



Daily Report

Wednesday, 2 September 2020

This report shows written answers and statements provided on 2 September 2020 and the information is correct at the time of publication (06:44 P.M., 02 September 2020). 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

■ Employment: Coronavirus

Vicky Foxcroft:

[\[77709\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, what assessment his Department has made of trends in the number of disabled people working from home as a result of the covid-19 outbreak or in response to the Government's covid-19 guidance on shielding during the covid-19 outbreak.

Chloe Smith:

The information requested falls under the remit of the UK Statistics Authority. I have therefore asked the Authority to respond.

Attachments:

1. Letter from the UKSA [PQ77709 (2) (2).pdf]

■ Labour Force Survey: Autism

Dame Cheryl Gillan:

[\[76553\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, what plans he has to record autism in the Labour Force Survey.

Chloe Smith:

The information requested falls under the remit of the UK Statistics Authority. I have therefore asked the Authority to respond.

Attachments:

1. Letter from the UKSA [PQ76553.pdf]

■ Public Inquiries: Coronavirus

Sir Edward Davey:

[\[76567\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral contribution of 15 July 2020, Official Report, col. 1514, when he plans to publish a (a) timetable for the establishment of and (b) a draft terms of reference for the independent inquiry on the Government's response to the covid-19 outbreak; and if he will make a statement.

Sir Edward Davey:

[\[76568\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral contribution of 15 July 2020, Official Report, col. 1514, if he will ensure that the panel members for the independent inquiry on the Government's response to the covid-19 outbreak are from diverse groups.

Sir Edward Davey:

[\[76569\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral contribution of 15 July 2020, Official Report, col. 1514, which Department will have responsibility for establishing the independent inquiry on the Government's response to the covid-19 outbreak.

Sir Edward Davey:

[\[76570\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral contribution of 15 July 2020, Official Report, col. 1514, how many civil servants will be allocated to supporting the independent inquiry on the Government's response to the covid-19 outbreak.

Sir Edward Davey:

[\[76572\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral contribution of 15 July 2020, Official Report, col. 1514, what the annual budget will be of the independent inquiry on the Government's response to the covid-19 outbreak.

Penny Mordaunt:

COVID-19 is the biggest challenge the UK, together with nations around the world, has faced in decades. The Government has always been clear that there will be opportunities to look back, analyse and reflect on all aspects of COVID-19. As the Prime Minister has said, this will include an independent inquiry at the appropriate time.

The fact that this is a new virus has been a key feature of the response from the start. It has inherently been a continuous and active process of learning, reviewing, adapting and responding as more is discovered about how the virus works in light of the latest scientific research and available data. Further details will be set out in due course and announced in the usual way.

DIGITAL, CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

■ Coronavirus: Contact Tracing

Alex Davies-Jones:

[\[76932\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on the potential effect of the implementation of covid-19 track and trace systems on the (a) protection and (b) use of personal data by businesses in the hospitality sector.

Mr John Whittingdale:

The Department of Health and Social Care has been working closely with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) to ensure that the development of test and trace systems, including customer, visitor and staff logs comply with data protection legislation. The ICO has published user-friendly guidance for organisations to ensure

they notify individuals that their data is being collected; and that any information collected is limited to what is necessary, is not used for other purposes, is held securely and deleted after 21 days when no longer needed.

The guidance can be viewed on the ICO's website at: <https://ico.org.uk/global/data-protection-and-coronavirus-information-hub/contact-tracing-protecting-customer-and-visitor-details/>

■ Dormant Assets Distribution Fund

Judith Cummins:

[77672]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what recent estimate he has made of the value of dormant (a) stocks, (b) shares, (c) bonds and (d) insurance policies available for transfer to the Dormant Assets Distribution Fund.

Mr John Whittingdale:

Currently, the dormant assets scheme only accepts bank and building society accounts. A consultation on expanding the scheme to include a wider range of dormant financial assets, such as shares and insurance policies, closed in mid-July. The government response to this consultation will be published this Autumn. We are working with industry stakeholders to estimate the value of the assets in scope for inclusion as part of this.

EDUCATION

■ Digital Technology: Training

Chi Onwurah:

[77609]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer of 21 July 2020 to Question 72909 on Department for Education: Cybercrime and Digital Technology, how much funding his Department has allocated to digital skills training for (a) children and (b) adults.

Gillian Keegan:

The government recognises the critical importance of digital skills both in everyday life and for the wider UK economy. That is why we have invested in digital skills that support lifelong learning and the acquisition of digital skills from foundation level right through to those required for cutting edge digital industries.

The new computing curriculum has helped to ensure pupils have the broad knowledge and skills they need to go on to specialise in innovative technologies and become active creators of digital technology. This new curriculum is supported by the National Centre for Computing Education (NCCE), which has been set up with £80 million of government funding. The NCCE are delivering a comprehensive programme to improve the teaching of computing and drive up participation in computer science, particularly amongst girls.

We are investing an additional £500 million per year on the implementation of new T Levels. Digital Production, Design and Development is one of the first 3 T Levels to be taught from this September. T Levels in Digital Support and Services, and Digital Business Services will follow in 2021, providing students with a clear pathway to employment in this sector.

The government is also investing up to £290 million of capital funding to establish 20 Institutes of Technology (IoT). These institutes will be the pinnacle of technical training, with unique collaborations between further education colleges, universities and businesses offering higher technical education and training in key sectors such as digital. Digital is a popular sectoral specialism with 30% of the provision of the first 12 IoTs aligned to the digital technical route.

The government will introduce a new digital skills entitlement based on new national standards from August 2020. This will be funded through the £1.34 billion Adult Education Budget which aims to help eligible adults aged 19 and over to gain the skills they need for work, undertake an apprenticeship, or pursue further learning. The new entitlement will ensure adults, aged 19 and over, with no or low digital skills can study for specified qualifications in essential digital skills up to Level 1 free of charge, to get the skills and capabilities they need to get on in life and work.

The government has also committed £2.5 billion investment through the National Skills Fund to dramatically reboot the adult skills landscape. We will be launching a consultation to get the views from a wide range of stakeholders, including digital skills providers, on how best to target the fund and ensure best possible impact.

■ English Language: Education

Bell Ribeiro-Addy:

[77818]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what plans his Department has to end the post code as a determining factor of access to English for Speakers of Other Languages provision.

Gillian Keegan:

In 2018/19, the department supported 120,500 adult learners to improve their levels of English through fully and part-funded English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) courses.

The department funds ESOL through the Adult Education Budget (AEB).

Approximately half of the AEB is devolved to 7 Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCAs) and delegated to the Mayor of London, acting where appropriate through the Greater London Authority (GLA). These devolved authorities are responsible for the provision of adult education, including ESOL, and allocation of the AEB in their local areas. The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) is responsible for the remaining AEB in non-devolved areas .

In non-devolved areas, we do not ring-fence a particular amount of the ESFA AEB budget for ESOL. Colleges and adult training providers have the freedom and

flexibility to determine how they use their AEB allocation to meet the needs of their communities. They are responsible for planning, with local partners, which ESOL courses can be delivered locally.

In devolved areas, providers have the opportunity to work with MCAs and the GLA to shape the ways in which they can contribute to meeting skills needs locally so that more people of all ages and backgrounds are given opportunities to develop the skills and experience they need, including ESOL provision.

We are committed to open dialogue with MCAs and the GLA on how best skills provision and reforms can be shaped to fit the needs of local areas.

■ ICT: Training

Chi Onwurah:

[78656]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how much money his Department has spent on digital inclusion for adults in response to the covid-19 outbreak.

Gillian Keegan:

We are continuing to invest in education and skills training for adults through the Adult Education Budget (AEB), investing £1.34 billion in 2019/20 and 2020/21.

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, we have introduced a change to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) Adult Education Budget (AEB) Funding Rules for 2020/21 academic year, to enable providers to use their Learner Support funds to purchase IT devices for learners (aged 19+) and to help them meet learners' IT connectivity costs, where these costs are a barrier to accessing or continuing in their training. For full details, the ESFA AEB Funding Rules for 2020/21 can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/adult-education-budget-aeb-funding-rules-2020-to-2021>.

In April, we launched The Skills Toolkit – a new online learning platform to help people boost their skills – including digital – while staying at home. It covers a wide range of high-quality materials to allow people to upgrade their skills – from every day maths to learning to code.

From August 2020, alongside the existing legal entitlements to English and maths, we introduced an entitlement to full funding of specified digital qualifications. Adults with no or low digital skills now have the opportunity to undertake improved digital skills qualifications, based on new national standards for essential digital skills, free of charge up to Level 1.

We are also supporting the Future Digital Inclusion (FDI) programme by up to £3 million in 2020-21. FDI is managed by the Good Things Foundation and delivered through the 5,000 strong Online Centres Network. This programme targets the most digitally excluded and hardest to reach in society to improve their basic digital skills, with the vast majority progressing onto further learning and employment, and gaining the ability to use online public services independently. In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, we have supported Good Things Foundation to pivot online centre delivery

by supporting learners with digital skills remotely through telephone and video calling. This has helped people within the community to use the internet and stay safe online, including finding government or health advice, ordering prescriptions online, paying bills or making a claim for Universal Credit, and staying in touch with family and friends.

■ National Retraining Scheme

John Penrose: [\[78593\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what progress is being made on the roll-out of the National Retraining Scheme; how many people (a) that scheme has been rolled out to and (b) have taken up that scheme; and which locations that scheme has been rolled out to.

John Penrose: [\[78594\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what plans he has to extend the National Retraining Scheme.

Gillian Keegan:

We have taken a user centred, test and learn approach to developing the National Retraining Scheme, starting small and developing products iteratively. Through this approach we have introduced the first part of the scheme, Get Help to Retrain, alongside developing other areas such as online training and in-work technical training.

Get Help to Retrain helps users to understand their current skills, explore alternative occupations that they could do and find and sign up to the training they need to access opportunities for a broad range of good jobs.

We started testing the digital service in the Liverpool City Region in July 2019, and have since improved the service and rolled out to eligible users in five further areas: West Midlands, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, North East, Leeds, and Heart of the South West. To date, over 2,700 users have accessed Get Help to Retrain.

Due to the current circumstances, including the COVID-19 outbreak, we are reviewing what the implications could be in terms of the development and roll out of Get Help to Retrain. We are developing our approach for the National Retraining Scheme in the context of the new National Skills Fund and other reforms to adult skills funding and provision and we will provide a further update in due course.

■ Pre-school Education

Margaret Greenwood: [\[78707\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many schools originally chose to be early adopters of the Early Years Foundation Stage reforms when first invited on 20 January 2020; how many of those schools have since decided not to be early adopters; and how many schools will be early adopters in September 2020.

Nick Gibb:

In January, approximately 3,400 schools signed up to participate as early adopters of the Early Years Foundation Stage reforms in the 2020/21 academic year.

On 6 July, the Department wrote to these schools to ask whether they still felt able to participate in light of the COVID-19 outbreak, following which 236 schools confirmed their withdrawal. Following data verification of all early adopter registrations, as of 25 August the final confirmed number of early adopter schools was 2,795.

These early adopter schools will begin to benefit from new, strengthened early years policy and practice from this September, a year ahead of statutory implementation in 2021/22.

Universities: Ethnic Groups**Nadia Whittome:**[\[78934\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to the Equality and Human Rights Commission's report entitled, Tackling racial harassment: Universities challenged, published in October 2019, what progress he has made on tackling racial disparities in employment at universities.

Nadia Whittome:[\[78935\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to the Equality and Human Rights Commission's report entitled, Tackling racial harassment: Universities challenged, published in October 2019, what recent assessment he has made of trends in the level of racial harassment of staff in employment by universities.

Michelle Donelan:

Racial harassment is unacceptable, and we cannot tolerate staff and students being victims of it at our world-leading universities. There is no place in our society - including within higher education - for any form of harassment, discrimination or racism. Universities have clear responsibilities in this regard.

As independent and autonomous institutions, higher education providers are responsible for the contracts and conditions of employment that they offer to their staff. We expect universities to follow fair recruitment and employment practices in accordance with the requirements of the Equality Act (2010) to ensure that all job applicants and existing staff, regardless of race, have the opportunity to progress in their careers.

This government will continue to work closely with key partners, and the Office for Students, to drive progress on matters of racial harassment and inequality in higher education.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS**■ Air Pollution: Health Hazards****Joy Morrissey:****[78861]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will include a target date for implementing WHO air quality standards in the Environment Bill.

Rebecca Pow:

The Government is committed to tackling a diversity of pollutants which harm human health and the environment. We already have ambitious and statutory emission reduction ceilings in place for five key air pollutants, as well as legally binding concentration limits. However, the case for even more ambitious action on fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) is especially strong, as it is the pollutant that has the most significant impact on health.

The Environment Bill establishes a legally binding duty to set a target for PM_{2.5}, in addition to a long-term air quality target. We are committed to setting ambitious targets and following an evidence-based process, seeking advice from a range of experts, in addition to giving consideration to the World Health Organization's air quality guidelines. The targets will be set in secondary legislation at the end of this process. It would not be an effective approach to policy making to commit in primary legislation to delivering a target, without giving due consideration to its achievability and the measures required to meet that target. Stakeholders, Parliament and the public will have the opportunity to comment on, and input into, the process of developing this target.

■ Beaches and Countryside: Coronavirus**Wera Hobhouse:****[78802]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how much additional funding his Department has provided for the clean up of beaches and local beauty spots since the lockdown restrictions were put in place due to the covid-19 outbreak.

Rebecca Pow:

We recognise that in the current circumstances local authorities may have more challenges than usual, including when collecting waste. The Government has responded with an unprecedented £4.3 billion support package for local authorities. This includes £3.7 billion of un-ringfenced grants which can be used by councils to meet local priorities including, should they see fit, cleaning up beaches and local beauty spots.

Defra has also supported, and provided funding for, Keep Britain Tidy's Love Parks campaign, which encourages people to treat our parks with respect this summer. Further information about the campaign is available at:

<https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/news/new-campaign-launched-face-littering-epidemic-parks>

Additionally, Defra has launched a 'Respect the Outdoors' campaign this summer. This has been promoted both online and in locations near to urban parks, beaches and national parks to further highlight the impacts of littering, as well as unauthorised barbeques and campfires, and breaches of the countryside code.

■ **Beverage Containers: Recycling**

Wera Hobhouse:

[78801]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what the timeframe is for the introduction of the Deposit Return Scheme in England.

Rebecca Pow:

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Blackpool North and Cleveleys on 13 July 2020, PQ UIN 69511.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-06/69511/>

■ **Clean Air Zones and Low Emission Zones**

Kerry McCarthy:

[77536]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment the Government has made of the potential merits of increasing the number of (a) Clean Air and (b) Low Emission Zones.

Rebecca Pow:

Air pollution poses one of the biggest environmental threats to public health. That is why we are already investing £3.8 billion to clean up our air, including £880 million which is ring fenced to help Local Authorities (LAs) tackle NO₂ exceedances previously identified in the 2017 UK Plan for Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) Concentrations. We are continuing to work closely with these LAs to help develop and implement their local clean air plans which can include charging Clean Air Zones, although other measures that are at least as effective are preferred. We rigorously assess local clean air plans to make sure they will deliver reductions in NO₂ levels in the shortest possible time. However, LAs ultimately make decisions on whether Clean Air Zones are the most suitable measure to introduce in their area.

■ **Clothing: Waste**

Anthony Mangnall:

[77811]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will publish the names of the retailers that have least 1 per cent of UK retail sales by volume who are not signatories to the WRAP Sustainable Clothing Action Plan 2020 commitment.

Rebecca Pow:

Defra does not hold the information requested. The signatories to the Sustainable Clothing Action Plan 2020 are listed on the WRAP website.

We believe that addressing the environmental impacts of the sector requires collective action on the part of brands, manufacturers and retailers, and Government. We are working with WRAP on a new phase of the voluntary agreement for 2021-2030. We encourage all brands, manufacturers, and retailers to get involved.

■ **Clothing: Waste Disposal**

Anthony Mangnall: [\[77812\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he is taking to prevent the use of (a) incineration and (b) landfill for unsold clothing suitable for (i) reusing and (ii) recycling.

Anthony Mangnall: [\[77813\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of a reduction in the rate of VAT on clothing repair services on trends in the level of the reuse of clothing.

Rebecca Pow:

The Government is committed to working towards reducing textiles and clothing sent to landfill and incineration. For all materials, including textiles and clothing, prioritising waste prevention, reuse, and recycling ahead of landfill and incineration is embedded in the waste hierarchy and legislation is in place to support this.

In our Resources and Waste Strategy (RWS, 2018), we highlighted our commitment to support reuse, recycling and the diversion of clothing from landfill and incineration. We are working with the Waste and Resources Action Plan (WRAP) and industry on a new voluntary agreement and are seeking enabling powers in the Environment Bill to introduce product design and information requirements. The RWS also identified textiles as one of five priority waste streams to consult on for an Extended Producer Responsibility scheme. VAT and taxation are matters for HM Treasury (HMT) and Defra will continue to work with other Government Departments, including HMT, on the development of policies.

We are supporting the textiles reuse and recycling sector, which has experienced challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic, through the WRAP-administered Resource Action Fund. The textiles fund makes a total of £1.5 million available, for small grants of £20 000 to £170 000.

■ **Food: Waste**

Chris Elmore: [\[77742\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what guidance his Department has issued to (a) food and drink wholesalers and (b) redistribution organisations to minimise the waste of food through the legal distribution of food that has passed its best before date.

Rebecca Pow:

Following the decision taken to implement the lockdown at the end of March, in order to protect the NHS and save lives, thousands of cafes, restaurants, work canteens and school kitchens shut down immediately. Food that was already in kitchens, freezers, wholesalers' warehouses, or in transit to the food service sector, could not be used. Some of this food is now beginning to reach its 'best before' date, and we need to ensure that it is not wasted.

Our food surplus and waste champion has written to the food industry, to ask that all surplus food that is safe and suitable to eat is made available and redistributed.

Working with the Food Standards Agency (FSA), Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), and others, Defra has made information available to businesses, trading standards officers and food hygiene officers about the rules on use-by and best before dates. This information makes it clear that 'Best Before' is an indication of quality, not safety, and that food approaching or even past this date may still be used, sold or redistributed. Only food beyond its 'Use By' date should not be used.

Our food industry has already shown itself to be resilient, agile and innovative in shifting direction at a moment's notice to deal with Covid-19 and keep the nation fed. Now that restrictions are being relaxed, Defra urges businesses to, wherever possible, prioritise stock which needs to be used most urgently, before moving to goods with later 'Best Before' dates. In doing so, they can be confident that their trading standards and food hygiene officials will provide support and, as long as the food is safe to use, that there is no legal restriction in doing so.

■ Imports: Carbon Emissions**Geraint Davies:****[77497]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps the Government is taking to reduce the level of carbon emissions embedded in goods imported to the UK.

Rebecca Pow:

The latest figures show carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions associated with imported goods fell by 1% between 2016 and 2017, and by 16% between 2007 (when they peaked) and 2017.

The latest figures published are at: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uks-carbon-footprint but they focus on greenhouse gas emissions rather than just CO₂ emissions. Consumption emissions are officially categorised as "experimental statistics" due to inherent uncertainties in the estimates produced. The UK's GHG emissions statistics used for the purposes of measuring progress against the net zero target are calculated in line with the standard international accounting approach for measuring emissions as established by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The Government's Resources and Waste Strategy for England sets out its ambition to move from a make, take, use, throw linear economic model to a more circular economy which will reduce our carbon footprint from imported emissions through increasing repair, reuse, remanufacture and other waste prevention activities.

The Environment Bill includes measures that will help consumers to make purchasing decisions that support the market for more sustainable products. It contains powers to introduce clear product labelling, which will enable consumers to identify products that are more durable, repairable and recyclable and will inform them on how to dispose of used products.

■ Plastic Bags

Wera Hobhouse: [78799]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how many single-use plastic bags have been sold in each year since the levy on plastic bags was introduced.

Wera Hobhouse: [78800]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how many plastic bags for life have been sold in each year since the introduction of the plastic bag levy in 2015.

Rebecca Pow:

Since 5 October 2015, large retailers in England have been required by law to charge a minimum of 5p for single-use plastic bags and to report on the number they sell each year.

The total number of single-use plastic bags that were sold by large retailers each full reporting year is as follows: 2.12 billion in 2016/17, 1.75 billion in 2017/18, 1.11 billion in 2018/19 and 564 million in 2019/20.

Retailers are not required to report on the number of plastic bags for life sold as these are not within the scope of the carrier bag charge. However, they can provide this information voluntarily.

The full datasets for each reporting year are on GOV.UK and can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/carrier-bag-charge-summary-of-data-in-england>.

■ Plastic Bags: Fees and Charges

Wera Hobhouse: [78798]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how much has been raised by the plastic bag levy in each year since that scheme was introduced.

Rebecca Pow:

The total amount donated to good causes per year was: £29.2 million in 2015/2016, £65.4 million in 2016/2017, £51.6 million in 2017/2018, £22.9 million in 2018/2019

and £9.2 million in 2019/2020. The reduction in later reporting years is primarily due to retailers selling fewer single-use carrier bags in those years.

Data for 2015/2016 covered only 6 months (5 October 2015 to 6 April 2016), so is not directly comparable to other reporting years.

■ **Water: Pollution Control**

Carla Lockhart:

[77859]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, with reference to the article published in Science of the Total Environment in June 2020, entitled, London's river of plastic: High levels of microplastics in the Thames water column, by Rowley et al, what steps his Department is taking to tackle pollution in waterways.

Rebecca Pow:

Defra is working with the Environment Agency, academics and the UK water industry to understand the scale of the microplastic pollution problem and to establish detection methods. The aim is to identify, characterise and quantify the types of microplastics entering wastewater treatment plants, evaluate the efficiency of treatment processes for the removal of microplastics from domestic wastewaters and assess the fate and biological effects of microplastics in receiving rivers.

Although there has been substantive research reporting the presence and impacts of microplastics in the marine environment, little is known about their sources, release and impact on freshwaters or their ultimate transport to the marine environment. Defra recently commissioned three evidence reviews on analysis, prevalence & impact of microplastics in freshwater and estuarine environments to further understand these issues and will use the outcomes from these and other research to develop policy options to help mitigate the impact of microplastics in the aquatic environment. These evidence reviews can be found at the following link:

<http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=20192&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=WT15112&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description>

FOREIGN, COMMONWEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

■ **Bahrain: Capital Punishment**

Stephen Doughty:

[76717]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what representations (a) he has and (b) officials of his Department have made to the Government of Bahrain on abolishing the death penalty in that country in the last 12 months.

James Cleverly:

The UK strongly opposes the death penalty in all countries and in all circumstances, as a matter of principle. We regularly raise our concerns about the use of the death

penalty with the Bahraini authorities using a range of Ministerial and diplomatic channels. The Government of Bahrain is well aware of the UK's opposition to use of the death penalty.

■ **Hebron: Coronavirus**

Colum Eastwood: [\[78908\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what discussions he has had with his Israeli counterparts on reports of the recent demolition of a Palestinian drive-through covid-19 testing centre in the City of Hebron, south of the occupied West Bank.

James Cleverly:

We are concerned by the reports of a recent demolition of a covid-19 testing centre in Hebron. We have not to date made representations on this particular case but have repeatedly made clear to the Israeli authorities our view that demolitions, in all but the most exceptional of circumstances, are contrary to International Humanitarian Law.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

■ **Brain: Tumours**

Hilary Benn: [\[76598\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, for what reason only £6 million of the £40 million in funding allocated for brain tumour research has been allocated to such research to date; and if he will make a statement.

Helen Whately:

The £40 million announced for brain tumour research in May 2018 was for a period of five years. To date £6 million has been committed to brain tumour research through National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) programmes and the NIHR Academy. This does not include full NIHR spend which also includes spending made through NIHR infrastructure. Infrastructure spend can only be identified on an annual basis after the end of the financial year. We have relaxed the deadlines for NIHR infrastructure reporting this year to enable the health and social care system to respond to the COVID-19 emergency.

■ **Cancer: Screening**

Chris Green: [\[75351\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what his timescale is for updating the National Genomic Test Directory for 2020-21 for genomic tests commissioned by the NHS in England for cancer.

Helen Whately:

Due to the impact of COVID-19, the publication of the National Genomic Test Directory for 2020/21 has been delayed. NHS England and NHS Improvement are

establishing the timescale for the publication of the updated National Genomic Test Directory for 2020/21 in line with national COVID-19 recovery activity. It is expected that the National Genomic Test Directory for 2020/21 will be published by the end of September.

Chris Green:

[75352]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what progress has been made in the development and implementation of pan-cancer testing panels as part of the NHS Genomic Medicine Service.

Helen Whately:

There are seven Genomic Laboratory Hubs across England which are each responsible for coordinating services for a particular part of the country, and together they form the national Genomic Medicine Service. Each Genomic Laboratory Hub has developed an implementation plan and are continuing to develop pan-cancer panels for implementation as part of the NHS Genomic Medicine Service. NHS England and NHS Improvement continue to monitor progress on the development and implementation of pan-cancer panels.

Chris Green:

[75353]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment he has made of the effect of the covid-19 outbreak on genomic testing capacity for cancer within the NHS Genomic Laboratory Hubs network.

Helen Whately:

NHS England and NHS Improvement closely monitored the effect on genomic testing services of COVID-19, including the impact of the redeployment of equipment and staff to support COVID-19 testing. In order to ensure continuity of the genomic testing services, NHS England and NHS Improvement published prioritisation guidance at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/publication/guidance-to-the-nhs-genomic-medicine-service-in-response-to-covid-19/>

NHS England and NHS Improvement continue to work closely with the Genomic Laboratory Hubs to monitor any impacts on testing capacity.

■ **Charities and Social Services: Protective Clothing**

Sir John Hayes:

[40977]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what plans his Department has to ensure that staff working in children's (a) social care services and (b) charities have adequate access to (i) personal protective equipment and (ii) testing for covid-19.

Jo Churchill:

Everybody working on the front line deserves to have the equipment they need to do their job safely and the entire Government is working day and night to make that happen.

To 9 August, we have authorised the release of over 157 million items of personal protective equipment (PPE) to Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) to help them respond to urgent local spikes in need.

These multi-agency LRF partnerships are made up of representatives from local public services, including the emergency services, local authorities, the National Health Service, the Environment Agency and others. This PPE is intended to help LRFs respond to urgent local spikes in need across the adult social care system and other front-line services, where providers are unable to access PPE through their usual routes. This includes children's homes, secure children's homes, residential special schools and children's social care services in local authorities.

We have brought together the NHS, industry and the armed forces to create a PPE distribution network, delivering critical PPE supplies to those who need it. Since the publication of the Government's Testing Strategy in April 2020, we have continued to scale its capacity to support testing for COVID-19 and as at 17 August 2020, testing capacity was 326,086 across all pillars of the testing programme.

Following these further increases in testing capacity, testing is now available to all symptomatic people across the whole of the United Kingdom and anyone experiencing symptoms should get a test as soon as possible. This includes those working to provide essential public services, including children's social care and charities delivering critical frontline services.

Alexander Stafford:

[41207]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what plans his Department has to ensure that staff working in children's social care (a) services and (b) charities have adequate access to (i) personal protective equipment and (ii) testing during the covid-19 outbreak.

Jo Churchill:

Everybody working on the front line deserves to have the equipment they need to do their job safely and the Government is working day and night to make that happen.

To 9 August, we have authorised the release of over 157 million items of personal protective equipment (PPE) to Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) to help them respond to urgent local spikes in need across the adult social care system and some other front-line services.

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■ **Coronavirus: Shops**

Sir Graham Brady:

[75983]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will publish the (a) studies and (b) other research reports that his Department holds on the presence of viable covid-19 virus in the air in (i) supermarkets and (ii) other large retail settings.

Helen Whately:

The Department commissions research through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and is the largest public funder of health research in the United Kingdom. Companies and research institutes are welcome to submit proposals to UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and NIHR research calls. Government support is available to prioritise, coordinate and deliver studies which qualify as urgent public health research.

As part of the NIHR-UKRI rolling call for rapid research proposals research, a £0.3 million project has been commissioned to investigate how long SARS-CoV-2 can survive in air and on different surfaces, which is being led by Public Health England. In addition, a highlight notice was issued in May inviting COVID-19 research proposals on transmission. Whilst the research is not specific to supermarkets and other large-scale retail settings it is hoped that the research is applicable to these and many other scenarios.

■ **Diabetes and Obesity: Coronavirus**

Mrs Sharon Hodgson:

[65095]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to Public Health England's report, Disparities in the risk and outcomes of covid-19, published in June 2020, what meetings he has had with (a) Ministers and (b) officials in her Department on conducting further research into adverse outcomes from covid-19; and whether those meetings included discussion on the the role of (i) obesity and (ii) diabetes and covid-19, and if he will make a statement.

Helen Whately:

Research (NIHR). The UK Research and Innovation-NIHR Rapid Response Rolling Call has funded a large post-hospitalisation study. The study, announced in July, will establish a The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has had a number of meetings looking at research into outcomes of Covid-19 with Ministers across the

Department, the Chief Medical Officer, Deputy Chief Medical Officers and other Public Health England officials.

The Department invests over £1 billion a year in health and care research through the National Institute for Health national consortium and a research platform embedded within clinical care to understand and improve long-term outcomes for survivors following hospitalisation with COVID-19.

■ Hearing Impairment: Coronavirus

Lilian Greenwood:

[\[57967\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to the Government's press release of 5 June 2020, on surgical masks worn in NHS hospitals, what provision his Department has made for NHS staff who are (a) deaf or (b) have hearing loss.

Jo Churchill:

[Holding answer 15 June 2020]: The Government recognise concerns about the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), particularly face masks when it comes to people who are deaf or have hearing loss. The United Kingdom's Government's national PPE procurement team has been working extremely hard to source clear facemasks which comply with UK safety standards and have procured stocks of clear masks into health and social care settings, to support those who need to lip read. Distribution solutions for these are currently being confirmed. Our priority remains saving lives, including those frontline staff who need to wear PPE as they go about their vital work.

Ms Harriet Harman:

[\[77488\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what recent discussions he has had with the Chief Medical Officer on the distribution of accessible, deaf-friendly face masks in response to the covid-19 outbreak.

Jo Churchill:

The Government recognise concerns about the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), particularly face masks when it comes to people who lip read. The United Kingdom's Government's national PPE procurement team has been working extremely hard to source clear facemasks which comply with UK safety standards and have procured stocks of clear masks into health and social care settings, to support those who need to lip read. Distribution solutions for these are currently being confirmed.

■ Obesity: Health Services

Dr James Davies:

[\[72994\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what his policy is on the development of obesity services in (a) hospitals and (b) communities in areas where such services do not currently exist.

Jo Churchill:

We published 'Tackling obesity: empowering adults and children to live healthier lives' on 27 July. The strategy demonstrates an overarching campaign to reduce obesity, takes forward actions from previous chapters of the childhood obesity plan and sets our measures to get the nation fit and healthy, protect against COVID-19 and protect the National Health Service.

In addition, Public Health England has launched the 'Better Health' campaign, which will call on people to embrace a healthier lifestyle and to lose weight if they need to, supported by a range of evidence-based tools and apps providing advice on how to reduce the waistline. We will also expand weight management services to help more people get the support they need and through incentives with general practitioners will make conversations about weight in primary care the norm.

'Tackling obesity: empowering adults and children to live healthier lives' is available at the following link:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/tackling-obesity-government-strategy/tackling-obesity-empowering-adults-and-children-to-live-healthier-lives

■ Stem Cells: Donors**Jim Shannon:****[76714]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to (a) raise awareness among the general public and (b) help reduce waiting times for people registering as stem cell donors.

Helen Whately:

Since 2011 the Department has provided over £26.8 million in financial support to NHS Blood and Transplant and Anthony Nolan to enable the establishment of a unified UK Stem Cell Registry and improve access to, and outcomes of, stem cell donation. There are now 1.6 million donors on the United Kingdom's aligned stem cell registry which is also part of a worldwide network of 76 stem cell registries, which list over 36 million donors worldwide and co-operate to match donors to patients across the globe.

Currently, the UK Stem Cell Registry and the NHS Cord Blood Bank have helped patients in over 40 countries around the world. NHS Blood and Transplant also supports World Marrow Donor Day which is celebrated globally on the third Saturday of September. There is no waiting list to join the UK Stem Cell Registry.

HOME OFFICE**■ Police: Racial Discrimination****Catherine West:****[78786]**

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of trends in the level of racism in British policing.

Kit Malthouse:

Racism, in any form, is abhorrent and has no place in policing. The power of the police to fulfil their duties is wholly dependent on their ability to secure and maintain public confidence and respect.

We have put in place measures to ensure that policing is subject to appropriate levels of transparency and accountability – with regular inspections by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) of the way forces engage with communities, publication of data on the use of police powers, including stop and search, and strengthening the police complaints and discipline systems.

The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) publishes a range of information and statistics on police complaints and in 2019 submitted evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee, as part of the committee's inquiry into "Macpherson 20 years on", setting out findings from a series of Public Confidence Surveys carried out since 2004.

The College of Policing publishes data annually on officers and staff who have been dismissed and placed on the Police Barred List.

■ Police: Training**Dame Cheryl Gillan:**[\[76554\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to make autism training for police officers mandatory.

Kit Malthouse:

The College of Policing sets the standards for training and professional development for police forces in England and Wales. It has produced Authorised Professional Practice and a range of training materials to support officers to help vulnerable people effectively, including those with mental health problems and autism.

Training on mental health and vulnerabilities issues is integrated throughout the initial police learning programme which all new recruits – police constables, special constables and PCSOs – must complete. Ongoing training is the responsibility of individual police forces, through Chief Constables, to ensure officers and police staff receive appropriate training for their roles and that they have regard to the appropriate Authorised Professional Practice when discharging their responsibilities.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**■ Migrant Camps: Humanitarian Aid****Jim Shannon:**[\[77623\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what recent steps the Government has taken to help ensure the effective delivery of aid to refugee camps in (a) Yemen, (b) Syria and (c) South Sudan.

James Cleverly:

In Yemen through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), DFID has supported 224 teachers' salaries for refugee and IDP affected areas from July 2020 to February 2021. This funding covers gaps where existing teachers' salaries have stopped or are under threat. UK aid has provided £10.8 million to UNHCR to assist refugees and IDPs in Yemen since 2017. This includes over 5,000 refugee children supported with child protection activities, and counselling to over 3,000 survivors of gender-based violence.

In South Sudan the UK funds several programmes that help support refugees. The UK-Unilever water and sanitation partnership, UNHCR and Save the Children help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in refugee populations and host communities across the country. DFID-funded education programmes in South Sudan ensure IDP and refugee children have access to quality education despite the multiple barriers they face. The UK works with the UN, NGOs and the Red Cross to ensure that life-saving supplies get to the most vulnerable communities. COVID-19 containment measures have made this more difficult, so DFID works closely with the Government and others to ensure that the movement of humanitarian supplies and personnel are impacted as little as possible.

In Syria. Most of the humanitarian need is among internally displaced persons, now totalling 6.1million. DFID continues to support Palestinian refugees in Syria through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) Syria programme, to which the UK has contributed £36m since 2017. UNRWA is the only agency mandated to provide services to this population and often the only organisation with the access, permission, and mandate required to assist Palestinian refugees.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE**■ Arms Trade: Saudi Arabia****Emily Thornberry:**[\[78567\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, with reference to her Written Statement of 7 July 2020 on Trade Update, whether the 30 July 2019 air-strike on a market in Al-Thabet was (a) among the alleged incidents of violations of International Humanitarian Law in Yemen examined by her Department under the revised methodology and (b) one of the incidents classed as a possible breach of International Humanitarian Law.

Emily Thornberry:[\[78568\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, with reference to her Written Statement of 7 July 2020 on Trade Update, whether the 9 August 2018 air-strike on a school bus and market in Dahyan was (a) among the alleged incidents of violations of International Humanitarian Law in Yemen examined by her Department under the revised

methodology and (b) one of the incidents classed as a possible breach of International Humanitarian Law.

Emily Thornberry: [\[78569\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, with reference to her Written Statement of 7 July 2020 on Trade Update, whether the 15 February 2017 air-strike on a funeral reception near Sanaa was (a) among the alleged incidents of violations of International Humanitarian Law in Yemen examined by her Department under the revised methodology and (b) one of the incidents classed as a possible breach of International Humanitarian Law.

Emily Thornberry: [\[78570\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, with reference to her Written Statement of 7 July 2020 on Trade Update, whether the 8 October 2016 air-strike on a hall where a funeral was being held in Sanaa was (a) among the alleged incidents of violations of International Humanitarian Law in Yemen examined by her Department under the revised methodology and (b) one of the incidents classed as a possible breach of International Humanitarian Law.

Emily Thornberry: [\[78571\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, with reference to her Written Statement of 7 July 2020 on Trade Update, whether the 1 September 2019 air-strike on a prison compound in Dhamar was (a) among the alleged incidents of violations of International Humanitarian Law in Yemen examined by her Department under the revised methodology and (b) one of the incidents classed as a possible breach of International Humanitarian Law.

Emily Thornberry: [\[78572\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, with reference to her Written Statement of 7 July 2020 on Trade Update, whether the 26 October 2015 air-strike on a Médecins Sans Frontières hospital in Haydan governorate was (a) among the alleged incidents of violations of International Humanitarian Law in Yemen examined by her Department under the revised methodology and (b) one of the incidents classed as a possible breach of International Humanitarian Law.

Emily Thornberry: [\[78573\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, with reference to her Written Statement of 7 July 2020 on Trade Update, whether the 15 February 2020 air-strikes on Al-Hayjah was (a) among the alleged incidents of violations of International Humanitarian Law in Yemen examined by her Department under the revised methodology and (b) one of the incidents classed as a possible breach of International Humanitarian Law.

Emily Thornberry: [\[78574\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, with reference to her Written Statement of 7 July 2020 on Trade Update, whether the 1 November 2017 air-strike on a market in Sahar was (a) among the alleged incidents of violations of International

Humanitarian Law in Yemen examined by her Department under the revised methodology and (b) one of the incidents classed as a possible breach of International Humanitarian Law.

Emily Thornberry:

[\[78575\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, with reference to her Written Statement of 7 July 2020 on Trade Update, whether the 15 June 2020 air-strike on a vehicle in Shada was (a) among the alleged incidents of violations of International Humanitarian Law in Yemen examined by her Department under the revised methodology and (b) one of the incidents classed as a possible breach of International Humanitarian Law.

Emily Thornberry:

[\[78576\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, with reference to her Written Statement of 7 July 2020 on Trade Update, whether the 23 April 2018 air-strike on a wedding in Bani Qayis was (a) among the alleged incidents of violations of International Humanitarian Law in Yemen examined by her Department under the revised methodology and (b) one of the incidents classed as a possible breach of International Humanitarian Law.

Mr Ranil Jayawardena:

Our analysis as to whether or not an incident constituted a ‘possible’ breach of international humanitarian law was applied to over 300 incidents.

The assessments used all available sources of information, including some that are necessarily confidential and sensitive. As a result, we are not able to provide details of individual assessments for national security reasons.

We have assessed that there were a small number of incidents that were ‘possible’ violations, which have been treated for the purposes of this analysis as violations of international humanitarian law.

■ Department for International Trade: LinkedIn Ireland

Emily Thornberry:

[\[78561\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what marketing and media services her Department procured from LinkedIn Ireland Unlimited Company, paid for on 27 March 2019.

Greg Hands:

The Department uses LinkedIn to promote the UK as an inward investment destination, and to promote the UK’s goods and services, to investors and buyers around the world. The specific services purchased on 27 March 2019 comprised:

1. Sending of targeted InMails to international, senior Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) decision-makers, a) promoting the United Kingdom as the best location for FDI in Europe, b) encouraging download of the “Perfect Fit Prospectus” and c) promoting specific regions/localities of the UK as ideal investment locations.

2. Targeted placement of sector-specific sponsored content adverts to a similar audience for the same purpose.

■ Overseas Trade

Emily Thornberry: [\[78563\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, with which individuals she shared a roundtable discussion on trade and the impact of tariffs on 17 October 2019.

Mr Ranil Jayawardena:

The Secretary of State for International Trade hosted a business roundtable on 17 October 2019 to discuss US retaliatory tariffs. The attendees of the roundtable included representatives from sectors affected by US tariffs alongside representatives from sectors whose products were at threat of US tariffs. Individuals representing sectors such as textiles, aviation, food and drink were in attendance.

■ Riot Control Weapons: USA

Emily Thornberry: [\[78557\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, whether her Department has licensed exports of riot control equipment where the end user was the US Marshals Special Operations Group, a division of the US Department of Justice, in the last five years.

Emily Thornberry: [\[78558\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, whether her Department has licensed exports of riot control equipment where the end user was the United States Customs and Border Protection Agency, a division of the United States Department of Homeland Security, in the last five years.

Mr Ranil Jayawardena:

Export licences have been granted for riot control equipment for potential end users that include law enforcement agencies, via end users such as stockists/distributors.

However, none of the licences identified specifically reference the US Marshals Special Operations Group, nor the United States Customs and Border Protection Agency.

There are also Open General Export Licences available for exporters to register and use, which have scope for riot control equipment to be exported to the US and these are available to view on GOV.UK. These have no requirement to specify end user customers.

■ Trade Agreements: Agriculture

Geraint Davies: [\[77496\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how new agricultural

subsidies linked to the delivery of public goods will be integrated into the UK's trade negotiations.

Mr Ranil Jayawardena:

As we take back control of our laws from the EU, we will set our own standards. When the Transition Period ends, we will remain a global leader in environmental protection and animal welfare standards, maintaining high quality produce for consumers at home and overseas.

HM Government's reforms to agricultural subsidies are a domestic policy and we will uphold our support for farmers in all our trade negotiations. The Secretary of State for International Trade regularly discusses trade negotiations with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs.

■ **Trade Agreements: Japan**

Gareth Thomas:

[\[77504\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, whether Investor State Dispute Settlement mechanisms will be included in a future trade deal with Japan; and if will she make a statement.

Mr Ranil Jayawardena:

The precise details of a Free Trade Agreement with Japan are a matter for formal negotiations, and we would not seek to pre-empt these discussions.

However, Britain has negotiated investment agreements with investment protections and Investor-State Dispute settlement (ISDS) provisions with over 90 existing treaty partners. HM Government recognises the important role that these provisions can play in protecting British investors abroad, including small- and medium-sized enterprises, and pensioners across the country through their pension funds.

Where ISDS is included in future agreements, we will seek to ensure fair outcomes of claims and high ethical standards for arbitrators, with increased transparency and efficiency of proceedings.

NORTHERN IRELAND

■ **Coronavirus: Northern Ireland**

Andrew Gwynne:

[\[905458\]](#)

What steps the Government is taking to support the recovery of the Northern Ireland economy after the covid-19 outbreak.

Bill Esterson:

[\[905459\]](#)

What steps the Government is taking to support the recovery of the Northern Ireland economy after the covid-19 outbreak.

Mr Robin Walker:

Businesses in Northern Ireland have always exhibited tremendous resilience and ability to bounce back from adversity.

This Government has stood by the people of Northern Ireland, providing support for Northern Ireland businesses and employees throughout the pandemic with an unprecedented series of grants, loans and support schemes. We remain committed to enabling them, and the wider economy, to thrive and grow as we emerge from the lockdown.

We look forward to working with the Executive and local partners to unleash Northern Ireland's potential by driving innovation and connecting Northern Ireland with opportunities through our new trading relationships.

■ Customs: Northern Ireland**Theresa Villiers:****[905440]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what steps he is taking to minimise the costs to Northern Ireland businesses of complying with the requirements of the Northern Ireland Protocol.

Mr Robin Walker:

We are committed to working closely with businesses as we implement the Protocol - they are at the heart of our approach. This is why we established the Business Engagement Forum and why we recently announced the introduction of the Trader Support Service.

This unique service will provide extensive support, guiding traders through all import processes at no additional cost. Backed by £200m in Government funding, this will ensure that businesses of all sizes can draw on the support it provides.

Alex Sobel:**[905460]**

What recent discussions he has had with the Northern Ireland Executive on the UK's approach to implementing the Northern Ireland Protocol.

Mr Robin Walker:

Northern Ireland Office Ministers have been working closely and collaboratively with the Executive throughout as we plan for the end of the Transition Period. We are determined to ensure that new processes are streamlined and do not affect the flow of trade, with clear guidance and support in place for businesses.

■ Domestic Abuse: Northern Ireland**Kim Johnson:****[905461]**

What discussions he has had with groups supporting victims of domestic violence in Northern Ireland during the covid-19 outbreak.

Mr Robin Walker:

Sadly during this pandemic, there has been a rise in domestic abuse incidents. I'm pleased to see there has been a focus across the whole of the UK to support victims of domestic violence.

Northern Ireland's Department of Justice and Department of Health have taken a range of steps, including introducing the Domestic Abuse and Family Proceedings Bill. An action plan for the domestic and sexual abuse strategy has also been published and the domestic violence and abuse campaign 'see the signs' has been relaunched.

I was pleased to see that on 3 July, the NI Justice Minister and NI Health Minister published a plan for year five of the seven year domestic and sexual abuse strategy and a progress report for 2019/20, taking forward commitments that had been made by the Executive in 2016.

Although this is a devolved area, the UK Government has made available £2 million to support domestic abuse charities to use technology to provide support in a more covert way to help victims trapped with their abuser.

■ Terrorism: Northern Ireland**Stephen Farry:**[\[905484\]](#)

What discussions his Department has had with (a) victims groups and (b) other key stakeholders in Northern Ireland on the development of the Government's proposals on addressing Northern Ireland legacy issues, announced on 18 March 2020.

Mr Robin Walker:

The Government remains committed to introducing legislation to address the legacy of the past in Northern Ireland.

The Department has held discussions with a number of key stakeholders, including victims groups, the Commissioner for Victims and Survivors, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, and a range of individuals from across civic society and academia.

TRANSPORT**■ Electric Vehicles: Charging Points****Kerry McCarthy:**[\[77535\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what discussions he has had with the devolved administrations on coordinating rapid charging infrastructure for electric vehicles throughout the UK.

Rachel Maclean:

Whilst the management of roads is a devolved matter, my officials in the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) are working collaboratively with partners in the Devolved Administrations to ensure that we can all establish effective and

coordinated plans in place for rapid charging infrastructure across the whole of the UK.

Kerry McCarthy:

[\[78539\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what plans he has to ensure that communities receive an equitable distribution of charging points in the the transition to electric vehicles.

Rachel Maclean:

We are providing £500 million over the next five years to support the rollout infrastructure for electric vehicles in England and we have a range of grant schemes to support the installation of charging infrastructure that are available across the UK. Local authorities are able to take advantage of the On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS), which assists them with the cost of installing chargepoints on residential streets. In addition, the Charging Infrastructure Investment Fund will see £200 million from Government match funded by the private sector to invest in EV charging. We are publishing regular statistics on the number and distribution of charging points across the UK to monitor the market as it develops.

■ **Electric Vehicles: Parking**

Kerry McCarthy:

[\[78537\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what support he will make available to people without access to off-street parking to transition to electric vehicles.

Rachel Maclean:

The Government wants to ensure that lack of access to off-street parking is not a barrier to realising the benefits of owning a plug-in electric vehicle. We have doubled the funding available under the On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme this year to £20 million to ensure more local authorities and residents can benefit from the scheme. This will allow local authorities to install up to 7,200 charging devices, making it more convenient to charge and own an electric vehicle. In addition, Government is investing almost £40 million in projects to support innovation in wireless and on-street charging technology to encourage the uptake of electric vehicles.

■ **High Speed 2 Railway Line**

Christian Wakeford:

[\[77864\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what recent discussions he has had with (a) representatives from HS2 Ltd, (b) Cabinet colleagues and (c) other relevant organisations on accelerating the construction of High Speed Two services to Manchester.

Andrew Stephenson:

The Government is preparing an Integrated Rail Plan for the North and Midlands which will set out our intentions for the HS2 Phase 2b route to Manchester and Leeds. That work is overseen by a Ministerial taskforce chaired by the Secretary of State, which includes colleagues from the Prime Minister's Office, HM Treasury, the

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, and the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy.

The Oakervee review concluded, following experience on Phase One, that having smaller Bills/phases may allow for faster construction of the project.

HS2 Ltd has been asked to prepare draft legislation for the route into Manchester for deposit in Parliament by early 2022, and to be ready to act on the conclusions of the Integrated Rail Plan for the whole route.

■ **Taxis: Standards**

John Spellar:

[\[78493\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what discussions he had the (a) Home Secretary and (b) Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government prior to his announcement on changes to the statutory taxi and private hire vehicle standards on 21 July 2020.

Rachel Maclean:

The Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards were subject to extensive engagement, consultation and agreement across government.

TREASURY

■ **Beer: Excise Duties**

Deidre Brock:

[\[82028\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, when the technical consultation on reform of Small Brewers Relief will be launched.

Deidre Brock:

[\[82029\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent assessment he has made of the potential effect of the planned reform of Small Brewers Relief on small, independent breweries.

Deidre Brock:

[\[82030\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent discussions his Department has had with the Society of Independent Brewers on the Small Brewers Relief reform.

Deidre Brock:

[\[82031\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent discussions his Department has had with the Small Brewers Duty Reform Coalition on Small Brewers Relief reform.

Kemi Badenoch:

The Treasury has been reviewing Small Brewers Relief (SBR) since 2018, and before recess announced several changes to the SBR scheme in order to make it easier for small independent breweries to expand and grow.

As part of the review, I have met with the Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA) and the Small Brewers Duty Reform Coalition (SBDRC), most recently in July. My predecessor Simon Clarke MP met with both groups in a roundtable in September 2019. Officials have also had frequent meetings with both groups.

The review is still ongoing and will be subject to a consultation on further technical details. This will be published later this Autumn.

■ Carbon Emissions

Geraint Davies:

[\[77495\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what discussions he has had with the Secretary State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the potential merits of carbon border adjustments for supporting the UK's climate commitments.

Kemi Badenoch:

As a global leader on decarbonisation, the UK recognises the importance of ensuring that policy interventions to cut domestic emissions do not lead to increased emissions elsewhere. A range of approaches could potentially help to address this, of which carbon border adjustments are one, and the Treasury continues to engage on the issue.

■ Members: Correspondence

Rosie Cooper:

[\[78578\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he plans to respond to the correspondence from the hon. Member for West Lancashire of 20 April 2020 on furlough for agency or bank staff at NHS Professionals.

Kemi Badenoch:

The Treasury responded to the Member's letter on 24 July 2020.

■ Whisky: Scotland

Alan Brown:

[\[82109\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent assessment he has made of the contribution of the Scotch Whisky industry to the (a) public purse and (b) economy; and if he will he make a statement.

Alan Brown:

[\[82110\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the tax burden on Scotch Whisky.

Alan Brown:

[\[82111\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment he has made of the effect on the Scotch whisky sector of the 25 per cent tariff on single malt Scotch Whisky and liqueurs imposed by the US; what plans he has to support the sector through domestic tax policy; and if he will make a statement.

Kemi Badenoch:

The Government greatly values the important contribution the Scotch Whisky industry makes to the economy and society. For this reason, the Government froze spirits duty at the Budget earlier this year, the sixth cut or freeze since 2014. In 2019-20, spirits duty revenues totalled £3.8 billion. Home produced whisky made up 17% of overall spirits volumes.

The Government regards the existing US tariffs on Scotch whisky as unhelpful and unnecessary. They are unfairly damaging a great UK export. The Government takes this issue very seriously and continues to raise the issue with the highest levels of the US administration to seek a negotiated settlement.

MINISTERIAL CORRECTIONS

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

■ Nurses

Jeremy Hunt:

[61454]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many nurses were employed to care for adults in the NHS in each month from 2010 to 2018.

An error has been identified in the written answer given on 16 July 2020. The correct answer should have been:

Helen Whately:

NHS Digital publishes Hospital and Community Health Services workforce statistics. These include staff working in hospital trusts and clinical commissioning groups, but not staff working in primary care, general practitioner surgeries, local authorities or other providers.

The attached table shows the number of adult nurses as at each month between 2010 and 2018. This data contains data on adult nurses and does not include mental health nurses or learning disability nurses.

Attachments:

1. **PQ61454 formatted table.docx**

WRITTEN STATEMENTS

BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

■ **Proposed Wylfa Newydd Nuclear Power Station Energy Infrastructure Project**

Minister of State (Minister for Business, Energy and Clean Growth) (Kwasi Kwarteng):

[\[HCWS430\]](#)

This statement concerns an application made by Horizon Nuclear Power Limited under the Planning Act 2008 for development consent for the construction and operation of a new nuclear power station and associated infrastructure at Wylfa Head on the Isle of Anglesey.

Under section 107(1) of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State must make a decision on an application within three months of receipt of the Examining Authority's report unless exercising the power under section 107(3) to set a new deadline. Where a new deadline is set, the Secretary of State must make a Statement to Parliament to announce it. The deadline for the decision on the proposed The Wylfa Newydd (Nuclear Generating Station) Order application was 23 October 2019 but that deadline was reset to 31 March 2020 to allow further information in respect of environmental effects and other outstanding issues to be provided and considered.

Following initial analysis of the further information which has now been provided, the Secretary of State has concluded that an additional period of time is required in order to complete his consideration in respect of environmental effects and other issues which were outstanding following the examination. It is not anticipated that any further information will be required.

The Secretary of State has set a new deadline for deciding the application of 30 September 2020. The decision to set the new deadline for the application is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's decision on whether to grant or refuse development consent.

■ **Publication of the Government Response to the OECD report of International Regulatory Cooperation in the UK**

Minister for London and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Small Business, Consumers and Labour Markets) (Paul Scully):

[\[HCWS429\]](#)

My Right Honourable friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Climate Change and Corporate Responsibility) Lord Callanan has today made the following statement:

I am today publishing the Government Response to a review by the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) into the UK's international regulatory cooperation practices. This includes launching a call for evidence targeted at UK regulators, standard bodies and industry groups to understand their priorities for greater

regulatory cooperation, and how the government can help support and leverage their engagement in support of the UK's wider national interest.

International regulatory cooperation (IRC) is about understanding the implications of regulation beyond national borders. It provides an important opportunity for countries to adapt their regulations to the rapidly evolving needs of a globalised world and to influence the regulation of others. In practical terms, this involves shaping and complying with international agreements, utilising international evidence and collaborating with international partners when designing and enforcing regulations.

For the UK, consideration of IRC is increasingly important given we are at a critical juncture for the country and our regulatory policy. We are seeking to build on our global ambitions now that the UK has left the European Union and is taking back regulatory competencies. In tandem, we are developing our own independent trade policy for the first time in almost fifty years. The emergence of new technologies, which are global in their scale and implications, also means that regulation is more international than ever. Effective regulation in these technologies underpinned by international cooperation enables consistent enforcement across borders and opens up trade opportunities by the reduction in non-tariff barriers.

In light of this, in 2018 the government invited the OECD (as the leading authority on regulatory policy) to conduct a review into the UK's IRC practices. The resulting OECD report finds that there is no overarching, cross-government strategic vision and systematic practices in place in relation to IRC. And while there are some examples of effective regulatory cooperation initiatives being undertaken by our world-renowned regulators, overall, this is sporadic and sector specific.

The report makes 25 recommendations to address this across three broad categories which are:

- building a holistic IRC vision, a strategy and political leadership for IRC in the UK;
- embedding IRC more systemically in regulatory management tools; and
- increasing awareness and understanding about IRC across departments and regulators .

The document I am publishing today 'International Regulatory Cooperation for a Global Britain', sets out our response to these recommendations. It welcomes the OECD's report and sets out the programme of work my department will be undertaking to drive a systematic focus on IRC across government and regulators by:

- developing a whole-of-government international regulatory cooperation strategy, which sets out the policies, tools and respective roles of different departments and regulators in facilitating this;
- embedding international regulatory cooperation considerations within the better regulation framework and other government guidance;
- developing specific tools and guidance to policy makers and regulators on how to conduct international regulatory cooperation; and

- establishing networks to convene international policy professionals from across government and regulators share experience and best practice on international regulatory cooperation.

The call for evidence we are launching as part of this response aims to understand where regulators, standards bodies and industry groups already engaged in IRC, their priorities for where they would like to see greater IRC and how the government can aid them identify and pursue opportunities.

The UK has a proud tradition of better regulation in ensuring that regulation is proportionate, targeted, transparent, accountable and consistent. Adopting a more international approach continues this by helping to reduce regulatory burdens on our exporting businesses and ensuring more effective regulatory outcomes for society. IRC will play a critical role in delivering on the government's vision of a Global Britain that is a responsible international actor playing a constructive role in tackling issues of collective global responsibility, and a champion of free trade that seeks to counter the growing proliferation of non-tariff barriers .

The results of the call for evidence will be used to inform the development of the government's international regulatory cooperation strategy to be published at a future date, on which I will update the House.

■ List of Ministerial Responsibilities

Minister of State (Chloe Smith):

[\[HCWS434\]](#)

As part of the Government's ongoing commitment to transparency and accountability, I am pleased to announce that the Government has published the List of Ministerial Responsibilities document on GOV.UK. I will today be placing copies in the library of both Houses.

The list includes details of Ministerial departments, the Ministers within Ministerial departments, the private offices of all the Ministers and the executive agencies within each department.

EDUCATION

■ Education Update

The Secretary of State for Education (Gavin Williamson):

[\[HCWS428\]](#)

Today, I am confirming £560 million of capital funding to maintain and improve the condition of the school estate.

On 29 June, the Government announced a transformative, ten-year rebuilding programme for schools, supported by over £1 billion for the first 50 projects. This will replace poor condition and ageing school buildings, with modern, energy efficient designs, transforming education for thousands of pupils

The government also announced that £560 million of additional condition funding would be made available this year to maintain and improve the condition of the school estate. This is in addition to the £1.45 billion already provided for school maintenance in financial year 2020-21.

Details of how the additional funding has been allocated were published on 5 August 2020. This included:

- £182 million to fund a further 580 Condition Improvement Fund projects from the 2020-21 application round, at 548 eligible academies, sixth form colleges and voluntary aided schools. A further £5 million will support the CIF appeals round and urgent projects later in the year.
- A further £373 million allocated through School Condition Allocations for 2020-21 for local authorities, large multi-academy trusts and academy sponsors, and dioceses, and other large voluntary aided school groups.

Overall, for the Condition Improvement Fund 2020-21 bidding round we have now awarded a total of £616 million for 2,056 projects, benefitting 1652 schools and colleges. We have now also allocated £1,176 million in School Condition Allocations for 2020-21.

Full details have been published on the Department for Education section on the GOV.UK website. Copies will be placed in the House Library.

HOME OFFICE

■ Biennial Report of the National DNA Database Strategy Board

The Minister of State for Crime, Policing and the Fire Service (Kit Malthouse):
[\[HCWS431\]](#)

I am pleased to announce that I am, today, publishing the Annual Report of the National DNA Database Strategy Board for 2018-20. This report covers the National Fingerprints Database and the National DNA Database (NDNAD).

The Strategy Board Chair, ACC Ben Snuggs, has presented the Annual Report of the National DNA Database to the Home Secretary. Publication of the Report is a statutory requirement under section 63AB(7) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 as inserted by section 24 of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.

The Report shows the important contribution that the NDNAD and the National Fingerprint Databases (policing collections) make to supporting policing and solving crimes. I am grateful to the Strategy Board for their commitment to fulfilling their statutory functions.

The report is today being laid before the House and copies will be available from the Vote Office.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

■ Contingencies Fund Advance – The Parliamentary Works Sponsor Body

The Spokesperson, House of Commons Commission (Pete Wishart):

[\[HCWS432\]](#)

In April 2020, the Commissions of both Houses agreed funding for the Restoration and Renewal Programme for April to June 2020 of £27,500,000 which was laid before the House of Commons on 4 May as the initial Main Estimate for 2020–21. In June, the Commissions of both Houses agreed funding for the Programme for July 2020 to March 2021 of £98,700,000 which will be laid before the House of Commons as a Supplementary Estimate for 2020–21 during the current Financial Year. Ahead of the Supplementary Estimates being voted on towards the end of the 2020–21 Financial Year, a cash advance has been sought from HM Treasury in order to enable the continued operation of the Programme.

Parliamentary approval for additional resources of £96,230,000 and capital of £2,470,000 will be sought in a Supplementary Estimate for the Parliamentary Works Sponsor Body. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £98,700,000 will be met by repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund.

JUSTICE

■ Independent Review of Administrative Law

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Robert Buckland):

[\[HCWS427\]](#)

On the 31st July 2020, I announced, via press notice, the creation of an Independent Review of Administrative Law. I am today following up this announcement. This review extends from our Manifesto commitment; an external advisory Panel will provide the Government with expert advice on potential reform of judicial review. As Lord Chancellor, I am committed to defending our world-class and independent courts and judiciary that lie at the heart of British justice and the rule of law.

Specifically, this work aims to examine the effectiveness of judicial review as a mechanism for balancing the rights of the citizen and effective governance, considering the role of the executive, Parliament and the courts. The review is examining four key areas outlined in detail in the Terms of Reference which have been placed in the Library of the House. Broadly, the panel will consider the following issues:

- i) whether judicial review should be codified;
- ii) whether certain executive decisions should be non-justiciable;
- iii) which grounds and remedies should be available in justiciable claims; and
- iv) procedural reforms to judicial review (such as timings, appeals and ‘standing’).

The examination of these issues will consider the balance of the legitimate interest of the citizen being able to challenge the lawfulness of executive action through the courts with the importance of the executive being able to govern effectively under the law. Moreover, it will consider data and evidence and relevant caselaw on the development of judicial review and consider whether reform is justified.

It is my intention that the panel shall consider these questions thoroughly. As courts and the way they operate is a key part of our constitution, any options for reform put forward by the panel will be considered by myself and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, Michael Gove. The panel will report back later this year and their report will be published, as will the Government's response.

The following people are members of the panel. Each were selected on the basis that they are senior legal practitioners and eminent academics. The panel members are:

- Lord Faulks QC – Panel Chair
- Professor Carol Harlow QC
- Vikram Sachdeva QC
- Professor Alan Page
- Celina Colquhoun
- Nick McBride

■ Independent review of supervision of terrorism and terrorism-risk offenders

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Chris Philp):

[[HCWS435](#)]

Last November Usman Khan brutally murdered Saskia Jones and Jack Merritt before being shot dead by police on London Bridge. Khan was being supervised by the National Probation Services (NPS) on a post-release licence following a number of years in prison for terrorist offences. He was subject to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), where the NPS, prisons and police work together with other agencies, including, when it comes to terrorist offenders, the Security Services to assess and manage the risk presented by known dangerous offenders.

Protecting the public from harm is the first duty of any government, and police, prison, probation and intelligence officers work tirelessly to keep our country safe. However, they can only manage and reduce the risk posed by dangerous individuals, it can never be eliminated entirely. Some offenders will always be determined to sow terror, despite all the efforts made to divert them from extremism.

It is, therefore, imperative that we seize every opportunity to improve our counter-terrorism efforts. That is why, as part of our response to the London Bridge attack, the government asked Jonathan Hall QC, the independent reviewer of terrorism legislation, to review the effectiveness of MAPPA when it comes to managing terrorist offenders and other offenders who may pose a terror risk. The terms of reference were published in January: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-public-protection->

[arrangements-review/terms-of-reference-independent-review-of-the-statutory-multi-agency-public-protection-arrangements](#). The review includes an annex assessing the tools available to manage radicalised offenders with serious mental health needs.

The importance of this review was further highlighted by the horrific attack in Streatham in February in which two people were stabbed. Thankfully, their lives were saved by the rapid work of the emergency services, and the attacker, Sudesh Amman, was shot dead before he could inflict more harm. He, too, was a convicted terrorist subject to MAPPA management and had recently left prison.

Jonathan Hall's review did not consider the circumstances that led up to these attacks – separate reviews are still under way.

Jonathan Hall found that MAPPA is a well-established process and did not conclude that wholesale change is necessary. He has made a number of recommendations on how the management of terrorists can be improved and the government, police and prison and probation service have been working on changes in line with many of them. For example, we are already legislating to require terrorist offenders to undergo polygraph testing; in addition, we are also legislating so that other offenders can have their crimes identified as terror-related, even if not terror offences as set out in law.

We are also establishing a division of specialist staff in the NPS to manage terrorist risk offenders, bringing together counter-terrorism expertise in one place and strengthening its work with the police and security services.

This is on top of our wider efforts to tackle terrorism:

- Increasing funding for Counter-Terrorism Police by 10% this year to over £900 million.
- Doubling the number of probation staff who supervise terrorist offenders.
- Strengthening the tools used to monitor and manage extremist individuals, including Terrorist Prevention and Investigation Measures and Serious Crime Prevention Orders.
- Ensuring terrorists spend longer in prison, including by creating a minimum 14-year jail term for those convicted of serious terror offences.

We are considering the remainder of Jonathan Hall's recommendations and hope to set out our response shortly. The full report has been published here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-public-protection-arrangements-review>

WORK AND PENSIONS

■ Kickstart Scheme Launch

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Dr Thérèse Coffey):
[\[HCWS433\]](#)

Today we are launching the Kickstart scheme, which was announced by the Chancellor as part of Our Plan for Jobs in his statement on 8th July. This £2 billion programme will fund the direct creation of additional jobs focused on young people at risk of long-term unemployment to improve their chances of progressing to find long-term, sustainable work.

As we build back our economy and return to work we know that for many young people a lack of work experience can be a barrier to taking that first step on the jobs' ladder. That is why we are taking steps to help young people gain experience through the Kickstart Scheme and a foothold in the world of work.

The scheme is open to employers from across the private, public and voluntary sectors. Through the scheme, employers will be able to access a large pool of young people with lots to offer, ready for an opportunity. Organisations of all sizes are encouraged to participate. Organisations with a small number of placements will be expected to bid through intermediaries or umbrella organisations like local enterprise partnerships, business trade associations or local government, ensuring the necessary support is in place to enable them to deliver placements effectively.

Employers will need to show that these are additional jobs and that the Kickstart role will provide the experience and support a young person needs to improve their chances of permanent employment. People will be referred through the Jobcentre Plus network. Employers will be able to interview candidates for the roles they offer.

Funding available for each job will cover the relevant National Minimum Wage (NMW) rate for 25 hours a week, plus the associated employer National Insurance contributions, and employer minimum automatic enrolment contributions. It will also include £1500 for start-up and wrap around support for people of a Kickstart placement.

Today we are calling for employers to bid to be involved in the scheme, with the first job placements expected to begin in November. The bid application and information to support employers will be available online through www.gov.uk/kickstart.