current employment or secure a new job. It will provide important evidence about what works, and what does not, to tackle the barriers that prevent adults from accessing learning, which will support the development of the National Retraining Scheme.

■ Apprentices: Taxation**Gordon Marsden:****[153199]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what discussions he has had with representatives of the (a) CBI and (b) TUC on the level of apprenticeship starts since the introduction of the apprenticeship levy.

Anne Milton:

I, and my other ministers in the Department for Education (DfE) meet regularly and frequently with the Confederation of British Industry and other representative organisations including the Trades Union Congress (TUC) to discuss a range of matters including apprenticeships. Discussions have included how we can make best use of the apprenticeship levy to deliver three million high quality apprenticeships.

The TUC also works with DfE at a senior official level through our Apprenticeship Stakeholder Board to discuss a range of apprenticeship issues.

■ Basic Skills

Vernon Coaker:

[\[152641\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate his Department has made of the number of adults who have below average functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy.

Anne Milton:

[Holding answer 15 June 2018]: The government provides full funding for adults in England to develop the literacy and numeracy skills they need for life and work, and to secure qualifications from entry level up to GCSE.

The Skills for Life Survey, 2011, estimated the literacy, numeracy and ICT knowledge of adults aged 16-64 in England. The estimates of the numbers and percentage of the adult population with different levels for these components for England are in the attached table.

Attachments:

1. 152641_Number of apprentices and their salaries
[Number_of_young_people_by_skill_level.doc]

■ Children: Day Care

Tracy Brabin:

[\[153417\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether he has made an assessment of the correlation between a child's socio-economic background and the extent to which they access in full the free childcare to which they are entitled; and if he will make a statement.

Nadhim Zahawi:

The government notes the recent research conducted by the London School of Economics on this issue. In February 2018, the Department for Education commissioned its own research into the factors affecting take-up of free early education entitlements. A report will be published in due course.

The government introduced an entitlement to 15 hours of free childcare a week for disadvantaged two year olds in September 2013. Since then more than half a million two year olds have benefitted from a place and 71% of eligible children are taking advantage of the offer. We have also increased the hours of free childcare available to all three and four year olds.

■ Children: Speech and Language Disorders

Preet Kaur Gill:

[\[153420\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what plans the Government has to establish a system leadership group to promote the recommendations of the I CAN and the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapist report, Bercow: Ten Years, published on 20 March 2018.

Nadhim Zahawi:

The recommendations of the 'Bercow: Ten Years On' report are very timely. They come at a time when we are considering the All Party Parliamentary Group on

Autism's report 'Autism and education in England 2017'; and considering our response to Dame Christine Lenehan's review of residential special schools, 'Good Intentions, Good Enough?'

We shall consider all of these reports carefully and will take that opportunity to set out how the government will continue working to achieve the vision of a reformed special educational needs and disabilities system, underpinned by the Children and Families Act 2014.

■ Free School Meals

Stephen Timms: [153172]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether self-employed earnings that a person is treated as having under the Minimum Income Floor rules in universal credit count towards the £7,400 per annum free school meals threshold in England.

Stephen Timms: [153173]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether earnings that an employed or self-employed person is treated as having under surplus earnings rules in universal credit count towards the £7,400 per annum free school meals threshold in England.

Stephen Timms: [153174]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether the carry forward of self-employed losses in universal credit can be used to reduce earned income for the purposes of the £7,400 per annum free school meals threshold in England.

Nadhim Zahawi:

For determining eligibility for free school meals, we will assess the earnings of self-employed people based on their actual annualised net earned income, rather than the assumed earned income of the minimum income floor, over a period of up to three months. Where families' actual annualised net earned income is below the £7,400 annual threshold, their children will be eligible for free school meals.

■ Nurses: Apprentices

Mr David Lammy: [153177]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate he has made of the number of registered nurse apprentices which started in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018.

Anne Milton:

There have been 40,650 apprenticeship starts in Health, Public Services and Care, reported to date, in the first half of the 2017 to 2018 academic year (August 2017 to January 2018) in England: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fe-data-library-apprenticeships>.

We want to increase the number of nursing apprenticeships and now have a complete apprentice pathway from entry level to postgraduate advanced clinical

practice in nursing. This will support people from all backgrounds to enter a nursing career in the National Health Service.

The registered nurse (degree) apprenticeship standard was approved for delivery on 9 May 2017. To date, there have been 20 starts on the registered nurse (degree) apprenticeship in the 2017 to 2018 academic year (August 2017 to January 2018) in England.

We have also created a new programme for nursing associate apprentices to broaden the routes into the profession. 5,000 starts are planned in 2018, with a further 7,500 in 2019.

We are working closely with employers, Health Education England and ministers in the Department of Health to make sure the NHS is fully supported to recruit apprentices, both in nursing and in a range of other occupations.

■ Post-18 Education and Funding Review

Gordon Marsden:

[\[153195\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, who is providing the secretariat to the Government's review of post-18 education and funding.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

The terms of reference for the post-18 education and funding review sets out that it is led by the Department for Education and will report to the my right hon. Friends, the Secretary of State for Education, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Prime Minister.

■ Schools: Expenditure

Bim Afolami:

[\[151446\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what funding his Department has allocated to (a) primary and (b) secondary schools in (i) England and (ii) Hitchin and Harpenden constituency in each year between 2005 and 2017.

Nick Gibb:

Information on revenue funding by constituency is not held centrally and funding is not allocated separately for primary and secondary pupils. However, the below table shows the revenue and funding for schools in Hertfordshire and England since 2005.

REVENUE AMOUNTS ALLOCATED FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR EACH FINANCIAL YEAR FROM 2005 TO 2017 FOR HERTFORDSHIRE LOCAL AUTHORITY AND ENGLAND.

Funding for Schools 2005-17 £ millions

Financial Year	Hertfordshire	England
2005-06	634.1	30,685.4
2006-07	635.0	30,638.3

REVENUE AMOUNTS ALLOCATED FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR EACH FINANCIAL YEAR FROM 2005 TO 2017 FOR HERTFORDSHIRE LOCAL AUTHORITY AND ENGLAND.

2007-08	673.2	32,353.2
2008-09	704.7	33,476.5
2009-10	740.2	34,710.2
2010-11	781.1	36,506.5
2011-12	790.9	37,169.9
2012-13	807.1	38,037.7
2013-14	864.6	40,861.3
2014-15	895.9	42,465.9
2015-16	926.2	43,964.9
2016-17	938.8	44,413.0

This table does not include capital funding, which is not available by local areas prior to 2011-12. The Department's total capital budget for education nationally from 2011-12 to 2016-17 was over £29 billion.

Hertfordshire local authority directly received over £340 million of core capital allocations from the Department between financial years 2011-12 to 2016-17. These figures do not include funding to academies, sixth-form colleges and multi academy trusts within the area.

■ **Teachers: Recruitment**

Nic Dakin:

[153259]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment the Government has made of the merits of funding tuition fees for prospective teachers to encourage more teachers into the teaching profession.

Nick Gibb:

The Department is committed to ensuring that we recruit the best graduates into the teaching profession, which is why generous bursaries and scholarships are offered to trainees in priority subjects. In addition to this, teachers will benefit from the newly announced student loan repayment threshold rise and, from September 2018, the Department is piloting a new programme to reimburse student loan repayments for languages and science teachers in the early years of their careers.

The Department is developing a recruitment and retention strategy which will make recommendations on the best way to attract graduates into the teaching profession, and will publish the outcomes of this in due course.

■ Teachers: Standards

Gordon Marsden:

[\[153198\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what discussions he has had with the Office for Students on the merits of observing teaching as an element for assessment in the teaching excellence framework.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

Higher Education (HE) institutions, as independent and autonomous bodies, are responsible for the range and quality of the courses they deliver. Assessing the performance of an institution through observation would jeopardise the autonomy of the HE sector.

The Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework (TEF) uses a range of existing metrics related to teaching and learning to make an assessment of teaching excellence, alongside a submission of evidence from the providers themselves. The metrics used for the assessment are all well-established, widely used and trusted in the HE sector. The department consulted extensively on the metrics used in the TEF.

My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Education has not discussed with the Office for Students, the observation of teachers as an additional element within the TEF.

■ T-levels

Gordon Marsden:

[\[149933\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what discussions his Department had with the Chief Executive of the Institute for Apprenticeships before he decided not to take advice to defer T levels until 2021.

Anne Milton:

[Holding answer 11 June 2018]: Ministers Department for Education officials responsible for T Levels meet regularly with the Chief Executive of the Institute for Apprenticeships, where they discuss planning and delivery issues. Department officials are in regular and frequent dialogue with the Institute on this and all delivery matters.

The delivery of the programme to the timetable we have set out is ambitious, and so we have been keeping it under regular review. Alongside our apprenticeship reforms, T Levels are central to our technical and vocational education, which will help improve workforce skills and drive productivity growth.

James Frith:

[\[R\] \[152273\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate he has made of the number of learners taking T levels in the first year of the level's introduction.

Anne Milton:

Our plan is for a measured implementation of T levels, the most radical reform of post-16 education since the introduction of A Levels almost 70 years ago, which will

transform the technical education landscape. On 27 May we announced the 52 colleges and other providers that have been selected to deliver the first three T Levels in 2020 and have since selected a further two providers.

Teaching is to begin in 2020 in the first three subjects in 54 providers. As providers are considering the outline content of the first T Levels and developing their own implementation plans, the number of potential learners for the first years of T Levels is still under consideration but is expected to grow over time.

■ T-levels: Sixth Form Colleges

Gordon Marsden:

[\[153196\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what discussion (a) he and (b) Ministers in his Department have had with (i) sixth-form colleges and (ii) representative bodies of sixth-form colleges on the effect of the introduction of T-levels on the (A) intake and (B) curriculum of those colleges.

Anne Milton:

Ministers and officials work with a range of organisations in relation to T Level implementation and meet regularly with representatives from the Sixth Form College Association.

The department held a series of engagement events as part of the T Level consultation process earlier this year and a number of sixth form colleges attended these. The department will consult on the arrangements for T Level funding in the autumn and sixth form colleges and their representatives will have the opportunity to offer their views on this.

We recently announced the first providers to deliver T Levels in 2020 and six of these are sixth form colleges. We will work closely with these organisations to test and shape specific elements of the T Level programme.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

■ Bovine Tuberculosis

Dr David Drew:

[\[152630\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the accuracy of the analysis in the paper, Meta analyses of the sensitivity and specificity of ante-mortem and post-mortem diagnostic tests for bovine tuberculosis in the UK and Ireland, published in March 2018 that the median sensitivity estimate for the SICCT test is between 49 per cent and 65 percent; and what the implications are of that analysis for the information contained on the Government-sponsored web site, TB Hub.

George Eustice:

The 2018 paper (Nuñez-Garcia et al) used data derived from different studies carried out in different countries and under different field and laboratory conditions. This data

presented different scenarios to that experienced in Great Britain. Therefore our evidence base for the SICCT test will continue to be based on two recent and bespoke studies (Karolemeas et al. (2012) and Goodchild et al. (2015)), as detailed on the TB Hub website.

■ **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund**

Holly Lynch: **[153385]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether the Government plans to introduce an alternative funding stream to the European and Maritime and Fisheries Fund after the UK leaves the EU.

George Eustice:

The government has made clear that all European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) projects approved before the UK leaves the EU will be fully funded even if these projects have not been completed by the time the UK leaves the EU. This guarantee applies across the UK.

Work to develop future domestic funds to replace those currently operated by the EU is underway.

■ **Fisheries: Migrant Workers**

Holly Lynch: **[153384]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what estimate he has made of (a) each nationality represented in the UK fishing sector workforce and (b) the changes in the levels of those nationalities after the UK leaves the EU.

George Eustice:

Following a pilot labour survey of the catching sector in 2017, Seafish will be conducting a full labour survey as part of its wider analysis of the UK fleet in 2018. The results of the 2017 pilot are published by Seafish and the analysis undertaken in 2018 will be published later this year.

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 how to align the future immigration framework with modern industrial strategy. We welcome the MAC's interim report published in March 2018 and will consider its evidence in full when it publishes its final report in September 2018.

http://www.seafish.org/media/publications/Seafish_2017_Pilot_fleet_employment_survey_report_FULL.pdf

■ **Forests**

David Simpson: **[149985]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to prevent deforestation in the UK.

David Rutley:

As forestry is a devolved matter this answer relates to England only.

The Government is committed to accelerating new woodland planting and has a number of manifesto commitments to support afforestation in England, including the planting of eleven million trees and a further one million trees in our towns and cities by 2022.

The Government also has a number of schemes to support afforestation including the Woodland Creation Grant under Countryside Stewardship, the Woodland Carbon Fund, and the Woodland Creation Planning Grant.

In January the Prime Minister announced through the 25 Year Environment Plan the support of the new Northern Forest, which will see 50 million trees planted by 2042.

Pesticides**Alex Sobel:**[\[152859\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether his Department is taking steps to use its consultation on the future of food, farming and the environment to reduce the use of toxic pesticides in British farming practice.

George Eustice:

“Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit” consulted on how public money for public goods can be at the heart of our new agriculture policy.

The consultation has now closed and we are analysing responses. The environment is an essential public good and the Government is clear that it is right to minimise the use of pesticides and to make the greatest possible use of other techniques, including non-chemical alternatives, to protect crops.

That is why the 25 year environment plan – “A Green Future” – included a firm commitment to putting Integrated Pest Management at the heart of our approach to support sustainable crop protection with the minimum use of pesticides. We can do more with improved crop husbandry, the use of natural predators and plant breeding to ensure resilience to pests and diseases. This will enable reduced and more targeted use of pesticides.

Poultry: Trade**Bill Esterson:**[\[152145\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the UK leaving the EU on the free movement of food-related poultry goods.

George Eustice:

We are conducting rigorous analysis of the full range of UK-EU trade scenarios on UK agriculture (including the poultry sector) as part of our planning.

EXITING THE EUROPEAN UNION■ **Michel Barnier****Hilary Benn:**[\[153190\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, on how many occasions he has met Michel Barnier since 1 January 2018.

Mr Robin Walker:

We have always engaged constructively and as a full and responsible Member State, in order to secure a deal that works for all parts of the country.

To that end, the Secretary of State has been in contact with Michel Barnier, on a number of occasions since December last year. The Secretary of State met him on February 5th in London, had a call on 2nd March. They had a joint press conference in March following the agreement reached on the implementation period. Most recently he met with him on Monday 11 June.

Throughout this period officials have been negotiating hard and at pace on issues related to our withdrawal, including Northern Ireland and other separation issues. More recently, they have begun discussions on the future framework, with discussions covering elements of both the future security and future economic partnerships.

We will of course continue to keep Parliament informed as negotiations unfold, in the coming months.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE■ **Ali Salman****Alex Norris:**[\[152848\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether his Department has made representations to the Bahraini Government on the prosecution of Bahraini opposition leader, Sheikh Ali Salman; and if he will make a statement.

Alistair Burt:

[Holding answer 15 June 2018]: We have raised this case at a senior level with the Government of Bahrain. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and our Embassy in Bahrain continue to monitor Sheikh Ali Salman's case closely. Embassy officials have regularly attended trial hearings. We continue to encourage the Government of Bahrain to deliver on its international and domestic human rights commitments.

■ **Anna Campbell****Hilary Benn:**[\[153193\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has made to (a) the Turkish Government and (b) other organisations on returning Anna Campbell's body to her family.

Alistair Burt:

The British Embassy in Ankara has engaged with the Turkish authorities about returning Anna Campbell's body to her family and with the International Red Cross. Due to the situation on the ground it is extremely difficult to confirm the whereabouts of any British nationals in Syria. We continue to stress to Turkey the importance of ensuring that the UN and non-governmental organisation partners are able to operate in areas under Turkish control. We stand ready to engage further with the authorities should the situation change.

■ **Bahrain: Technical Assistance****Alex Norris:**[\[152849\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 22 May 2018 to Question HL7775, which Human Rights Reports refer to the Integrated Activity Fund.

Alistair Burt:

[Holding answer 15 June 2018]: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has provided numerous updates on its programme work in past Human Rights Reports as well as through Freedom of Information Act requests. This information can be found on the gov.uk website.

■ **India: Sikhs****Mr Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi:**[\[153430\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, when he plans to put in place an independent public inquiry into the Amritsar massacre in June 1984.

Mark Field:

The British Government acknowledges the strength of the feeling in the Sikh community regarding events of 1984. I am confident that the Cabinet Secretary's review of British advice to the Indian Army in advance of the events at Amritsar in 1984 was thorough and the British Government has no plans to establish a further inquiry.

■ **India: Visas****Stephen Timms:**[\[153175\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with the Indian High Commissioner on students who had their visa applications declined due to allegations of cheating on ETS English language tests.

Mark Field:

The Foreign Secretary has had no recent discussions with the Indian High Commissioner on this subject. Responsibility for the UK visa service lies with the Home Office. In 2017, 14,500 Indian students were granted visas to study in the UK, a 27% increase on the previous 12 months.

■ Najah Ahmed Yousif

Alex Norris:

[\[152847\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what reports his Department has received on investigations being carried out by Bahrain's human rights oversight bodies with respect to the female political prisoner, Najah Ahmed Yousif; and if he will make a statement.

Alistair Burt:

[Holding answer 15 June 2018]: The UK has a continuing dialogue with the Government of Bahrain in which we raise individual cases. Our Embassy in Bahrain has monitored this specific case and will attend the next hearing. The UK encourages those with concerns about treatment in detention to report these to the relevant human rights oversight bodies. We urge these bodies to carry out swift and thorough investigations. The UK continues to encourage the Government of Bahrain to deliver on its international and domestic human rights commitments.

■ United Nations: Peacekeeping Operations

Nia Griffith:

[\[153227\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 4 June 2018 to Question 147856 on United Nations: peace keeping operations, if he will list the equipment that the UK received reimbursements for from the UN in each year since 2013-14.

Mark Field:

The UK, as a Troop Contributing Country (TCC) to UN peacekeeping missions, receives reimbursements from the UN for equipment it has provided. These reimbursements fall into two categories: self-sustainment and major equipment. Self-sustainment can include items such as bedding and furniture. Major equipment can include items such as generators, containers and vehicles. A full list of the equipment the UK has received reimbursement for, each year since 2013-14, is not held centrally by the FCO and could only be provided at a disproportionate cost.

■ Yemen: Ports

Keith Vaz:

[\[151058\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the effect of recent coalition advances towards the port of Al Hudaydah in Yemen on (a) the possible outcome of the conflict and (b) humanitarian support reaching the people of Yemen.

Alistair Burt:

We are in regular contact with the Coalition about the need to ensure that any military operations in and around Hodeidah are conducted in accordance with international humanitarian law, including on the protection of civilians, and do not disrupt commercial and humanitarian flows through the port. The Coalition have assured us that they are incorporating humanitarian concerns into their operational plans. It is

vital to maintain the flow of food, fuel and medical supplies into Yemen. For their part the Houthis must not compromise port facilities or hinder the humanitarian response.

It remains imperative to resume work towards a comprehensive political settlement. Lasting peace and stability in Yemen will require dialogue and negotiation. UN Special Envoy Martin Griffiths is due to update the Security Council soon on his proposals for a negotiated settlement. We call upon all parties to throw their weight behind his efforts, for the sake of the Yemeni people and the security of Yemen's neighbours.

Keith Vaz:

[151059]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what the Government's policy is on attacks on the port of Al Hudaydah in Yemen.

Alistair Burt:

Following the start of military action by Coalition-backed forces to take Hodeidah port back from Houthi militia, we call on all parties to respect international humanitarian law and prioritise the protection of civilians.

We are in regular contact with the Coalition about the need to ensure that any military operations in and around Hodeidah are conducted in accordance with international humanitarian law, including on the protection of civilians, and do not disrupt commercial and humanitarian flows through the port. The Coalition have assured us that they are incorporating humanitarian concerns into their operational plans. It is vital to maintain the flow of food, fuel and medical supplies into Yemen. For their part the Houthis must not compromise port facilities or hinder the humanitarian response.

Dan Carden:

[153434]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment his Department has made of the potential effect on achieving a UN negotiated peace plan of the military assault on Hodeidah port in Yemen.

Alistair Burt:

It remains imperative to continue work towards a comprehensive political settlement. Lasting peace and stability in Yemen will require dialogue and negotiation. UN Special Envoy Martin Griffiths is due to update the Security Council soon on his proposals for a negotiated settlement. We call upon all parties to throw their weight behind his efforts, for the sake of the Yemeni people and the security of Yemen's neighbours.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

■ 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome

Layla Moran:

[152852]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what recent steps he has taken to improve (a) awareness of and (b) diagnosis of 22Q11 deletion syndrome.

Steve Brine:

22q11.2 deletion syndrome is a disorder that involves many different areas of the body and the severity can vary among patients. 22q11.2 deletion syndrome is an integral part of the immunodeficiency section of the training curriculum for paediatric and adult immunologists. In addition, cardiac aspects of 22q deletion syndrome are specifically included in the curriculum for paediatric cardiology.

There are 32 immunology centres accredited or working towards accreditation with the Quality in Primary Immunodeficiency Services programme including a number of paediatric immunology centres located across the United Kingdom, which provide services for patients affected by the disease. Such accreditation processes means that specialist expertise can be more readily available across the country and provide access to the services need in the diagnosis of this disease.

■ Clostridium**Jonathan Ashworth:****[152773]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many trust-apportioned Clostridium Difficile cases were reported in each year since 2010-11.

Steve Brine:

Public Health England publishes the annual counts and rates of Clostridium difficile (C. difficile) infections by acute trust and clinical commissioning group in patients aged two years and over at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/clostridium-difficile-infection-annual-data>

A copy of the table showing the financial year counts and rates of C. difficile infection for patients aged two years and over by acute trust (trust apportioned cases only) is attached

Attachments:

1. PQ152773 attached document [Copy of C_Difficile_annual tables_April 2007-March 2017_.xlsx]

■ Dental Health**Chi Onwurah:****[153270]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, pursuant to the Answer of 15 May 2018 to Question 142841 on Dental Health, what estimate he has made of the incidence of gum disease in each region of England.

Steve Brine:

Levels of gum disease among adults are reported in the 2009 adult dental health survey. The prevalence by region is shown in the following table.

2008 HEALTH REGION	% WITH ANY BLEEDING OF GUMS ON PROBING	% WITH PERIODONTAL POCKETS MEASURING 4MM OR DEEPER
North East	61	43
North West	51	43
Yorkshire and the Humber	62	42
East Midlands	60	44
West Midlands	61	53
East of England	32	32
London	49	46
South East Coast	52	49
South Central	64	39
South West	57	59
England	54	45

Notes:

1. This survey was undertaken in 2008 just before the National Health Service boundaries changed
2. Source: 2009 Adult Dental Health Survey:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/adult-dental-health-survey/adult-dental-health-survey-2009-summary-report-and-thematic-series>

Levels of gum inflammation among children in England were reported in the 2013 child dental health survey, but this is not available by region. The prevalence is shown in the following table.

AGE GROUP (YEAR OLDS)	% OF CHILDREN WITH GUM INFLAMMATION
5	22
8	46
12	61
15	53

Source: Child Dental Health Survey 2013:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/children-s-dental-health-survey/child-dental-health-survey-2013-england-wales-and-northern-ireland>

■ Drugs

Chi Onwurah:

[\[153267\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to the Life Sciences Industrial Strategy, what steps his Department is taking to ensure the UK enters the top quartile of comparator countries for the speed of (a) adoption and (b) uptake of innovative, cost-effective medicines by 2023.

Caroline Dinenage:

The Life Sciences Industrial Strategy (LSIS) set out a vision of being a world-leader in developing and bringing to market innovative medicines to improve patient outcomes. The strategy, developed by the sector, included a strategic ambition for the UK to be in the top quartile of comparator countries for speed of adoption. The Government welcomes the ambition of the LSIS, and partners across the system are committed to maximising the appropriate use of innovative medicines to deliver better patient outcomes and support the long-term sustainability of the National Health Service.

In December 2017, the Government published the Life Sciences Sector Deal, which detailed our commitments to taking forward the ambition in the LSIS. This included implementing the response to the Accelerated Access Review, which sets out a plan to increase the rate of uptake of innovative products. Progress to date includes establishing the Accelerated Access Collaborative which brings partners across the system together with the shared ambition of improving access to innovation in the NHS; developing the new Accelerated Access Pathway which will identify breakthrough treatments and get them to patients faster, and delivering £86 million funding to improve access to innovation, including by increasing the capacity and strengthening the mandate for the Academic Health and Science Networks.

Chi Onwurah:

[\[153268\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to the Life Sciences Industrial Strategy, whether the next Annual Assessment Report of NHS performance will contain a detailed description of the (a) catalysts and (b) barriers to the UK entering the top quartile of comparator countries for the speed of (i) adoption and (ii) uptake of innovative, cost-effective medicines by 2023.

Steve Brine:

The Department regularly reviews performance against the objectives, deliverables and requirements in the Government's mandate to NHS England. The result of this assessment is set out in the Department's annual assessment.

The upper quartile strategic goal in the Life Science Industrial Strategy is not government policy and will therefore not be part of the Annual Assessment process. However, partners across the system are committed to maximising the appropriate use of innovative medicines to deliver better patient outcomes and support the long-term sustainability of the National Health Service. The Government continues to support and improve the Innovation Scorecard which tracks the uptake of innovative products approved by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. It is

designed to help users (clinicians, patients, commissioning groups, Government and other stakeholders) to understand and monitor the uptake of innovations in the NHS, and to use this information to continue to improve performance. We are continuing to increase the number of products covered by the scorecard, as well as to widen the range of medical technologies covered, including innovative diagnostic and digital products.

■ Drugs and Medical Treatments

Chi Onwurah: [\[153266\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment he has made of NHS England's performance against its delivery of the 2016-17 mandate objective to implement the agreed recommendations of the Accelerated Access Review.

Steve Brine:

The Department regularly reviews NHS England's performance against the objectives, deliverables and requirements in the Government's mandate to NHS England. The result of this assessment is set out in the Department's annual assessment.

NHS England is an active partner in the newly established Accelerated Access Collaborative, which will identify and support the most exciting innovations and we are working closely with NHS England to implement key recommendations from the Review, including delivering the Test Beds programme and expanding the role of the Academic Health Science Networks.

■ European Medicines Agency

Hywel Williams: [\[152064\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department has taken to prepare for setting up a UK medicines agency in the event that the UK cannot remain part of the European Medicines Agency after the UK leaves the EU.

Jackie Doyle-Price:

From 30 March 2019, the United Kingdom will no longer be a Member of the European Union. However, under the terms of the implementation period agreement regulatory standards and market access for all medicines will continue on current terms.

Common rules will remain in place and the UK may continue to participate in EU agencies and bodies where the presence of the UK is necessary and is in the interests of the EU, or where the discussion concerns acts addressed to the UK and its citizens. The exact nature of this participation will be a matter for further discussion.

Regarding the future relationship, the Prime Minister's Mansion House speech outlined that we will explore the terms on which the UK could remain part of the European Medicines Agency. The Government recognises the importance of a close and cooperative relationship between the UK and EU in the field of medicines

regulation. We are committed to engaging in these negotiations in good faith with the aim of moving swiftly to the substantive discussions for our future relationship. While it would not be appropriate to pre-judge the outcome of the negotiations, we will discuss with the EU and Member States how best to continue cooperation in medicines regulation.

With regard to a UK medicines agency, the UK already has such a body, in the national regulator for medicines, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), with over 30 years' experience licensing new medicines. Indeed, the vast majority of medicines - around 90%- on the UK market received a national, UK licence issued by the MHRA.

■ Foetal Alcohol Syndrome

Chris Ruane:

[152663]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, pursuant to the Answer of 11 June 2018 to Question 150586 on foetal alcohol syndrome, what localised data his Department holds on that syndrome.

Steve Brine:

Only information on individuals with severe cases of foetal alcohol syndrome – those identified at birth - is collected and reported by Public Health England. Therefore there is a significant underestimation of the overall prevalence.

The figures currently available relate to births in 2012-2016, and cover five regions in England: the South West, East Midlands and South Yorkshire, Wessex, Thames Valley, and Northern England (including North East and Cumbria). Prevalence tables by region and year can be found at the following link:

<http://www.eurocat-network.eu/prevdata/resultsPdf.aspx?title=A5&allanom=false&allregf=true&allrega=true&anomalies=83&winx=1256&winy=677>

A copy of the prevalence tables covering five regions in England is attached.

Attachments:

1. PQ152663 attached table [Foetal alcohol syndrome 2012-2016 England figures.pdf]

■ Food: Advertising

Chi Onwurah:

[153269]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment he has made of the health implications for deprived households of the advertising of food replacement systems including Huel as cheaper than food.

Steve Brine:

The Government has no plans to make an assessment of commercial food replacement systems, such as Huel.

Public Health England encourages everyone to have a healthy balanced diet in line with the nation's healthy eating model the Eatwell Guide, available to view at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-eatwell-guide>

This is promoted through a variety of communications including the Government's 5 A DAY campaign, the Eatwell Guide, Public Health England's catering guidance, through the Change4Life campaign and the NHS Choices website.

■ Food: Manufacturing Industries

Sir Greg Knight: **[152668]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to improve public trust in the food system as a result of breaches of food safety rules at meat processing factories; and if he will make a statement.

Steve Brine:

In response to the incidents identified in meat processing factories the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and Food Standards Scotland (FSS) announced a full review of cutting plants and cold stores handling meat in February 2018. The terms of reference for this review were published in March 2018 outlining the scope, objectives, deliverables, approach and timescales for this review, and on 6 June 2018 the review published an interim update in the form of a FSA Board paper on findings to date. A copy of the Board paper is attached.

The review will submit a final report to the FSA and FSS Boards which will make recommendations to improve levels of public confidence in the safety and authenticity of United Kingdom meat and identify potential improvements in the way in which the sector is regulated.

Attachments:

1. PQ152668 attached document [Cutting Plants and Cold Stores Review - FSA 18-06-08.pdf]

■ General Practitioners: Insurance

Peter Kyle: **[153409]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, when he plans to publish the details of the state-backed indemnity scheme for general practice in England.

Stephen Barclay:

On 12 October 2017 my Rt. hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care announced that he would establish a state backed indemnity scheme for general practice in England, to put in place a more stable and affordable system of indemnity.

The Department is committed to implementing the scheme from April 2019.

This complex piece of work is undergoing detailed development with general practitioner (GP) representatives, Medical Defence Organisations and NHS England.

We remain committed to delivering a scheme that prioritises meeting the needs of current and future GPs and the wider primary medical care landscape, being in the interest of patients and representing value for money for taxpayers.

On 13 June 2018, the Department published further details about the scheme, highlighting that:

- Ministers have decided that the scheme will include activities delivered under the primary medical care contracts (General Medical Services, Personal Medical Services, Alternative Provider Medical Services). Recognising that delivering these activities is not limited to GPs, other professions where they are working under the primary medical care contracts will be included in the scheme. The scheme will also include work delivered under the primary medical care contracts that are delivered in secure environments; and
- The current intention is that the scheme will exclude NHS primary care dentistry and private dentistry, private healthcare and community pharmacy and optometry.

■ **General Practitioners: Training**

Luciana Berger:

[\[153254\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what plans the Government has to expand mental health training as part of the GP training programme.

Jackie Doyle-Price:

All general practitioners (GPs) receive mental health training as part of their postgraduate general practice training, based on curricula set by the Royal College of General Practitioners, to standards set by the General Medical Council.

Health Education England (HEE) is currently looking at ways to provide further additional training as part of the Foundation Programme whilst also ensuring a balanced curriculum given the wide range of skills and experience GPs need to gain in their education and training.

■ **General Practitioners: Waiting Lists**

Grahame Morris:

[\[152733\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what the average waiting time is for a patient to receive a GP appointment in (a) England, (b) County Durham and (c) Easington constituency.

Grahame Morris:

[\[152734\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if will he introduce a maximum waiting time target for patients to receive a GP appointment.

Steve Brine:

The average waiting time for a general practitioner (GP) appointment is not collected or held centrally. In the 2017 GP patient survey 70.8% of respondents (who could remember whether or not they were able to get an appointment, and when they

wanted the appointment) stated they saw or spoke to someone at a time they wanted to or sooner. NHS England is working with NHS Digital to consider ways of improving the availability and quality of GP data, including waiting times data.

The Department currently has no plans to introduce a maximum waiting time. However, efforts are being made to ensure everyone has easier and more convenient access to GP services, including appointments at evenings and weekends. The latest National Health Service planning guidance, published by NHS England in February 2018, confirmed that more than half the country is now benefitting from improved access, including access to pre-bookable and same day appointments on weekday evenings and at weekends, and these will be available across the whole country by October this year.

■ Health Professions: Operating Theatres

Andrew Selous:

[\[153221\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment he has made of the the potential merits of NHS England making huddles mandatory for all medical staff at the start of the day in operating theatres.

Caroline Dineneage:

The use of the World Health Organization (WHO) safety checklist for surgical interventions is universally acknowledged to be best practice and is well supported by the relevant Royal Colleges and professional associations. Trusts are expected to track performance against elements and stages of the checklist. There are three stages: 'sign in', 'time out' and 'sign out'.

Huddles correspond to the 'time out' stage of checklist completion. Failure to use this part of the checklist would be flagged through Care Quality Commission inspection or staff concerns, and would be viewed by NHS Improvement as a serious deficiency in a trust's safety standards.

However, as with a number of procedures that are considered best practice, mandating the WHO safety checklist for all surgical interventions across the whole of the health service at all times could give rise to unintended risk on those occasions when there is a need to act immediately to save life and a delay in surgical action could be detrimental.

■ Health Professions: Vacancies

Steve McCabe:

[\[153180\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment he has made of the effect of changes in the level of workforce vacancies on patient care; and if he will support doctors reaching retirement to continue working if they wish by promoting flexible working opportunities.

Stephen Barclay:

There is no historic robust vacancy data showing changes in the level of workforce vacancies.

The vast majority of patients are continuing to receive world class high quality and prompt care, against a backdrop of increasing demand. The overwhelming majority of patients waiting to start planned treatment are seen and treated within a maximum of 18 weeks, with the current average wait around six weeks if these patients are being treated as an outpatient and 10 weeks if they need to be admitted to hospital.

Employers are responsible for engaging doctors about their plans for retirement as they approach their 'normal pension age'^[1]. The Government is supporting doctors who want to continue working after reaching retirement age by offering a range of flexible options including working fewer days or hours and options to work in less demanding roles involving fewer responsibilities.

The Department published its 'Guidance on the re-employment of staff in receipt of their NHS Pension Scheme benefits' in July 2017. The 'retire and return' policy aims to:

- Enable the National Health Service to retain the skills, knowledge and experience necessary to deliver patient care;
- Help support the health and wellbeing of older staff as they approach retirement and wish to continue working; and
- Ensure that the overall workforce costs are managed in line with budgets.

Employers should have clear policies and procedures to deal with 'retire and return' applications, so they can demonstrate they have considered business and financial needs when assessing cases. Other flexible retirement options exist to support NHS staff that are approaching or working beyond normal pension age.

More details are available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/re-employing-staff-who-receive-an-nhs-pension>

NHS Digital publish figures on advertised posts, derived from 'NHS Jobs', the recruitment website used by NHS trusts, and NHS Improvement has begun a monthly collection of staff vacancies from NHS providers which, since September 2017, is published in their quarterly report of the NHS provider sector. Seasonal effects have a large impact on vacancies and as a time series of this data is not yet available, we are currently unable to accurately interpret the data for these effects, making meaningful conclusions hard to draw.

NHS Digital are actively working with NHS Improvement and others to define and publish the various data on a more consistent basis.

Notes:

¹ Normal pension ages in the NHS Pension scheme are 60, 65 and state pension age for the 1995, 2008 and 2015 NHS Pension Schemes respectively.

■ Health Professions: West Midlands

Steve McCabe: [\[153179\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment he has made of the effect on the quality of patient care of gaps in rotas for higher speciality trainees in hospitals in the West Midlands.

Stephen Barclay:

Responsibility for staffing levels, including the specialty staff, rests with individual National Health Service trusts and their boards who are best placed to decide how many staff they need to provide a given service.

Rotas and any gaps are managed and quality assured by trusts, supported by NHS Improvement and assessed by the Care Quality Commission.

Training programme fill rates vary from specialty to specialty.

■ Homelessness: Death

Matt Western: [\[153425\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many official reviews have been launched into the death of a homeless person since 2010.

Jackie Doyle-Price:

The information on official reviews into homeless deaths is not held.

■ Human Papillomavirus: Vaccination

Mrs Sharon Hodgson: [\[153226\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation's meeting on 6 June 2018, whether his Department has received a recommendation on HPV vaccination for adolescent boys.

Steve Brine:

As of 18 June 2018, the Department has not received the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation's final advice on human papillomavirus vaccination for adolescent boys. The Department expects to receive this advice soon and will consider this as a matter of priority.

■ Mental Health Services: Children

Mr William Wragg: [\[152206\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what estimate he has made of the cost of NHS mental health treatment for children aged (a) 0 up to 4 years, (b) 4 up to 11 years and (c) 11 to 16 years in each of the last five years.

Jackie Doyle-Price:

This information is not collected in the format requested.

The Five Year Forward View Dashboard tracks expenditure for mental health at a national, regional and clinical commissioning group level and is available at:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/mental-health-five-year-forward-view-dashboard>

■ **Naloxone: Prisoners**

Grahame Morris: [153247]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, which prisons in England provide Naloxone to prisoners at the point of release.

Jackie Doyle-Price:

This information is not currently collected centrally. However these data are due to be published in 2019.

■ **Pharmacy**

Mr Jim Cunningham: [152637]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many pharmacies there have been in England in each year since 2010.

Steve Brine:

The information requested is in the following table.

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY PHARMACIES IN ENGLAND FOR 2007/08 TO 2016/17

	Number of community pharmacies
2007/08	10,312
2008/09	10,506
2009/10	10,691
2010/11	10,951
2011/12	11,236
2012/13	11,495
2013/14	11,647
2014/15	11,674
2015/16	11,688
2016/17	11,699

Source: NHS Digital

■ Pregnancy: Drugs

Andrew Selous: [\[152681\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment he has made of the effect of substance abuse by women during pregnancy on a child's health.

Steve Brine:

No specific assessment has been made. However, using illegal or street drugs during pregnancy, including cannabis, ecstasy, cocaine and heroin, can have a potentially serious effect on an unborn baby and the advice is to avoid these substances.

Advice about alcohol and drugs is available to pregnant women as part of their routine antenatal care. Pregnant women who misuse alcohol or drugs will be put in contact with a midwife or doctor who has special expertise in the care of pregnant women with alcohol or drug problems. They will be able to refer them to an alcohol or drug treatment programme and other organisations that can help.

■ Pregnancy: Mental Health Services

Dan Jarvis: [\[R\] \[153277\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that more mothers are able to access perinatal mental health services.

Jackie Doyle-Price:

This Government is committed to improving perinatal mental health services for women during pregnancy and in the first postnatal year, so that women are able to access the right care at the right time and close to home.

The Department is investing £365 million by 2020/21 in perinatal mental health services. This investment will ensure that by 2020/21 at least 30,000 more women each year will be able to access evidence-based specialist mental health care during the perinatal period. This includes access to psychological therapies and specialist community or inpatient care.

A key element of the programme is to increase awareness and skills across the workforce, supporting better identification of perinatal mental illness, early intervention and consequently improved recovery rates.

■ Prisoners: Suicide

Luciana Berger: [\[153257\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many self-inflicted deaths there were of former prisoners in England within 14 days of their release in 2017.

Jackie Doyle-Price:

The information requested is not collected centrally.

■ Prisons: Drugs

Luciana Berger:

[\[153256\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how much has been spent from the public purse on drug rehabilitation services in prisons in the most recent financial year for which information is available.

Jackie Doyle-Price:

Due to the integrated approach to prison healthcare services commissioning by NHS England, this information is not available in the format requested.

■ Prisons: Mental Health Services

Luciana Berger:

[\[153255\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many people have been employed by mental health in-reach teams in prisons in the most recent financial year for which information is available.

Jackie Doyle-Price:

The information requested is not collected centrally.

■ Social Services: Pay

Sir Nicholas Soames:

[\[153159\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, when he plans to make a decision on backdated sleep-in payments.

Caroline Dinanage:

The Government recognises the pressure that sleep-ins back pay liabilities are placing on providers of social care. Any decisions required will be made in due course, ahead of this the Government is exploring options to minimise any impact on the sector.

■ Vertex

Ian Austin:

[\[150619\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether he or a Minister of his Department has (a) met and (b) plans to meet representatives of Vertex Pharmaceuticals; and if he will make a statement.

Steve Brine:

The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Lord O'Shaughnessy) met with representatives from Vertex in October 2017.

The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and I wrote to Vertex in April following a Westminster Hall debate, to encourage the company to work with NHS England on a proposal that represents value to the National Health Service and the taxpayer.

■ Young Offenders: Speech and Language Disorders**Preet Kaur Gill:** [\[153418\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what recent discussions his Department has had with representatives of (a) I CAN and (b) the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists on the Bercow: Ten Years On report, published on 20 March 2018.

Caroline Dineneage:

Officials are arranging a meeting with I CAN and the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists to discuss 'Bercow: Ten Years On'.

Preet Kaur Gill: [\[153419\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will ensure that his Department's response to the consultation Facing the Facts, Shaping the Future – a draft health and care workforce strategy for England to 2027, will take into account the recommendations of the Bercow: Ten Years On report published on 20 March 2018.

Caroline Dineneage:

Health Education England (HEE) published 'Facing the Facts, Shaping the Future' in December 2017. The consultation is now closed and HEE is working with its partners across health and social care to develop a final strategy, which they will publish later this year. 'Bercow: Ten Years On' references the important role that speech and language therapists play in delivering services for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs. HEE's workforce strategy will ensure that there are enough staff, with the right skills and experience, to deliver high quality health and care services over the long term.

HOME OFFICE**■ Aerials****Alan Brown:** [\[152226\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the specification for the new Emergency Services Network (ESN) masts allows adequate physical space to accommodate additional radio (a) equipment, (b) power and (c) broadband connections to link back to core networks for network providers other than EE, who have the contract for the erection of those ESN masts.

Mr Nick Hurd:

To provide the necessary coverage for the emergency services, EE is building over c450 new sites, up to 291 of these new sites will transfer to the Home Office at the end of the contract. Details of these sites can be found on the site sharing website "<https://www.site-share-olo.com>" which is open to mobile network operators (MNOs) to see.

For all new sites being built by EE (for ESN), they are encouraging sharing with the other MNOs through a clear and well-understood industry process, in line with our State Aid requirements.

As you may know the ESN was designed first and foremost to provide a new and modern communications network for the emergency services. However, the Government fully understands that there is a considerable amount of local feeling regarding mobile connectivity.

Therefore, in the most remote and rural areas of Great Britain where the Government will deliver approximately 300 further sites as part of the Extended Area Service (EAS) project, subject to local planning authorities granting planning for lattice mast structures (as opposed to monopoles), many of these EAS sites are also expected to support commercial coverage, where MNOs express an interest in doing so.

The Home Office has shared all provisional locations for these mast structures with all four of the UK's MNOs.

■ Airguns

Peter Kyle:

[\[153408\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when his Department plans to publish the results of its review into air weapons which was launched in December 2017; and what the next steps coming out of that review will be.

Mr Nick Hurd:

The Government announced the review of the regulation of air weapons on 9 October. We received a large number of representations from interested parties and members of the public and we are now considering these carefully. We will publish our findings, including next steps, in due course.

■ Charter for Families Bereaved through Public Tragedy

Paul Flynn:

[\[152666\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department has signed up to the Charter for Families Bereaved through Public Tragedy as recommended in the Hillsborough report.

Mr Nick Hurd:

The twenty-five points of learning, including the Charter, made by Bishop James Jones in his report on the experiences of the Hillsborough families span a number of departments and organisations which are considering their respective responses. The Home Office is coordinating those responses and the Government will therefore provide a full response in due course.

■ Drugs: Misuse**Jeff Smith:**[\[152220\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he plans to use data arising from the legalisation of cannabis in Canada to inform his Department's policy on illicit drugs.

Mr Nick Hurd:

We consider approaches to drug policy from other countries as part of our work in delivering the 2017 Drugs Strategy.

The World Health Organisation's Expert Committee on Drug Dependence has committed to reviewing the scheduling of cannabis under the United Nation's 1961 Convention. This is due to consider the therapeutic use, as well as the dependence and the potential to abuse constituent parts of cannabis. We will await the outcome of this report before considering the next steps.

Norman Lamb:[\[153216\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to page 5 of the Government's Drug Strategy 2017, published on 14 July 2017, what progress he has made on appointing a National Recovery Champion.

Norman Lamb:[\[153217\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to page 5 of the Government's Drug Strategy 2017, published on 14 July 2017, when he plans to appoint a National Recovery Champion.

Victoria Atkins:

A public appointment process is underway to identify a Recovery Champion, who will provide a national voice for the recovery sector. We expect to make an announcement about the role in due course.

■ EU Justice and Home Affairs**Hywel Williams:**[\[152063\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to ensure the maintenance of cooperation with the EU on (a) policing and (b) judicial matter after the UK leaves the EU.

Mr Nick Hurd:

The Prime Minister has made clear that the UK is unconditionally committed to maintaining Europe's security now and after our withdrawal from the EU.

The UK has proposed an ambitious and comprehensive security relationship which preserves mutually important operational capabilities whilst allowing the UK and EU to continue to work together to combat fast evolving security threats.

Our security, law enforcement and criminal justice future partnership paper published last September - and our presentation on the 'Framework for the UK-EU Security

Partnership' published in May - outlined how we are seeking a relationship that provides for practical operational cooperation; facilitates data driven law enforcement; and allows multilateral cooperation through EU agencies.

While the details of our future relationship with the EU is subject to negotiation, this pragmatic solution is in the interests of both EU Member States and the UK and will keep our citizens safe.

■ Home Office: Families

Fiona Bruce:

[\[119116\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 30 November 2017 to Question HL3576, what steps her Department is taking to strengthen families.

Caroline Nokes:

The Home Office has a comprehensive range of policies and measures to strengthen families. These include: Ability to marry and forced marriage prevention policies that directly support healthy couple formation, facilitating civil ceremonies beyond register offices, marriages in accordance with religious beliefs, same sex marriage, data sharing on marriage services, and protection against coercion.

Birth and marriage registration policies that directly support co-parenting, facilitating both parents being able to acknowledge parental responsibility in a range of scenarios, and which allow children to know both their parents.

Birth legislation and policy that supports the inclusion of fathers' details in all birth registrations, as far as practicable. Immigration family policy that helps avoid family breakdown by allowing non-EEA partners, children, parents and adult dependents to join or remain in the UK with a British citizen or person settled in the UK.

Domestic abuse policy that indirectly helps reduce family breakdown, supporting victims and their families who have suffered abuse, and ensuring perpetrators are dealt with effectively. Until 2020, the Government is providing £100 million of dedicated funding for tackling violence against women and girls, and the number of domestic abuse victims across the country has been steadily falling.

Fiona Bruce:

[\[119216\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, to which legislation her Department has applied the Family Test, published in August 2014.

Caroline Nokes:

The Home Office applies the Family Test, if sensible and proportionate, to new policies and legislation that might have an impact on the family, to ensure strong and stable family relationships are supported, not undermined. The Government's guidance on the family test is available on Gov.uk.

■ Human Trafficking

Vernon Coaker: [R] [\[149915\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether any guidance is in place for the police on the positive obligation to investigate allegations of trafficking; and if he will make a statement.

Victoria Atkins:

In line with other crimes, there is a positive obligation on police to record allegations of modern slavery under the National Crime Recording Standards. Once recorded, all crimes must be assessed, which constitutes an investigation.

The College of Policing Approved Professional Practice (APP) provides guidance to forces regarding modern slavery investigations. Through the Police Transformation Fund modern slavery typology-specific guides are being developed to assist investigating officers further, based on debriefs of investigations, academic sources and professionals.

■ Immigrants: Caribbean

Gareth Snell: [\[139024\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department sought advice from the National Archives in advance of the destruction of records on the Windrush generation.

Caroline Nokes:

No decision was taken to destroy 'Windrush migrant' information specifically and records were not categorised as being related to a 'Windrush migrant' or the 'Windrush generation'. Any Windrush papers would have been destroyed in line with the retention and disposal periods set for the wider records collections in which they were located.

Gareth Snell: [\[139025\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what advice her Department requested from the National Archives on the (a) disposal and (b) destruction of Windrush generation records in advance of the destruction of those records.

Caroline Nokes:

No decision was taken to destroy 'Windrush migrant' information specifically and records were not categorised as being related to a 'Windrush migrant' or the 'Windrush generation'. Any Windrush papers would have been destroyed in line with the retention and disposal periods set for the wider records collections in which they were located.

Gareth Snell: [\[139027\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, who ordered a review of the Windrush papers prior to their disposal; when that review was carried out; and what the criteria for that review were.

Caroline Nokes:

No decision was taken to destroy Windrush information specifically. Immigration records are destroyed in line with the retention and disposal policy. Retention and disposal periods are set on the basis of business need and whether they are likely to be of historical interest.

■ Immigration: Biometrics**Jessica Morden:**[\[128846\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of people born outside the EU who have been residing in the UK since before 2008 who have settlement visas but do not have biometric residency permits.

Jessica Morden:[\[128858\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her Department's policy is on providing biometric residency permits to UK residents who are victims of domestic violence and have indefinite leave to remain but have had their proof of identity and passport vignette destroyed by their ex-partner and as a result are unable to receive benefits or be employed.

Jessica Morden:[\[128865\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her Department's policy is on assistance with the fee for processing a biometric residency permit where the person has indefinite leave to remain.

Caroline Nokes:

We have no current estimate for the number of non-EU nationals born outside the UK who have been residing here since before 2008 with settlement visas but who have not obtained a biometric residence permit (BRP).

The fees for immigration documents are set out in schedule 3 to [The Immigration and Nationality \(Fees\) Regulations 2018](#).

Foreign nationals who are eligible to apply under the domestic violence provisions may, if proven to be destitute, apply for a fee waiver to lodge an application which, if granted, will result in a BRP without being charged.

■ Organised Crime: Drugs**Vernon Coaker:**[\[R\] \[153187\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the number of children involved in County Lines.

Victoria Atkins:

The National Crime Agency's most recent threat assessment of county lines, published in November 2017, sets out the most up to date analysis of the threat posed by county lines. This includes the number of 'deal lines' and children being exploited through this form of drug dealing. The report is clear that an intelligence gap

remains and further work is needed to determine the true nature and scale of children and vulnerable adults being exploited through county lines, although it is estimated to be in the thousands.

A more detailed intelligence picture will be generated as part of the work of the new National County Lines Co-ordination Centre, which was announced as part of the Serious Violence Strategy and which is expected to be fully operational later this year.

■ Overseas Students and Migrant Workers: Universities

Layla Moran:

[152285]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many foreign (a) members of staff and (b) students have been reported to the UK Border Agency for failure to declare their (i) attendance and (ii) time spent off campus to their academic institution in the last two years.

Caroline Nokes:

Guidance for universities on fulfilling their responsibilities towards international employees and students on sponsored visas is available on the UK Visas and Immigration website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sponsor-a-tier-2-or-5-worker-guidance-for-employers> and <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sponsor-a-tier-4-student-guidance-for-educators> respectively.

Information on the number of foreign members of staff and students reported to UK immigration authorities for failing to declare their attendance and time spent off campus is not collated on Home Office systems in a manner which can be reported on, and to do so could only be achieved at disproportionate cost by examination of thousands of records.

■ Police: Ethnic Groups

Lady Hermon:

[153211]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of police officers are from minority ethnic communities.

Mr Nick Hurd:

The Home Office collects and publishes data on the ethnicity of the police officers on an annual basis. The latest data show that as at 31 March 2017, 6.3% of police officers in the 43 police forces in England and Wales were from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) backgrounds.

The latest available data are published in the 'Police Workforce, England and Wales, 31 March 2017' statistical bulletin:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-workforce-england-and-wales-31-march-2017>

Data, broken down by Police Force Area, can be found in Table D1 of the accompanying data tables.

The data can also be found on the police.uk website:

<https://www.police.uk/metropolitan/E05000148/performance/diversity/>

■ Police: Training

Louise Haigh: [152234]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Government's announcement of 11 June 2018 of its launching a national detective programme, what the planned starting salary is of detectives who have completed the 12 weeks of training required.

Louise Haigh: [152235]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the announcement of 11 June 2018 on the launch of the national detective training programme, what the planned cost to the public purse is of the (a) recruitment of and (b) 12 weeks' training for 1,000 detectives on the Police Now programme.

Mr Nick Hurd:

This Government has granted Police Now seed funding to develop a detective recruitment and training programme. The costs of recruitment and training are being considered as part of the development and design of the programme. Planned starting salaries for detectives on this scheme will follow the national pay scale. The basic starting salary is between £19,971 and £23,124, depending on skills and experience.

Louise Haigh: [152804]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to his Department's press release of 11 June 2018 on the launch of the National Detective Training Programme, from which Department budget the £350,000 will be allocated.

Louise Haigh: [152805]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what funding his Department has allocated to the charity Police Now in (a) 2018 and (b) 2019.

Mr Nick Hurd:

This Government has granted Police Now £350,000 in seed funding to develop a detective recruitment and training programme. This is being allocated from the Crime, Policing and Fire Directorate budget. Police Now has been allocated a further £2.8m in funding in 2018/19.

■ Shoplifting

Sir Mark Hendrick: [151401]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to shoplifting data provided from police statistics on shoplifting on trends in the incidence of shoplifting in

Lancashire over 2017-18, reported on by Onbuy on 25 May 2018, what support is given to retailers to counter losses occasioned by shoplifting; and what strategies are planned to reduce the number of shoplifting offences.

Victoria Atkins:

The analysis of shoplifting offences provided by the online retail marketplace, Onbuy, is based on reports of these crimes to the police. According to Police Recorded Crime data published by the Office for National Statistics, shoplifting offences increased by 13 per cent in the year to December 2017, compared to the year to December 2016.

The Government recognises the impact that shoplifting has, not only on retailers, but also on the wider community. We therefore encourage all retailers to report these incidents to the police when they occur, so that they can be investigated and, where appropriate, the offenders brought to justice.

At the national level, I co-chair the National Retail Crime Steering Group, with the British Retail Consortium. This brings together representatives from government departments, the police and the retail sector so that we can focus collectively on the crime issues that affect the retail sector. We have discussed different approaches to preventing and tackling shoplifting as part of the work of the Steering Group, to help to reduce both the incidence of these crimes and the costs of these crimes to retailers.

Sir Henry Bellingham:

[151407]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of changes in the level of shop theft in England and Wales in the last three years; and what role (a) the government (b) Police and Crime Commissioners and (c) local police forces can play to tackle the root causes of such theft.

Victoria Atkins:

Statistics on shoplifting offences reported to the police are recorded in the crime statistics published by the Office for National Statistics. The statistics can be accessed via their website at www.ons.gov.uk.

The Home Office Commercial Victimisation Survey 2016 provides an analysis of crimes against businesses and shows that crimes against the wholesale and retail sector fell between 2012 and 2014, followed by a small increase between 2014 and 2016. According to the Survey, 67 per cent of the crimes against the sector in 2016 were shoplifting incidents.

As part of the response to these crimes, we encourage all retailers to report shoplifting to the police whenever it occurs, so that these crimes can be investigated and, where appropriate, the offenders brought to justice. It must, however, remain a matter for chief constables and Police and Crime Commissioners, as operational leaders and elected local representatives, to decide how best to deploy resources to respond to these crimes. At the national level, the police, Police and Crime Commissioners, relevant government departments and the retail sector are all

represented on the National Retail Crime Steering Group, which ensures a collaborative response to crimes that affect the retail sector.

■ Terrorism: Manchester Arena

Grahame Morris:

[\[153244\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what support the Government has provided to the families and victims of the Manchester Arena bombing (a) in the aftermath of and (b) as continuing support since that attack.

Victoria Atkins:

In March 2017, we established a cross-HMG Victims of Terrorism Unit (VTU) to co-ordinate support to UK citizens directly affected by terrorist events at home or overseas. Following the Manchester Arena attack, the unit was stood up for the first time to ensure that support to victims was comprehensive, coordinated and clearly communicated.

Within hours of the attack, we developed a gov.uk page to provide comprehensive advice to victims and to signpost them to those support services available from HMG, Police, voluntary sector organisations and local structures. We worked with Manchester City Council, the Manchester Local Resilience Forum, the Mayor's Office and the Manchester Recovery Co-ordination and Humanitarian Assistance Group, offering HMG support and assistance. We wrote out to local authorities, GPs and schools setting out the support available to victims and those affected. We also changed regulations to ensure that payments from the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund did not affect means tested benefits and services.

The Government has also committed to providing funding of over £24m to Manchester, which includes millions of pounds to fund and support NHS physical and mental health services, and over £1m to the We Love Manchester Fund.

We continue to work across Government, including with third sector and private sector organisations, to improve and strengthen the support available so that victims receive the best possible support, now and in the future.

■ Young Offenders

Sir Mike Penning:

[\[151411\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the level of youth crime was in England and Wales in each year since 2010; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Nick Hurd:

The Home Office publish police recorded crime and outcomes open data on a quarterly basis but this does not provide a breakdown by the age of the suspect.

The Ministry of Justice and the Youth Justice Board publish statistics on young people (aged 10 to 17) receiving cautions and convictions at court and the latest statistics can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/criminal-justice-system-statistics-quarterly-december-2017>

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

■ Angus Sinclair

Andrew Bridgen: [\[151424\]](#)

To ask the right hon. Member for Carshalton and Wallington, representing the House of Commons Commission, whether the redundancy payment paid to Angus Sinclair was in line with the Civil Service Compensation Scheme rules.

Tom Brake:

The exit payment made to Angus Sinclair was in line with the Civil Service Compensation Scheme rules. The House of Commons was not a member of the Civil Service pension arrangements until 2014, but prior to this date it had a ‘by-analogy’ scheme that followed the same rules.

HOUSING, COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

■ Building Regulations

Ronnie Cowan: [\[151431\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what information his Department holds on whether Competent Persons Schemes are incorporating compliance with Construction Products Regulations within their inspection criteria to ensure that any non-compliant or illegal products are not being signed off or overlooked under the overall umbrella of Building Regulations; and if he will make a statement.

Dominic Raab:

Competent person schemes operate under a set of Conditions of Authorisation. One of the Conditions requires them to monitor compliance of their registered installers with the requirements of the Building Regulations 2010. It does not require them to monitor compliance with the Construction Products Regulations. Trading standards bodies are responsible for enforcing Construction Products Regulations requirements.

■ Garden Communities

Priti Patel: [\[151420\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with reference to the New Town Acts 1981 (Local Authority Oversight) Regulations 2018, what

guidance he plans to publish on the maximum tolerable levels of borrowing for (a) local authorities and (b) oversight authorities in respect of the establishment of New Town Development Corporations for garden town and garden village developments.

Dominic Raab:

I refer the Rt Hon Member to my answer of 13 June to Question UIN 151414.

■ Homelessness: Death

Matt Western:

[\[153423\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, how many homeless people have died in each year since 2010; and what steps his Department is taking to ensure the accuracy of the recording of the death of homeless people.

Nigel Adams:

This Department does not collect data on deaths of people sleeping rough.

We are however currently exploring potential mechanisms for capturing this information alongside other Government departments.

Local areas and homelessness services often hold detailed information about the people who sleep rough in their area, including information about rough sleepers who have died, where this information is available to them.

The Rough Sleeping Strategy to be published in July will set out this Government's plans to halve rough sleeping by 2022, end it by 2027 and shape service provision in the long term.

■ Housing

Grahame Morris:

[\[151147\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what assessment he has made of the effect of demographic changes on the housing requirements in (a) urban and (b) rural areas.

Dominic Raab:

Housing requirements are the responsibility of local planning authorities and should take into account both demographic changes and the needs of different areas.

■ Housing: Construction

Alex Chalk:

[\[150717\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps the Government is taking to (a) support and (b) incentivise local authorities to go further than their duty to hold a self-build register and actively bring forward sites for self-build properties.

Dominic Raab:

The Department has published comprehensive planning guidance to support authorities in taking forward their duties under the Self-build and Custom Housebuilding legislation. MHCLG is also providing a total of £95,850 new burdens funding to each relevant authority over 3 years to set up the register and deliver permissions suitable for self and custom build housing.

The Department is supporting the National Custom and Self Build Association's Right to Build Task Force which aims to help local authorities, community groups and other organisations across the UK deliver large, affordable custom and self-build housing projects. Officials have also delivered a programme of regional workshops for local authorities to assist them in discharging their duties and we will continue to assess what more the Department can do in this area.

Housing: Construction Methods**Karen Lee:****[152289]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps he is taking to ensure that the fire risks associated with properties built using modern methods of construction are fully assessed in the (a) design, (b) construction and (c) inhabitation phase of those properties.

Dominic Raab:

New buildings constructed using modern methods of construction must comply with Building Regulations' requirements. These are written in performance terms to allow for different methods of construction. The developer is responsible for ensuring compliance with Building Regulations. The independent review of Building Regulations and fire safety has made a series of recommendations about the regulatory system. The Government supports the principles behind those recommendations and will set out in the Autumn how it intends to implement the new regulatory system.

Housing: Multiple Occupation**Jo Stevens:****[152795]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, how many houses in multiple occupation there have been in each year since 2013.

Dominic Raab:

[Holding answer 15 June 2018]: An estimate of houses in multiple occupation in England is publicly available in the Local Authority Housing Statistic (LAHS) return Section F Question 8 <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-authority-housing-data>.

These are estimated figures for the number of Houses in Multiple Occupation in England only, information relating to other parts of the United Kingdom is the responsibility of the relevant devolved administration.

■ Leasehold

Royston Smith:

[\[152811\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what powers leaseholders have to challenge the actions of property management companies.

Mrs Heather Wheeler:

Leaseholders can challenge the action of a property management company in a number of ways, including:

- by making a formal complaint through their managing agent's complaints procedure;
- by making a complaint to one of the Government-recognised redress schemes; and
- by exercising their 'right to manage'.

In addition, where there is evidence of significant failings by the managing agent, leaseholders can ask the First-Tier Tribunal to appoint a new property manager.

We recognise there is more that can be done to help leaseholders challenge poor management practice. That is why on 1 April we announced plans to give leaseholders greater ability to do so. We will be improving the presentation of service charges so they can be better understood and more easily challenged. We want to empower leaseholders to switch managing agents where they perform poorly or break the terms of their contract.

■ Local Government Finance

Giles Watling:

[\[905895\]](#)

What steps his Department is taking to ensure fairness in the allocation of funding to local government.

Rishi Sunak:

We are undertaking a Fair Funding Review of local authorities' relative needs and resources to address concerns about the fairness of the current system.

We are making good progress, in collaboration with the sector, in order to introduce a simpler, fair and transparent funding formula.

■ Local Government Finance: Essex

Priti Patel:

[\[151418\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what estimate he has made of the maximum acceptable capital borrowing limits for (a) Colchester Borough and (b) Braintree District Council.

Rishi Sunak:

Local authorities can borrow, without prior Government consent subject only to assuring themselves that their borrowing is affordable. In assessing affordability of

borrowing local authorities are required to have regard to the Prudential Code published by The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. Every local authority's affordable borrowing limit is published as part of the Government's official statistics.

■ Mobile Homes: Sales

Layla Moran: [\[152280\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, if he will bring forward legislative proposals to reduce the commission rate payable on the sale of a park home.

Dominic Raab:

The Government is aware of the concerns amongst those living in park homes about the commission rate payable on sale. In our recent summary of responses to the Review of Park Homes legislation, issued last month, we agreed to give further consideration to this issue. My officials are currently collating the relevant evidence.

■ New Towns

Priti Patel: [\[151413\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, whether the guidance he plans to publish in respect of the draft New Town Acts 1981 (Local Authority Oversight) Regulations 2018 will set out processes to facilitate (a) risk sharing with the private sector and (b) capital investment from the private sector in garden communities.

Priti Patel: [\[151416\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, whether the guidance he plans to publish in respect of the draft New Town Acts 1981 (Local Authority Oversight) Regulations 2018 will cover the involvement of private site promoters and developers in the governance and decision-making functions of the oversight authority.

Priti Patel: [\[151421\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what processes are in place to facilitate private capital and investment under the draft New Town Acts of 1981 (Local Authority Oversight) Regulations 2018.

Priti Patel: [\[151422\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what processes are in place to enable collaboration between (a) prospective developers and (b) local communities in establishing a master-plan under the draft New Town Acts 1981 (Local Authority Oversight) Regulations 2018.

Dominic Raab:

We consider the private sector to be a crucial partner in the delivery of new settlements, including any new towns that may be created using the New Towns Act 1981 (Local Authority Oversight) Regulations 2018. As part of process to designate a new town and create a locally-led new town development corporation, applying local authorities will need to provide a sustainable financial strategy to Government, including setting out how they will leverage in private sector investment. This will be considered by the Secretary of State when deciding whether designation of the new town is expedient in the national interest.

The guidance to accompany the New Towns Act 1981 (Local Authority Oversight) Regulations 2018, which will be published shortly, will also provide details on the involvement of private sector representatives in the governance of locally-led new town development corporations, and participation by local communities.

Priti Patel:[\[151417\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with reference to the draft New Town Acts 1981 (Local Authority Oversight) Regulations by what mechanisms will (a) the oversight authorities and (b) New Town Developments Corporations be accountable to constituent local authorities.

Dominic Raab:

We are clear that a locally led New Town Development Corporation will only be created where this has the express support of and is requested by all the local authorities, including in two tier areas the county council, covering the area to be designated for the new town. Any body created through these Regulations will be overseen by an oversight authority comprised of one or more local authorities appointed by the Secretary of State to oversee the development of the new town.

We will shortly be publishing guidance to accompany the Regulations that will provide further details on the mechanisms for ensuring appropriate local authority oversight of locally led New Town Development Corporations.

Priti Patel:[\[151419\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with reference to the New Town Acts 1981 (Local Authority Oversight) Regulations 2018, when he plans to publish the accompanying guidance on those regulations.

Dominic Raab:

We will be publishing guidance on the New Towns Act 1981 (Local Authority Oversight) Regulations 2018 shortly. The guidance will provide details of the process for designating a new town and establishing a locally-led new town development corporation, as well as information on governance arrangements; stewardship and community engagement; making plans for development and other areas.

■ New Towns: Essex**Priti Patel:**[\[151415\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, whether and for what purposes he plans to provide additional funding for (a) Colchester Borough Council, (b) Braintree District Council and (c) the North East Garden Communities Ltd in respect of garden community proposals; and if he will make a statement.

Dominic Raab:

The Government's Garden Towns and Villages programme provides capacity funding to local authorities leading garden community projects. This helps to fund dedicated staff teams and key studies and assessments to underpin delivery of garden settlements. Funding is allocated on the basis of a competitive bidding process that is open to all local authorities with projects that have previously been selected to be part of the Garden Towns and Villages programme.

■ Planning Permission: Fees and Charges**Robert Neill:**[\[905890\]](#)

What assessment his Department has made of the effect of recent changes to the level of fees for planning applications on the capacity of local authorities to process such applications.

Dominic Raab:

In introducing the 20 per cent increase in planning fees in January, all local planning authorities committed to ring-fence this additional income to increase the capacity of their planning departments. Based on current activity the uplift in planning fees could generate over £75 million of additional fee income annually for local authorities. This is equal to the average salary of approximately 1600 planners and other professionals who play a role in the planning process.

■ Social Rented Housing: Fire Prevention**Helen Hayes:**[\[152253\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what the timetable is for (a) local authorities and (b) housing associations to access the funding for the removal and replacement of unsafe cladding announced by the Government on 16 May 2018.

Dominic Raab:

Local authorities and housing associations must remove dangerous Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) cladding quickly. We want to get funding to local authorities and housing associations as soon as possible. We will announce more details shortly about how local authorities and housing associations can apply for funding, including conditions attached to the grant.

Helen Hayes:

[\[152254\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, pursuant to his oral contribution of 16 May 2018, Official Report, column 317, for the removal and replacement of what types of unsafe cladding he plans to allocate funding to local authorities and housing associations.

Dominic Raab:

The Government will fully fund the removal and replacement of dangerous Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) cladding, of the types which have failed large scale tests, on residential buildings over 18 metres owned by social landlords, with costs estimated at £400 million.

Helen Hayes:

[\[152255\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, whether (a) local authorities and (b) housing associations will be able to apply retrospectively for funding for works already carried out to remove unsafe cladding from tower blocks.

Dominic Raab:

Yes, the Government will fully fund the removal and replacement of dangerous Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) cladding on residential buildings over 18 metres owned by social landlords, regardless of whether or not the work has been completed.

■ **Unitary Councils: Somerset**

Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger:

[\[151403\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, how many meetings Ministers and officials of his Department have had with officials and members of Somerset County Council; and what correspondence his Department has had with Somerset County Council on unitary status in the last six months.

Rishi Sunak:

Ministers and officials regularly have correspondence and discussions with local authorities about a wide range of issues, which may include reorganisation from a two tier structure to unitary status. Such correspondence has recently included a letter from the Leader of Somerset County Council asking for a meeting to discuss his early thinking on restructuring.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

■ **Bangladesh: Rohingya**

Sarah Champion:

[\[153285\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, pursuant to the Answer of 26 April 2018 to Question 136643 on Bangladesh: Rohingya, if she will make representations to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh supporting the UNHCR request that

more flat land be made available to relocate families who are in danger of the effects of monsoons in that country.

Alistair Burt:

The Secretary of State for International Development and Foreign Secretary wrote a joint letter on 20 March to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, asking her to save as many lives as possible by allocating additional land at lower risk of flooding and landslides, reducing density in the existing camps, and having evacuation plans in place. Minister Field made the same request to Minister of State Shahriar Alam on 27 March, and to Foreign Minister Ali on 19 April.

Following a visit by the United Nations Security Council to Bangladesh and Burma from 28 April – 1 May, we supported a UNSC press statement encouraging the international community to increase support to the Government of Bangladesh for emergency preparedness measures. We continue to work with the Government of Bangladesh and international agencies to support.

■ **Central African Republic: Armed Conflict and Food**

Tom Brake:

[\[153163\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps the Government taking to help tackle starvation and conflict in the Central African Republic.

Harriett Baldwin:

The UK is one of the largest donors to the Central African Republic crisis and is contributing £40 million in life-saving humanitarian aid between 2016 and 2019. Our support is helping to prevent malnutrition in 100,000 people and is assisting some 300,000 people to restart their livelihoods and grow their own crops.

■ **Yemen: Ports**

Jim Shannon:

[\[152176\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what recent assessment her Department has made of the potential humanitarian effect of a military assault on Hodeidah port in Yemen.

Alistair Burt:

The UN assesses that an attack on Hodeidah could displace up to 350,000 people and leave hundreds of thousands of Yemenis without access to basic goods, water or healthcare, with any long-term closure of Hodeidah port likely to put over 3 million more people at risk of starvation. Already 8.4 million people face extreme food shortages.

The UK government has been clear in expressing its concerns to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates about any attack on Hodeidah. We urge all parties to the conflict to exercise restraint and to continue to facilitate access for essential commercial and humanitarian imports of food, fuel and medical supplies into the country, including through Hodeidah port.

Jim Shannon:

[152179]

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps her Department is taking to increase food, medicine and fuel supplies to Hodeidah port.

Alistair Burt:

The UK government has been clear in expressing its concerns about any attack on Hodeidah, and is actively calling on all parties to the conflict to continue to facilitate access for essential commercial and humanitarian imports of food, fuel and medical supplies into the country, including through Hodeidah port.

The UK government has worked closely with partners to assess how an attack on Hodeidah might affect the delivery of commercial and humanitarian goods (including food, medicine and fuel) to those in need. The UN's Yemen Humanitarian Pooled Fund – to which the UK has provided £15m so far this year – has launched a reserve allocation for the procurement of essential goods for Hodeidah, including a \$6 million contribution to the World Food Programme to fund the procurement of 600,000 immediate response rations as well as \$2m for high protein biscuits to meet needs across Yemen including in Hodeidah.

We continue to provide expertise and funding to the UN Verification and Inspection Mechanism (UNVIM) to facilitate commercial imports of food and fuel into Hodeidah and Saleef ports and to provide assurances to the Saudi-led Coalition that shipments are legitimate and not a threat to their national security.

Dan Carden:

[153433]

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what assessment her Department has made of the humanitarian effect of the military assault on Hodeidah port in Yemen.

Alistair Burt:

The UN estimates that an attack on Hodeidah could displace up to 350,000 people and leave hundreds of thousands of Yemenis without access to basic goods, water or healthcare, with any long-term closure of Hodeidah port likely to put over 3 million more people at risk of starvation. 8.4 million people already face extreme food shortages across the country.

We are in regular contact with the Coalition about the need to ensure that any military operations in and around Hodeidah are conducted in accordance with international humanitarian law, including on the protection of civilians, and do not disrupt commercial and humanitarian flows through the port. We continue to call on all parties to the conflict in Yemen to allow full and unhindered commercial and humanitarian access for food, fuel and medical supplies throughout Yemen.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

■ Department for International Trade: Brexit

Rushanara Ali: **[151167]**

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, pursuant to the oral evidence of the Permanent Secretary of HMRC of 23 May and 5 June 2018 to the Treasury Committee, whether he has seen briefing papers on the estimated figures of £17-20 billion on the costs of the maximum facilitation model; and what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of those estimates.

Greg Hands:

The analysis to support the estimated £17-20 billion figure was published in a letter by the Chief Executive of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs to the Treasury Select Committee on 5 June 2018.

■ Department for International Trade: International Fur Trade Federation

Dr David Drew: **[152043]**

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what meetings have taken place between Ministers or officials of his Department and representatives of the International Fur Traders Association since his Department was established to date.

Graham Stuart:

Details of the meetings held by the Department for International Trade (DIT) Ministers are published on the Gov.UK website and can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?departments%5B%5D=department-for-international-trade&publication_type=transparency-data

Below ministerial level, officials routinely meet trade representatives from a wide range of sectors with a diverse range of interests as part of general engagement activities of the department.

No DIT Ministers have met directly with the International Fur Traders Association.

■ EU Law and Treaties

Tom Brake: **[153169]**

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what assessment his Department has made of the legality of using Article 31 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties to continue existing treaties with third party nations once the UK has left the EU.

Greg Hands:

The proposed approach to continuing existing EU international agreements during the implementation period, is based on the terms of the draft Withdrawal Agreement and on principles of public international law. The draft Withdrawal Agreement provides that Union law - including EU international agreements - will continue to apply to and in the UK during the implementation period. The footnote to article 124(1) of the draft Withdrawal Agreement, provides that the EU will notify the other

parties to those agreements that during the implementation period, the United Kingdom is to be treated as a Member State for the purposes of those agreements and we continue to engage closely with our international partners in relation to this. This approach would provide a basis for continuity throughout the implementation period and aims to allow businesses and citizens to operate as they do now in respect of these agreements.

■ **Import Duties: USA**

Bill Esterson: [\[152147\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what assessment he has made of the strength of the EU complaint to the WTO on the introduction of US trade tariffs; and whether the Government plans to support that complaint.

Bill Esterson: [\[152149\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what steps he is taking to support the European Commission in its WTO case against the US administration's introduction of trade tariffs.

Greg Hands:

We consider the US decision to apply tariffs to steel and aluminium imports from the EU, on national security grounds to have weak foundations in international law.

Ministers and officials have been, and will continue to be in close contact with their EU counterparts, through bilateral conversations and in the relevant Council bodies.

The UK, through its membership of the EU, has supported the WTO action initiated by the EU. The UK has always been a staunch defender of the rules-based international trading system.

■ **Poultry: Trade Agreements**

Bill Esterson: [\[152146\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what steps his Department is taking to protect the UK poultry meat sector from lower quality, cheaper imports in future trade negotiations.

Greg Hands:

Any future trade agreements must work for UK producers, businesses, and consumers, and uphold the UK's high levels of food safety, animal welfare standards, and environmental protection.

When it comes to products imported to the UK, quality and safety will continue to be paramount. Without exception, imports must meet all the relevant UK product rules and regulations.

■ Trade Promotion: Commonwealth

Ben Bradley:

[\[151248\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what steps he is taking to support small and medium-sized businesses to trade with other Commonwealth countries after the UK leaves the EU.

Graham Stuart:

It is important that we continue to look at reducing trade barriers bilaterally which will benefit small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). We are doing this through our current Working Groups with countries such as Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and India. Intra Commonwealth trade in goods and services is estimated to be \$560bn and projected to reach \$700bn by 2020.

In addition, the Department participated actively throughout the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in London where my Rt Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Trade announced policies to help boost intra-Commonwealth trade. This included the launch of the Commonwealth Standards Network to increase the use of international standards across the Commonwealth, which will support private and public-sector users of standards, including SMEs. A trade facilitation programme was also announced which provides technical assistance to selected countries in implementing the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement.

JUSTICE

■ Crown Courts: Coventry

Mr Jim Cunningham:

[\[153185\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many cases have been heard by Coventry Crown Court in each of the last eight years.

Lucy Frazer:

CASES LISTED FOR HEARING AT COVENTRY CROWN COURT, 1 JANUARY 2010 - 31 DECEMBER 2017

Year	Number of cases dealt with
2010	1,248
2011	1,160
2012	898
2013	17
2014	7

CASES LISTED FOR HEARING AT COVENTRY CROWN COURT, 1 JANUARY 2010 - 31 DECEMBER 2017

2015	0
2016	0
2017	2

1 Source: HMCTS management information

Notes:

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

Data are taken from a live management information system and can change over time.

The data provided is the most recent available and for that reason might differ slightly from any previously published information.

The data supplied is based on a count of all Cases listed for Hearing in Coventry Crown Court during the period 1st January 2010 to 31st December 2017, rather than a count of defendants, and includes cases committed/sent for trial, committed for sentence and appeals against decisions of magistrates' courts.

Where a case is listed for hearing in different years it has been counted separately in the tables above.

Data are management information and are not subject to the same level of checks as official statistics.

Data has not been cross referenced with case files.

■ Drugs: Crime

Sir Henry Bellingham:

[151408]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, if he will make an assessment of the merits of the recommendations of the June 2018 report of the Centre for Social Justice, Desperate

for a fix: using shop theft and a Second Chance Programme to get tough on the causes of prolific drug-addicted offending.

Edward Argar:

The MoJ is committed to ensuring the most vulnerable offenders, including those with prolific drug addictions, are able to access appropriate support at the right time. We are currently reviewing the recommendations of the Centre for Social Justice report.

There is ongoing work to help address the underlying needs of offenders which can contribute to offending behaviour. This includes diverting offenders away from custody where appropriate. We continue to support NHS England's roll out of Liaison and Diversion services, which were operating across 82% of the country at the end of March 2018, with full rollout expected by 2020/21.

We are also working with the Department of Health and Social Care, NHS England and Public Health England to develop a protocol to improve the uptake of community sentences with treatment requirements (CSTRs). This will ensure pathways into appropriate treatment are in place, and support greater use of CSTRs, including Drug Rehabilitation Requirements (DRRs). The protocol works as a diversion from custody and aims to improve health outcomes and reduce reoffending.

We recognise female offenders often commit non-violent, low-level but persistent offences, such as shop theft and understand that drug addictions often contribute to offending behaviour. In 2017, almost half (47%) of women sentenced to a short custodial sentence had committed shop theft. A 2005/06 MOJ survey showed that female prisoners were more likely to report using Class A drugs in the four weeks before custody (58% compared with 43% of male prisoners). We are committed to addressing the underlying causes of female offending and reoffending, and are developing a Female Offender Strategy. We will publish as soon as we are able to do so.

Sir Henry Bellingham:

[\[151409\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, if he will make an assessment of the merits of commencing Section 151 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 to allow courts to use community orders instead of fines for low-level offences by repeat offenders.

Rory Stewart:

There are no current plans to commence Section 151 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003. Section 143(2) of that Act requires courts to treat previous convictions as an aggravating factor when sentencing.

■ **Glen Parva Prison**

Richard Burgon:

[\[136395\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether the new prison scheduled to be built at Glen Parva will be financed through a private finance initiative.

Richard Burgon:

[\[136396\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether the new prison scheduled to be built at Wellingborough will be financed through a private finance initiative.

Rory Stewart:

We are committed to transforming all prisons into places of decency, safety and reform, and as part of our wholesale reforms there will be an investment of £1.3bn to modernise the prison estate.

No decision has yet been made on whether there is a role for private finance in the building of new prisons.

■ Gov Facility Services: Billing

Catherine McKinnell:

[\[152762\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the (a) number and (b) total volume was of unpaid invoices submitted to Gov Facility Services Limited in each month since it was established.

Rory Stewart:

[Holding answer 15 June 2018]: The table below shows the invoices that have been placed "on hold" in their respective months. On hold means that the invoice has been queried due a number of different factors (see point 2).

	MONTH	INVOICES ON HOLD
A) Number	B) Total Volume	
February	169	£1,308,779
March	891	£2,462,185
April	1084	£4,157,171
May	1139	£4,470,584

TO NOTE WITHIN THE TABLE:

1. Figures have been extracted from the "invoices on hold" report.
2. There are many factors when invoices will be put on hold for payment, including where goods and services not yet verified as received or where the supplier invoice does not match the provisions of the original purchase order.
3. The insolvency of Carillion and following transfer of suppliers from Carillion to MoJ has led to an increase in the total volume of invoices received.
4. The department is in the process of obtaining the information regarding the total invoices paid and unpaid for a matter of context.

■ Leeds Prison: Prison Officers

Liz Saville Roberts:

[\[152829\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many prison officers in England and Wales left the Prison Service while serving in HMP Leeds after less than (a) six months, (b) twelve months and (c) eighteen months from the start of their employment in each of the last eight years.

Rory Stewart:

The number of band 3-5 prison officers who left HMP Leeds, by the length of service at leaving is shown in table 1 below.

Table 1: Band 3-5 officers ¹ (headcount) who left HMP Leeds, by length of service ², 2010/11 to 2017/18

LENGTH OF SERVICE ²					
Financial Year	Less than 6 months	6 months and up to but excluding 12 months	12 months and up to but excluding 18 months	18 months and over	Total band 3-5 officer leavers
2010/11				19	19
2011/12				22	22
2012/13				18	18
2013/14				60	60
2014/15				15	15
2015/16	1	3		34	38
2016/17	3	2		31	36
2017/18	26	15	2	33	76

¹ INCLUDES BANDS 3-4 / PRISON OFFICER (INCL SPECIALISTS), BAND 4 / SUPERVISING OFFICER AND BAND 5 / CUSTODIAL MANAGERS.

² Length of service in HMPPS calculated from most recent hire date. Where staff have transferred in from another Government Department or have transferred in through HMPPS taking over a function, length of service is calculated from entry to HMPPS.

■ Magistrates' Courts: Coventry**Mr Jim Cunningham:****[153184]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many cases have been heard by Coventry Magistrates Court in each of the last eight years.

Lucy Frazer:**CASES LISTED FOR HEARING AT COVENTRY MAGISTRATES' COURTS, 1 JANUARY 2010 - 31 DECEMBER 2017**

Year	Number of cases dealt with
2010	26,593
2011	22,568
2012	20,445
2013	18,600
2014	9,670
2015	8,676
2016	10,538
2017	9,184

1 Source: HMCTS management information

Notes:

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

Data are taken from a live management information system and can change over time.

The data provided is the most recent available and for that reason might differ slightly from any previously published information.

The data supplied is based on a count of all Cases listed for Hearing in Coventry Magistrates' Courts during the period 1st January 2010 to 31st December 2017, rather than a count of defendants, and may therefore include Criminal, Civil and Enforcement cases.

Where a case is listed for hearing more than once during the life of the case, each separate hearing will be counted separately in the tables above.

Data are management information and are not subject to the same level of checks as

official statistics.

Data has not been cross referenced with case files.

■ **National Probation Service for England and Wales: Bristol**

Thangam Debbonaire:

[\[152797\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether Eden House women's centre in Bristol has been sold.

Rory Stewart:

Eden House was placed on the open market in June 2016 and sold at auction on 28 February 2017. The sale to Says Court Properties Limited was completed on 12 May 2017.

The property was sold subject to the existing Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) lease which runs until 2022. This protects the CRC's interest in this property until the end of their contract.

■ **Oakhill Secure Training Centre**

Richard Burgon:

[\[148964\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, by what metrics performance at Oakhill Secure Training Centre is measured.

Lucy Frazer:

The performance of the secure training centre is measured against the requirements of the contract. These include: accommodating trainees in a safe environment within secure conditions; maintaining high standards of care, control, good order and discipline; providing trainees with decent living conditions and meeting their other needs; providing a positive regime; and helping trainees prepare for their return to the community

The provider is required to make 80 places available for use each day and performance against this requirement is measured. A range of requirements must be met in order for a place to be accepted as available for use: some relate to the physical environment and others to the availability of services. The provider is also required to take steps to prevent certain pre-defined adverse events from occurring. The provider's performance in these areas is measured and tracked and performance points may be awarded, which can result in a financial penalty.

The provider also submits management information relating to a range of safety and regime-delivery indicators. These data do not necessarily indicate adverse performance, but can point to issues which we would investigate further.

■ Prison Sentences

Philip Davies:

[\[140691\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what proportion of offenders who received a custodial sentence have previously served (a) no, (b) between one and four, (c) between five and nine and (d) more than 10 community sentences in the most recent year for which figures are available.

Rory Stewart:

The proportion of offenders who received a custodial sentence who had previously served (a) no, (b) between one and four, (c) between five and nine and (d) more than 10 community sentences in 2016 can be viewed in the attached table.

Attachments:

1. Table [Copy of PQ 140691 Response Table.xlsx]

■ Prisoners: Suicide

Luciana Berger:

[\[153258\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how much the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman has spent on investigations into self-inflicted deaths in each of the last two years.

Rory Stewart:

The Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO) spent approximately £1.3m on investigations into self-inflicted deaths in 2016-17 and £1.2m in 2017-18. This covers the salary costs of managers, investigators, and administrative staff including interview transcribers, family liaison officers, and fees for call-off investigators. It also includes travel and incidental expenses.

■ Reoffenders

Philip Davies:

[\[139438\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what offences were committed by each of the prisoners released from prison on temporary licence to work in the last 12 months.

Rory Stewart:

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. Evidence shows the vast majority abide by their ROTL conditions, with the compliance rate standing at well over 99%. Non-compliance is dealt with robustly

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, January 2017 – December 2017, England and Wales

Offence Group	% of Total
Violence against the person	28%
Sexual offences	1%
Robbery	7%
Theft	8%
Criminal damage and arson	1%
Drug offences	38%
Possession of weapons	4%
Public order offences	>0%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	4%
Fraud	8%
Summary Non-Motoring	>0%
Offence not recorded	>0%
Total	100%

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.

■ Sentencing: Females

David Hanson:

[\[152662\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what estimate he has made of the number of deferred sentences for women broken down by police force areas in each year since 2010.

Rory Stewart:

The number of female offenders who received a deferred sentence broken down by police force area, from 2010 to 2017, can be viewed in the table attached.

We remain committed to addressing the issues around female offending so we can better protect the public and deliver more effective rehabilitation. That is why we plan to set out a strategy to improve outcomes for women in both the community and custody as soon as we are able.

Attachments:

1. Table [Copy of PQ 152662 table.xlsx]

■ Terrorism: Compensation

Dr David Drew:

[\[151396\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what compensation is available from the public purse for victims of terrorism from (a) the Northern Ireland conflict and (b) other terrorist incidents; and what the maximum allowable pay-out is for each such case.

Edward Argar:

The Government is committed to ensuring that victims of historical as well as recent terrorist attacks receive the help and support they need.

Victims who are injured in terrorist attacks which take place in Great Britain may be eligible to apply for compensation under the Government funded Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme (the Scheme) which is administered independently of Ministers and Parliament by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA).

Injury payments range from £1,000 to £250,000 depending on the severity of the injury. Additional payments for loss of earnings or other expenses can also be made. The total payment under an application is capped at £500,000. In fatal cases, payments can be made to qualifying relatives of the deceased and to pay for funeral expenses.

A similar scheme is administered by the Department of Justice for Northern Ireland, to which victims injured in terrorist attacks in Northern Ireland may apply.

Additionally, UK residents injured in terrorist attacks abroad may be entitled to claim compensation under the Victims of Overseas Terrorism Compensation Scheme, which is also administered by CICA. Awards under this scheme also range from £1,000 to £500,000.

Further, the British Red Cross administers a UK Government funded discretionary relief fund to which UK victims of terrorist incidents overseas can apply to provide immediate financial support.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

■ Airports: National Policy Statements

Justine Greening:

[153228]

To ask the Leader of the House, pursuant to her oral contribution of 7 June 2018, Official Report, column 466, on what date the Airports National Policy Statement debate will take place.

Andrea Leadsom:

The Business of the House is announced at Business Questions every Thursday.

As I outlined in the Chamber on 7 June: “The NPS was laid on 5 June and will be subject to a debate and vote in the House of Commons within 21 sitting days of laying the final NPS in Parliament. The last date that that can take place is 9 July 2018.”

SCOTLAND

■ Food Banks: Scotland

David Linden: [\[151447\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, whether he plans to visit a food bank in June 2018.

David Mundell:

I currently have no plans to visit a food bank in my capacity as Secretary of State for Scotland in June 2018.

TRANSPORT

■ Airports: National Policy Statements

Adam Afriyie: [\[152122\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether he has had discussions with the Leader of the House on how long the Airports National Policy Statement will be debated for.

Jesse Norman:

The Secretary of State met with the Leader of the House on 27 March to discuss airport expansion and the revised draft Airports National Policy Statement. Any debate and vote must be held within the 21 sitting days of the proposed Airports National Policy Statement being laid in Parliament, with the last sitting day being 9 July. The Leader will announce business in the normal way.

■ Aviation: Air Pollution

Justine Greening: [\[152111\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether he has received legal advice on the compliance with legal air quality limits of the proposal in the Airports National Policy Statement; and if he will make a statement.

Jesse Norman:

As would be the case for any major Government policy, the proposed Airports National Policy Statement, including the content on air quality, has been subject to a number of legal reviews.

■ Dundee Airport

Justine Greening: [\[152103\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what plans he has to extend the Public Service Obligation designated route between Dundee Airport and London Stansted beyond 2019.

Jesse Norman:

Officials will be having initial discussions with Dundee City Council and Transport Scotland before the end of June 2018, in which they will discuss the options available for after the current contract for this route ends in July 2019.

■ Heathrow Airport**Justine Greening:**[\[153229\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what proportion of new slots at an expanded Heathrow airport were forecast to comprise public service obligation flights in the calculation of the economic case for the Airports National Policy Statement.

Jesse Norman:

The Secretary of State has set out a clear ambition that about 15% of slots made available from a new runway should be used for domestic routes.

The Department's modelling, which informed the economic case for the proposed Airports National Policy Statement, is primarily intended to inform long-term strategic decision-making. It does not account for specific airport business plans or potential interventions such as Public Service Obligations (PSOs) to protect and enhance domestic connectivity. This is also clearly set out in the Appraisal Report.

Under expansion, this modelling shows an initial increase of domestic flights followed by a steady decline as routes are squeezed out by the same market forces that are squeezing out marginal routes and flights today.

This is why the Government has committed to use this once-in-a-generation opportunity to protect slots for domestic routes at Heathrow. The Government will consider domestic connectivity and how PSOs can be used as part of the Green Paper on the Aviation Strategy which is due to be published towards the end of this year.

Justine Greening:[\[153230\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, with reference to the Heathrow Airport Limited-funded Route Development Fund, whether he has secured a legal agreement on (a) how long the fund is continued by Heathrow Airport Limited (b) how much money is invested by (i) his Department and (i) Heathrow Airport Limited in the fund and (c) the conditions associated with the fund's operation; and if he will make a statement.

Jesse Norman:

The Government welcomes Heathrow Airport Limited's (HAL's) pledge to introduce a £10 million Route Development Fund. HAL's commitment to this fund will provide start-up support for airlines seeking to introduce new domestic routes from an expanded Heathrow Airport. Importantly, this fund will be entirely privately funded with no contribution from the taxpayer.

Government does not have any legal agreements in place with Heathrow on the fund. The proposed Airports National Policy Statement requires HAL to work constructively with its airline customers to protect and strengthen existing routes and it sets a clear

expectation that expansion should deliver at least six new routes. This will be assessed as part of any Development Consent Order application.

Justine Greening:

[153231]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what legal agreements he has in place with Heathrow Airport Limited and its holding company on (a) air pollution in and around Heathrow and (b) surface access arrangements.

Jesse Norman:

The Government believes that the Heathrow Northwest Runway scheme can and must be delivered without affecting the UK's compliance with its air quality obligations, given the measures set out in the Government's Air Quality Plan. The Government's view has been informed by its air quality analysis of the Northwest Runway scheme, which was published in October 2017. This does not take into account scheme specific mitigations that any applicant could take forward to address its air quality impact.

The proposed Airports National Policy Statement requires the applicant to consider an extensive range of air quality mitigation measures, potentially including an emissions-based access charge. Development consent will only be granted if the Secretary of State is satisfied that, with mitigations, the scheme will be compliant with legal obligations on air quality.

The Department for Transport has no specific legal agreements in place with Heathrow Airport Ltd (HAL) and its holding company on air pollution in and around Heathrow Airport.

In respect of surface access the Department has a number of legal agreements with HAL relating to Crossrail, HS2 and Heathrow Express:

- A 2015 Contribution Agreement between the Secretary of State and HAL relating to a contribution from Heathrow towards the cost of the Crossrail Project;
- A 2018 Overarching Agreement with HAL and the Heathrow Express Operating Company Ltd (HEOC) about the future of express rail services to Heathrow Airport;
- A 2006 Interface Agreement between the Secretary of State, BAA Ltd (BAA), HAL and the HEOC in relation to the interface between the Crossrail works and the Heathrow Express railway;
- A 2008 Compensation Agreement between the Secretary of State, the HEOC and HAL and BAA and a Deed of Waiver and Agreement between the Secretary of State, Network Rail Infrastructure Limited, HAL and the HEOC in relation to the impacts of works and operations for the purposes of or in connection with the Crossrail works;
- A 2016 Compensation Agreement between the Secretary of State, HEOC and HAL and a Deed of Waiver and Agreement between the Secretary of State, Network Rail Infrastructure Limited, HAL and the HEOC in relation to the impacts of works and operations for the purposes of or in connection with the HS2 works.

Zac Goldsmith:

[\[153264\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the effect of higher landing charges at Heathrow Airport on (a) the UK's and (b) Heathrow Airport's global competitiveness.

Jesse Norman:

Airport charges at Heathrow Airport have fallen by almost £2 per passenger in real terms since 2014. In the context of expansion, the Civil Aviation Authority will determine an appropriate level of airport charges in line with its statutory duty to further the interest of consumers. The Secretary of State also set out a clear ambition in 2016 for airport charges to remain as close as possible to current levels.

The Airports Commission found that if there were any increase in charges at Heathrow as a result of expansion this would likely be absorbed by airlines, with passenger fares remaining unaffected or even falling further after the capacity constraints are released. The Government is also clear that the expansion of Heathrow will provide a significant boost to passengers and the wider economy even if airport charges were to increase modestly, and were passed on to passengers.

■ **Heathrow Airport: Air Pollution**

Justine Greening:

[\[153232\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, at what stage of the construction of a third runway at Heathrow he plans to assess whether legal air pollution limits can be met; and when he plans to make that assessment.

Jesse Norman:

The Government has published a number of reports which have assessed the effect of the Heathrow Northwest Runway Scheme on compliance with air quality limits. Its latest air quality analysis for the scheme was published in October 2017 and demonstrates that, given the measures set out in the latest Air Quality Plan, the scheme would not affect the UK's compliance with air quality limits. This analysis does not take into account scheme-specific mitigations that any applicant could take forward to address its air quality impact.

The proposed Airports National Policy Statement (NPS) is clear that development consent will only be granted if the Secretary of State is satisfied that, with mitigation, the scheme will be compliant with legal obligations on air quality.

Detailed conditions associated with the construction and operation of the Heathrow Northwest Runway Scheme, including the details of any enforcement or monitoring regime on air quality, would be determined through the planning process, in consultation with local communities and relevant stakeholders.

Zac Goldsmith:

[\[153262\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the effect of expansion at Heathrow Airport on (a) particulate emissions and (b) nitrogen oxide levels.

Jesse Norman:

The Appraisal of Sustainability (AoS) that accompanies the proposed Airports National Policy Statement (NPS) provides a strategic level assessment of the potential social, economic, and environmental impacts of expansion, including on air quality. The AoS has been published on the DfT's website and the relevant information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/appraisal-of-sustainability-for-the-proposed-airports-national-policy-statement>

Should the proposed Airports NPS be designated, then it would be for the promoter to undertake a detailed assessment of the air quality effects of the scheme, and put forward an appropriate package of mitigation measures.

■ Heathrow Airport: Construction

Adam Afriyie: [152120]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether his Department has made an estimate of the total cost of decontaminating any necessary land before a third runway can be constructed at Heathrow.

Adam Afriyie: [152121]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether the taxpayer is planned to be liable for any proportion of the total cost of decontaminating land before a third runway can be constructed at Heathrow.

Jesse Norman:

The Appraisal of Sustainability, published alongside the proposed Airports National Policy Statement, identifies the potential soil contamination issues in relation to the Heathrow Northwest Runway scheme. The Airports Commission also included £123m, plus optimism bias, for site levelling and soil remediation within its cost and commercial assessment.

The Government has been clear that expansion will be privately financed and costs will not fall on the taxpayer. This includes any land decontamination costs.

■ Heathrow Airport: Job Creation

Zac Goldsmith: [153263]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the long-term sustainability of any jobs created by expansion at Heathrow Airport.

Jesse Norman:

The Department for Transport has estimated the number of additional local jobs expected to be created by airport expansion in both 2030 and 2050. The Heathrow Northwest Runway scheme is expected to generate between 57,000 and 114,000 additional local jobs by 2030, and between 39,000 and 78,000 additional local jobs by 2050.

Additional jobs are a result of higher passenger traffic being generated at the airport. Expansion at Heathrow will lead to a significant increase in passenger numbers, which will continue beyond 2050. This is expected to create local jobs that are sustainable in the long-run.

■ Lakes Railway Line

Tim Farron:

[\[153239\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether he approved the request of Arriva Northern for an extension of the Lakes Line suspension.

Joseph Johnson:

This was an operational decision taken by Northern and accepted by Transport for the North as the best temporary solution for passengers.

Tim Farron:

[\[153240\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what plans he has to approve a further extension of the Lakes Line suspension.

Joseph Johnson:

The Lakes Line suspension was an operational decision taken by Northern and accepted by Transport for the North as the best temporary solution for passengers.

The Transport Secretary has been very clear however that this line must be open as soon as possible to allow people to use a reliable train service again.

Northern are working with local stakeholders with a view to reintroducing a shuttle train service on the Lakes Line as early as possible.

Tim Farron:

[\[153241\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if he will instruct Arriva Northern to run a shuttle service on the Lakes line instead of suspending services on that line.

Joseph Johnson:

The Rail North Partnership team that manages the franchise on behalf of Transport for the North and the Department is currently working with Northern to reintroduce a train service on the Lakes Line as early as possible. Northern have been consulting with Cumbria County Council on reinstating services.

■ Lakeside Energy From Waste

Adam Afriyie:

[\[152118\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, with reference to paragraph 1.113 of the Government Response to the Transport Committee Report on the revised draft Airports National Policy Statement, HC 548. what the evidential basis was for his Department's statement that there is sufficient waste management capacity to absorb any Lakeside loss.

Adam Afriyie:

[152119]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, which waste disposal facilities with High Temperature Incinerators his Department has assessed as having enough spare capacity to deal with the loss of Lakeside Energy from Waste in the event of the construction of a third runway at Heathrow.

Jesse Norman:

DEFRA used publicly available data on waste disposal held by the Environment Agency to confirm that the Lakeside energy from waste plant is not a strategic asset and its loss would not affect the UK's ability to meet environmental targets e.g. diversion from landfill. Therefore there is neither a statutory nor a policy reason to mandate replacement of the plant in the proposed Airports National Policy Statement.

The Lakeside energy from waste High Temperature Incinerator (HTI) mainly treats clinical waste. In the South East and London Regions (which includes the Lakeside facility) there are three HTIs (including Lakeside) with permitted capacity of 68kt. However, in 2016 only 57kt of waste was treated in total at these facilities and 5kt (or 9% of the total capacity) at Lakeside. The clinical waste burned at Lakeside does not have to be dealt with by an HTI. There are six clinical waste plants in the South East and London Regions (including Lakeside) therefore the loss of the clinical waste tonnage at Lakeside could be met by other facilities.

■ **Members: Correspondence**

Tony Lloyd:

[153194]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to Answer of 11 June 2018 to Question 150572 on Members: Correspondence, when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Rochdale of 11 April 2018, reference number IW/0060, on the age of road vehicle tyres.

Jesse Norman:

The guidance issued by the Department for Transport concerning the use of older tyres continues to be implemented into the maintenance regime of the bus and coach fleet. Official analysis suggests it has been effective. Out of 28,524 roadworthiness inspections conducted by the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency, the Agency found that approximately 0.23% of vehicles failed to meet the legal minimum requirements for tyres, and approximately 0.03% had tyres older than 10 years.

The Department for Transport has also discussed with a Traffic Commissioner and the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency how to reinforce the advice provided to vehicle operators in relation to the age of tyres. Enhanced procedures are expected to be in place shortly.

Separately, as previously announced to the House, a programme of research is underway that will report at the beginning of 2019. This research should provide a deeper understanding of the effect of age on the various materials used in tyre construction. The Government does not rule out further measures once this evidence is available.

A response to the Honourable Member's letter had been held by officials in draft pending review of recent evidence, and I apologise for the delay. I have now written to the Honourable Gentleman separately setting out in more detail what the Department has done to address these issues.

■ **Railway Stations: Coventry**

Mr Jim Cunningham:

[\[153181\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many trains have been delayed in their arrival at Coventry railway station in each of the last eight years.

Joseph Johnson:

We do not have this data, it is held by Network Rail.

■ **Road Traffic: Accidents**

Mr Jim Cunningham:

[\[153183\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the effect of the installation of smart motorways on the level of road traffic accidents in each of the last three years.

Jesse Norman:

England's motorways are among the safest roads in the world and each smart motorway scheme should be at least as safe as the traditional motorway it replaces.

Over the last three years, Highways England have focused their assessment of the effect of the installation of smart motorways on the level of road traffic accidents through a detailed review of the operational M25 schemes, which has demonstrated that the safety objectives set for these all lane running smart motorways have been met, as set out in the following table:

M25 Smart Motorway Monitoring reports

SMART MOTORWAY SCHEME	SCHEME OPEN	ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT RATE			
		BEFORE (2011-14) (ACCIDENTS PER MILLION VEHICLE MILES)	AFTER 1 YEAR (2014-15) (ACCIDENTS PER MILLION VEHICLE MILES)	AFTER 2 YEARS (2015-16) (ACCIDENTS PER MILLION VEHICLE MILES)	AFTER 3 YEARS (2016-17) (ACCIDENTS PER MILLION VEHICLE MILES)
M25 J5-6	2014	13.146	10.13	9.610	9.329
M25 J23-27	2014	12.871	10.369	11.502	11.234

Further detail of the M25 evaluation reports can be found here:

[M25 J23-27 Smart Motorway - 1 year evaluation report](#)

<http://assets.highways.gov.uk/specialist-information/knowledge-compendium/2014-2015/M25+J23-27+SM-ALR+Monitoring+12+Month+Evaluation+Report.pdf>

[M25 J23-27 Smart Motorway - 2 year evaluation report](#)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/601565/M25_J23-27_SM-ALR_Monitoring_Yr2_Evaluation_v2.0.pdf

[M25 J5-7 Smart Motorway - 1 year evaluation report](#)

http://assets.highways.gov.uk/specialist-information/knowledge-compendium/2014-2015/M25+J5-7+SM+ALR+Monitoring+12+Month+Evaluation+Report_v2.0_Final.pdf

[M25 J5-7 Smart Motorway – 2 year evaluation report](#)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/601568/M25_J5-7_SM-ALR_Monitoring_Yr2_Evaluation_v2.0.pdf

■ Roads: Stonehenge

Alex Burghart:

[153421]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether he received a copy of the report by UNESCO and ICOMOS on plans for road alterations around Stonehenge World Heritage Site subsequent to those bodies' mission to that site in March 2018; and if he will make a statement.

Jesse Norman:

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee published on 29 May 2018 a draft decision for its forthcoming convention. This notes the findings and recommendations of the UNESCO/ICOMOS 2018 advisory mission. However, the Department has not seen the final version of this report.

The A303 Stonehenge proposed route was carefully chosen to avoid monuments and barrow groups, or conflict with the Winter Solstice alignment. We are grateful to UNESCO/ICOMOS for their continuing engagement. While the Government recognises the challenges highlighted in the draft decision, we remain confident the scheme will enhance and protect the Stonehenge landscape.

■ Roads: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham:

[153182]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how much funding from the public purse was allocated for investment in the road network in (a) the West Midlands and (b) Coventry South constituency in each of the last eight years.

Jesse Norman:

The Department for Transport has allocated over £1.6 billion to upgrade and improve local highways in the West Midlands between 2010/11 and 2017/18.

However, secondly, this figure excludes funding for strategic roads that pass through the West Midlands, which are managed by Highways England. However, it is not

possible to cost work exclusively within the West Midlands fully, as Highways England does not hold data on the allocated spend for schemes within the boundary.

Thirdly, Birmingham City Council has a Highways Maintenance Private Finance Initiative contract from 2010 to 2035, towards which the Department for Transport is providing over £1.1 billion over that period. The Department pays annual PFI credits of about £50 million, and payments to date total £392 million. Birmingham City Council provides further investment from its own resources.

Fourth, the Government provides Growth Deal funding to Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) covering the West Midlands metropolitan area up to 2020/21, these are:

- Black Country £218m
- Greater Birmingham and Solihull £433m
- Coventry and Warwickshire £132m

This funding is provided for infrastructure to support growth, including new roads and road improvement schemes.

Data for the allocation of Government funding to roads in Coventry South constituency is not available as the information is not disaggregated to constituency level.

■ Shipping

Karl Turner:

[152135]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if he will publish the (a) annual data sets and (b) other statistics held by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency on seafarer Ratings employed in the UK shipping industry.

Ms Nusrat Ghani:

The Department for Transport published (a) annual data sets and (b) other statistics on seafarer Ratings as part of the Seafarers in the UK Shipping Industry: 2017 statistical release on 30 May 2018. The Department is unable to publish annual underlying data sets that go beyond this as these data relate to individual employees of the Shipping Industry. The publication of such data would infringe on the data protection obligations of the Department.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency is unable to provide the requested information as it does not collate the number of seafarer ratings employed in the UK shipping industry.

■ Shipping: Pay**Karl Turner:** [\[152136\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether agreements made at the International Labour Organisation's Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers will apply to crew on (a) UK and (b) internationally registered vessels that are employed by crewing agencies.

Ms Nusrat Ghani:

The UK does not set sectoral minimum wages. However, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) issued new guidance on the application of the UK national minimum wage to seafarers in January 2018.

Karl Turner: [\[152137\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on the effect of the decisions made at the meeting of the International Labour Organisation's Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers in Geneva, on 20 and 21 June 2018.

Ms Nusrat Ghani:

I have had no discussions with Cabinet Colleagues relating to this meeting. I understand that the meeting has been rescheduled to 19-20 November 2018.

Karl Turner: [\[152138\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if he will publish the members of the UK Government delegation that attended the meeting of the Joint Maritime Commission's Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers at the International Labour Organisation in Geneva on 20 and 21 June 2018.

Ms Nusrat Ghani:

The Joint Maritime Commission's Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers is a bipartite sub-committee composed of seafarer and shipowner representatives. Government delegations do not attend.

Karl Turner: [\[152139\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what the Government's policy is on the subjects to be considered at the meeting of the Joint Maritime Commission's Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers at the International Labour Organisation in Geneva between 20 and 21 June 2018.

Ms Nusrat Ghani:

The Government has not set sectoral minimum wages in the Maritime Sector. In the UK Seafarers are covered by the National Minimum Wage Act under section 40 – mariners.

TREASURY■ **Brexit**

Neil Gray: [\[153304\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how much his Department spent on preparations for inter-governmental discussions in relation to negotiations with the EU in 2018 to date.

Peter Grant: [\[153368\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how much his Department has spent on preparations for inter-governmental discussions on negotiations with the EU in 2018 to date.

Drew Hendry: [\[153374\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how much his Department has spent on preparations for inter-governmental discussions in relation to negotiations with the EU in 2018 to date.

Robert Jenrick:

The information requested is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

■ **Customs**

Hilary Benn: [\[153192\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate he has made of the additional cost to (a) business and (b) the Government of the (i) maximum facilitation and (ii) customs partnership proposals for the UK's future customs arrangements with the EU.

Mel Stride:

The government is considering two approaches to a future customs relationship with the EU: a 'new customs partnership' and a 'highly streamlined customs arrangement.' Ongoing analysis continues to support the development of both models.

Current assessment of the ongoing costs under the two models was published in a letter by the Chief Executive of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs to the Treasury Select Committee on 5 June, 2018.

Neil Gray: [\[153305\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many representations he has received from (a) business organisations and (b) trade unions on customs arrangements after the UK leaves the EU; and how many of those such representations have received a response from his Department.

Peter Grant: [\[153369\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many representations he has received from (a) business organisations and (b) trade unions on customs arrangements after the UK

leaves the EU; and how many of those such representations have received a response from his Department.

Drew Hendry: [\[153375\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many representations he has received from (a) business organisations and (b) trade unions on customs arrangements after the UK leaves the EU; and how many of those representations have been sent a response.

Mel Stride:

The government speaks regularly to a range of stakeholders on customs and related matters. Since the referendum, ministers and officials have met with over 300 businesses and other organisations involved in international trade throughout the UK to discuss customs VAT and excise.

Businesses and representative bodies have an important role to play in the policy making process and the government will continue its engagement.

■ Debts

Hannah Bardell: [\[153402\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what plans he has to tackle the increase in household debt.

John Glen:

The household debt-to-income ratio was 138% in Q4 2017, significantly below its pre-crisis high of 160% in Q1 2008. However, the government recognises the importance of supporting people who are over-indebted.

The government is setting up a new Single Financial Guidance Body, which will provide consumers with a single point of contact for help with all financial matters, and commission high-quality, free to user debt advice.

The government is also implementing a breathing space scheme, which will provide people with unmanageable debt a period of respite from creditor action of up to six weeks, in order to seek debt advice and enter into a sustainable debt solution.

■ Hinkley Point C Power Station

Neil Gray: [\[153306\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on the fiscal multiplier associated with the Hinkley C nuclear power station project relative to carbon capture and storage projects.

Peter Grant: [\[153370\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on the fiscal multiplier associated with the Hinkley C nuclear power station project relative to carbon capture and storage projects.

Drew Hendry:

[\[153376\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on the fiscal multiplier associated with the Hinkley C nuclear power station project compared to carbon capture and storage projects.

Elizabeth Truss:

As part of our appraisal of energy projects, the Treasury and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) assess impacts on the local and UK economy. This is reflected in the Government assurance process for Hinkley Point C, and we continue to monitor the delivery of the project's economic benefits with the developer. The developer expects the project will contribute £1.5 billion to the local economy during construction and 25,000 job opportunities, whilst up to 64% of the value of construction contracts will be received by UK companies.

■ Monetary Policy

Martyn Day:

[\[153403\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what criteria his Department uses to assess the effect of quantitative easing on (a) fiscal and (b) regulatory changes to his Department's policies.

Martyn Day:

[\[153404\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment he has made of the effect of changes to his Department's economic modelling of quantitative easing on (a) fiscal multipliers, (b) inflation, (c) employment, (d) growth, and (f) fiscal policy.

John Glen:

Forecasts for the public finances, including the effect of quantitative easing, are prepared by the Independent Office for Budget Responsibility, which has been independent of government since 2010.

Martyn Day:

[\[153405\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether his Department has had discussions with the Bank of England on that institution's assessment of the level of UK corporate activity undertaken by firms before a company's bonds are purchased through quantitative easing.

Martyn Day:

[\[153406\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment his Department has made of the effect of quantitative easing on the allocative efficiency of UK financial markets.

John Glen:

The UK's monetary policy framework, set out in the Bank of England Act 1998, gives operational responsibility for monetary policy to the independent Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). Decisions on the use of monetary policy tools, including quantitative easing, are for the judgement of the MPC.

Martyn Day:[\[153407\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the evolution of quantitative easing on the sensitivity of real interest rates to changes to the nominal rate.

John Glen:

The UK's monetary policy framework, set out in the Bank of England Act 1998, gives operational responsibility for monetary policy to the independent Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). Decisions on the use of monetary policy tools, including quantitative easing, are for the judgement of the MPC.

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

■ Pay: Young People**Alison Thewliss:**[\[153348\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps his Department is taking to seek to ensure that young people's wages rise with inflation.

John Glen:

This year, we have increased the National Minimum Wage youth rates above inflation – young people on these rates benefited from the largest increases for 10 years.

However, in the long-term, wage rises for all workers rely on improving productivity. That's why we have also extended the National Productivity Investment Fund to 2022/23 and increased it from £23bn to £31bn. To ensure that workers are equipped with the skills they need to be productive in the workplace, we are also introducing T-Levels and investing in computer science and maths in schools, as well as launching a National Retraining Scheme in this Parliament.

■ Private Rented Housing**Peter Grant:**[\[153373\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he has had discussions with the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government on providing (a) tenancy security, (b) limiting rent rises and (c) providing frameworks for tenants to oppose rent increases.

Elizabeth Truss:

In line with the practice of successive administrations, details of ministerial discussions are not normally disclosed.

■ Public Expenditure: Scotland**Neil Gray:**[\[153308\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many representations he has received from (a) business organisations and (b) trade unions on changes to the Scottish Government

block grant since 2010; and how many of those representations have received a response from his Department.

Drew Hendry:

[153378]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what representations his Department has received from business organisations and trade unions on changes to the Scottish Government block grant since 2010; and to how many of these has his Department responded.

Elizabeth Truss:

Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery.

■ Royal Bank of Scotland

Chris Law:

[153336]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what discussions he has had with (a) Scottish business and (b) trade union representatives on the retention or otherwise of the Government's stake in RBS.

John Glen:

The Government's shareholding in the Royal Bank of Scotland is managed at arm's length and on a commercial basis through UK Government Investments Ltd, a company wholly owned by HM Treasury.

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

Details of ministerial and permanent secretary meetings with external organisations on departmental business are published on a quarterly basis and are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hmt-ministers-meetings-hospitality-gifts-and-overseas-travel>

Chris Law:

[153337]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how much money his Department has spent this calendar year on (a) analysis and (b) consideration of the retention or otherwise of the Government's stake in RBS.

John Glen:

HM Treasury itself has not spent any money on external advice for analysis and consideration of the retention or otherwise of the Government's stake in the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS). HM Treasury retains a team to advise on policy for state-owned financial assets, but does not itemise the costs.

The Government's shareholding in RBS is managed at arm's length and on a commercial basis through UK Government Investments Ltd (UKGI), a company which is wholly owned by the Government

UKGI reports its total expenditure for each financial year to 31 March, and its 2017-18 Annual Report and Accounts will be published imminently. HM Treasury maintains oversight of UKGI's spending and is ultimately accountable, however UKGI's specific expenditure on RBS-related work for the period in question is not itemised.

■ **Treasury: Senior Civil Servants**

Chris Law: [153334]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many senior civil servants (a) are employed and (b) have been employed in each of the last 10 years in his Department.

Robert Jenrick:

The number of senior civil servants employed at HM Treasury in 2008/09 was 109, in 2009/10 it was 125

The number of senior civil servants employed at HM Treasury Group since 2010/11 can be found in the annual report and accounts which can be accessed via this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hmt-annual-report>

The number for each year can be found in the following pages of the corresponding annual report and accounts: 10/11- Page 44 11/12- page 48 12/13- page 44 13/14- page 48 14/15- page 193 15/16- page 82 16/17- page 74 17/18- due to be published shortly

Chris Law: [153335]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many senior civil servant vacancies there are in his Department.

Robert Jenrick:

I can confirm that HM Treasury are currently advertising 1 SCS position across the Civil Service and externally.

■ **Trident: Scotland**

Neil Gray: [153307]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on the relative fiscal multiplier of the trident weapons programme relative to other (a) army, (b) navy and (c) air force expenditure in Scotland.

Drew Hendry: [153377]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on the relative fiscal multiplier of the trident weapons programme relative to other (a) army, (b) navy and (c) air force expenditure in Scotland.

Elizabeth Truss:

As has been the convention of successive governments, details of conversations between Secretaries of State are not normally disclosed.

WALES**■ Holyhead Port: Domestic Visits****Hywel Williams:**[\[152670\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, pursuant to the Answer of 11 June 2018 to Question 149944, on which dates (a) he or (b) a Minister of his Department has visited the Port of Holyhead since July 2016.

Alun Cairns:

I visited the Port of Holyhead in March 2017. Officials in the Office of the Secretary of State for Wales and colleagues across Government meet regularly with port authorities and other maritime stakeholders in Wales to support the smooth and orderly implementation of any new arrangements required as a result of the UK's exit from the European Union.

■ Milford Haven: Domestic Visits**Hywel Williams:**[\[152671\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, pursuant to the Answer of 11 June 2018 to Question 149944, on which dates (a) he or (b) a Minister of his Department has visited the Port of Milford Haven since July 2016.

Alun Cairns:

I visited the Port of Milford Haven in February 2018. Officials in the Office of the Secretary of State for Wales and colleagues across Government meet regularly with port authorities and other maritime stakeholders in Wales to support the smooth and orderly implementation of any new arrangements required as a result of the UK's exit from the European Union.

■ Pembroke Dock: Domestic Visits**Hywel Williams:**[\[152672\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, pursuant to the Answer of 11 June 2018 to Question 149944, on which dates (a) he or (b) a Minister of his Department has visited Pembroke Dock since July 2016.

Alun Cairns:

I visited Pembroke Dock in February 2018. Officials in the Office of the Secretary of State for Wales and colleagues across Government meet regularly with port authorities and other maritime stakeholders in Wales to support the smooth and orderly implementation of any new arrangements required as a result of the UK's exit from the European Union.

WORK AND PENSIONS

■ Department for Work and Pensions: Legal Costs

Alison Thewliss: [\[153346\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much her Department has spent on legal fees in the last 12 months.

Kit Malthouse:

The information requested is not collated centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

■ Department for Work and Pensions: Public Expenditure

Alison Thewliss: [\[153344\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what recent representations she has made to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on her Department's budget.

Kit Malthouse:

The Secretary of State works closely with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on an ongoing basis to oversee the Department's finances.

■ Employment Schemes

Ben Bradley: [\[152867\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the Answer of 24 May 2018 to Question 145403, how much of that funding spent on Employment Programmes was allocated to each region of England.

Kit Malthouse:

We do not hold expenditure analysis on the allocation of Employment Programme spend by each region of England.

■ Funeral Payments: Preston

Sir Mark Hendrick: [\[152647\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many funeral expenses payments have been made in Preston constituency since January 2015.

Kit Malthouse:

The information requested is not collated centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Sir Mark Hendrick: [\[152648\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many claims for the Social Fund Funeral Expenses Payment Scheme her Department refused in Preston in each year from 2015 to 2018.

Kit Malthouse:

The information requested is not collated centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

■ Personal Independence Payment**Grahame Morris:**[\[153246\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, for what reasons a glucose machine is not considered to be an aid or an appliance for monitoring a health condition for the purpose of the awarding of points in relation to descriptor 3 for a claim for personal independence payments.

Sarah Newton:

A glucose meter is not considered an aid under Activity 3 as it does not meet the statutory definition of an aid. An aid is a device which “improves, provides or replaces C’s (claimant’s) impaired function” (Social Security (Personal Independence Payment) Regulations 2013, regulation 2). Although a glucose meter is not considered an aid, if a claimant requires supervision, prompting or assistance to use such a device to manage medication or to monitor their health condition they could score under Activity 3.

■ Personal Independence Payment: Diabetes**Grahame Morris:**[\[153245\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if she will revise the guidance to personal independence payments decision makers in relation to descriptor 3 managing therapy or monitoring a health condition to clarify whether an automatic insulin pump is an aid or appliance for managing medication or monitoring a health condition.

Sarah Newton:

There is no specific guidance on how one would assess the use of an automatic insulin pump. Guidance for PIP assessment providers and case managers is regularly reviewed and updated where necessary. We will consider Activity 3 during the next review and update the guidance where appropriate.

■ Social Security Benefits**Alison Thewliss:**[\[153345\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether her Department plans to collect information on the cost of (a) sanctioning claimants and (b) monitoring claimants compliance with benefits conditions.

Alok Sharma:

The data requested is not currently available. Sanctions form part of the overall conditionality regime costs.

■ Social Security Benefits: Disqualification

Karin Smyth:

[151217]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment he has made of the (a) level of and (b) reasons for the variance between different job centres in the level of benefit payment sanctions for claimants of (i) jobseeker's allowance, (ii) employment support allowance and (iii) universal credit.

Alok Sharma:

To monitor variation in sanction referrals, the Department has established a regular sanctions variation dashboard overseen by a senior steering group. This will allow the Department to make use of the latest internal data to ensure that any issues are identified in a timely way. The dashboard includes monitoring levels of variation, highlighting areas with unusually high or low referral rates compared to historical trends and also information about how rates differ between claimants due to certain characteristics such as ethnicity or age.

The Department has also been examining sanction data by a range of both claimant and geographical characteristics in order to better understand the reasons for variation in sanction referrals.

■ Social Security Benefits: Religious Orders

Chris Ruane:

[153202]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment she has made of the take-up of (a) pension credit, (b) attendance allowance and (c) other social security benefits by people who have served in or are maintained by a religious order.

Guy Opperman:

The information requested is not available.

National Statistics on income-related benefit take-up (including Pension Credit) is published and available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/645577/income-related-benefits-estimates-of-take-up-2015-16.pdf

■ Support for Mortgage Interest

Kerry McCarthy:

[153223]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the Answer of 23 April 2018 to Question 136602 on Support for Mortgage Interest, how many and what proportion of Support for Mortgage Interest claimants have (a) decided to take out and (b) declined the loan offered by her Department in each English region.

Kit Malthouse:

The information requested is not available at regional level and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

■ Universal Credit

Ruth George:

[153436]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, with reference to the Written Statement of 7 June 2018, HCWS745 on universal credit, what plans she has to support universal credit claimants in receipt of Disability Premiums once transitional protections are ended.

Alok Sharma:

Following the Written Statement HCWS745 on 7 June, claimants with the Severe Disability Premium will only be moved to Universal Credit with access to Transitional Protection (TP).

The point at which a claimant will no longer be eligible for TP will be dependant upon changes in their individual circumstances.

Ruth George:

[153437]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, with reference to the Written Statement of 7 June 2018, HCWS745 on universal credit, how her Department plans to identify current universal credit claimants who have lost their Severe Disability Premium as a result of moving to universal credit through natural migration.

Alok Sharma:

Based on information held at the end of February 2018 we estimate that about 4,000 people will receive the transitional payments. This information can be accessed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/people-on-income-related-esa-and-enhanced-or-severe-disability-premium-or-both>.

Work is ongoing to determine how we can identify these claimants most effectively, so we are ready to implement this change when the necessary regulations are agreed.

■ UNUM

Kevin Brennan:

[153210]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether his Department has any commercial relationship with Unum Provident.

Kit Malthouse:

DWP does not have a national commercial relationship with Unum Provident, however at a local level through the Low Value Procurement process there may be local contracts. To identify these would require a search of local provision and could only be achieved at disproportionate cost.

MINISTERIAL CORRECTIONS

TRANSPORT

■ Railways: Standards

Jo Stevens:

[\[151210\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, the total number of trains (a) cancelled and (b) delayed for each franchise in each month since January 2018.

An error has been identified in the written answer given on 12 June 2018. The correct answer should have been:

Joseph Johnson:

The attached document provides information on the total number of trains (a) cancelled and (b) delayed for each franchise in each month since January 2018.

Attachments:

1. 151210 - Cancelled.pdf
2. 151210 - Stevens - Late.pdf

WRITTEN STATEMENTS

BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

■ EU ENERGY COUNCIL 11 JUNE 2018

Minister of State for Energy and Clean Growth (Claire Perry): [\[HCWS769\]](#)

The Energy Council took place on 11 June in Luxembourg. The UK was represented by the Deputy Permanent Representative, UKREP.

The Council adopted a General Approach on the Regulation on the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators. There were no formal objections to the text but a number of Member States, including the UK, expressed the view that the role of the Director of the Agency should not be weakened.

The Presidency updated Council on progress on the Renewables Directive, Energy Efficiency Directive and Energy Union Governance Regulation, on all of which it hoped to reach deals with the European Parliament by the end of its Presidency. Some Member States called for higher ambition on the level of the 2030 EU targets for renewable energy and energy efficiency. Others indicated that they would consider raising the targets beyond the existing Council position but only in exchange for remaining very close to the Council position on other, sector-specific measures within the Directives. Other Member States expressed reluctance to move above the original Council agreed position of 27% on renewables and 30% on energy efficiency. The UK stressed that it was highly ambitious on climate mitigation but thought it essential Member States be given enough flexibility to deliver this cost-effectively. The Presidency concluded that the Council had taken note of the state of play.

The Commission provided Council with an update on its activities in relation to external energy policy, focusing on its discussions with Iran. Some Member States, including the UK, expressed their desire to see quicker progress on the Gas Directive and to start discussions at the political level, though others disagreed.

The Council concluded after the Austrian delegation presented the priorities for their forthcoming Presidency. These would include progressing negotiations with the Parliament on the remaining parts of the clean energy package, a focus on innovative energy technologies, and their plans to bring together international organisations to strengthen dialogue on energy security.

DEFENCE

■ Contingent Liability

The Minister of State for Defence (Mr Tobias Ellwood): [\[HCWS770\]](#)

My right hon. Friend the Minister of State in the House of Lords (The Rt Hon The Earl Howe PC) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I am today laying a Departmental Minute to advise that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has received approval from Her Majesty's Treasury (HMT) to recognise a new Contingent Liability which will come into force following the award of the Defence Fire and Rescue Project contract.

The Defence Fire and Rescue Project contract will provide significantly improved safety for the MOD and its firefighters through investment in modern firefighting vehicles and improved fire risk management systems. It will also deliver significant financial savings which can be reinvested in Defence. The selected bidder for this contract is Capita Business Services.

The contract duration is 12 years. The Contingent Liability will commence on contract award and reach a maximum value of £37 million in Financial Year 2020-21 and will reduce thereafter as the contract progresses until it ceases in Financial Year 2025-26. It reflects a commercial arrangement that represents optimum value for money to the Department.

It is usual to allow a period of 14 Sitting Days prior to accepting a Contingent Liability, to provide Members of Parliament an opportunity to raise any objections.

WORK AND PENSIONS

■ Agenda of the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO), 21 June 2018, Luxembourg

Minister of State for Employment (Alok Sharma):

[\[HCWS771\]](#)

The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO) will take place on 21 June 2018 in Luxembourg.

The Council will first be invited to agree a general approach on directives on work life balance for parents and carers, and transparent and predictable working conditions. The Presidency will also pursue a general approach on the revision of regulations governing the coordination of EU social security systems.

The Council will then receive progress reports on a proposal to create a European Labour Authority, and a directive related to equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

Under non-legislative items, there will first be a policy debate on the European Semester. As part of this agenda item, the Council will be asked to approve Draft Council Recommendations on the National Reform Programmes 2018 of each Member State; endorse the opinions of the Employment Committee (EMCO) and the Social Protection Committee (SPC) on the 2018 Country-specific Recommendations (CSRs) and the implementation of the 2017 CSRs; and adopt a proposal on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States.

Following this, the Council will be asked to adopt a number of draft council conclusions on the future of work, early childhood development and free frameworks.

Under any other business, the Commission will provide information on plans for a new European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) programme and an update on recent international developments in the field of social policy. To close the meeting the Austrian delegation will outline the work programme of the incoming Presidency.