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Tuesday
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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)

HOUSE OF LORDS

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Ministers and others who make Statements or answer Questions are referred to only by name, not their ministerial or other title. The current list of ministerial and other responsibilities is as follows.

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Earl Howe	Minister of State, Ministry of Defence and Deputy Leader of the House of Lords
Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office and Department for Transport
Baroness Anelay of St Johns	Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Baroness Altmann	Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions
Lord Ashton of Hyde	Whip
Lord Bates	Minister of State, Home Office
Lord Bridges of Headley	Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office
Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change, Wales Office and Whip
Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen	Whip
Earl of Courtown	Whip
Lord Dunlop	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Scotland Office
Baroness Evans of Bowes Park	Whip
Lord Faulks	Minister of State, Ministry of Justice
Lord Freud	Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions
Lord Gardiner of Kimble	Deputy Chief Whip and Spokesman for Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Lord Keen of Elie	Advocate-General for Scotland
Lord Maude of Horsham	Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Lord Nash	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education
Baroness Neville-Rolfe	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Lord O'Neill of Gatley	Commercial Secretary to the Treasury
Lord Prior of Brampton	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health
Baroness Shields	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Culture Media and Sport
Lord Taylor of Holbeach	Chief Whip
Baroness Verma	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for International Development
Baroness Williams of Trafford	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government
Viscount Younger of Leckie	Whip

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Written Statements

Tuesday, 23 June 2015

ECOFIN

[HLWS43]

Lord O'Neill of Gatley: My right honourable friend the First Secretary of State and Chancellor of the Exchequer has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

A meeting of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Luxembourg on 19 June 2015. Ministers discussed the following items:

Bank Structural Reform:

Council reached a General Approach on this file.

European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI):

Ministers were updated by the Presidency on progress in relation to the EFSI. The Council Presidency anticipate reaching a First Reading agreement on the Regulation by the end of June.

Administrative Cooperation:

Ministers held an exchange of views on the Presidency proposal on mandatory automatic exchange of information on tax rulings.

Interest and Royalties Directive:

Ministers held an exchange of views on the Presidency compromise on the proposal for a common system of taxation applicable to interest and royalty payments made between associated companies of different Member States.

Current Legislative Proposals:

The Presidency gave a state of play update on current legislative proposals in the field of financial services.

Commission Communication on corporate taxation:

The Commission presented the main elements of the Action Plan on corporate taxation, which was released on 17 June.

Implementation of Banking Union:

The Commission updated the Council on the status of implementation of the Banking Union, focusing on the ratification of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Single Resolution Fund and implementation of the Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive.

Capital Markets Union:

Council adopted Council Conclusions on Capital Markets Union.

Contribution to the European Council Meeting on 25-26 June 2015: European Semester:

Council discussed Country Specific Recommendations and prepared a discussion for the June European Council on the European Semester.

Contribution to the European Council Meeting on 25-26 June 2015: Broad Economic Policy Guidelines:

Council adopted a report to the European Council on the recommendations on Broad Economic Policy Guidelines.

Contribution to the European Council Meeting on 25-26 June 2015: Report on preparing for next steps on better economic governance in the euro area:

Council received a state of play update on the report on preparing for next steps on better economic governance in the euro area.

Implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact:

Council adopted Council Decisions and Recommendations in the context of the Excessive Deficit Procedure.

Equitable Life Payments Scheme

[HLWS42]

Lord O'Neill of Gatley: My honourable friend the Economic Secretary to the Treasury has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

As of 31 May 2015, the Scheme has now issued payments totalling over £1.06 billion to 902,508 policyholders. The Scheme will today be publishing a further progress report, which can be found at www.gov.uk/equitable-life-payment-scheme.

87% of eligible policyholders have now been traced and had a payment issued; this represents nearly 92% of the total amount estimated to be due to policyholders.

The Scheme encourages any policyholders who believe themselves to be eligible to call the Scheme on 0300 0200 150. The Scheme can verify the identity of most policyholders on the telephone, which means any payment due can usually be received within two weeks.

EU Payment Accounts Directive

[HLWS45]

Lord O'Neill of Gatley: My honourable friend the Economic Secretary to the Treasury has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I am today publishing a consultation on the draft Payment Accounts Regulations 2015.

The Regulations make provision regarding the transparency and comparability of fees charged in relation to payment accounts; payment account switching and access to payment accounts with basic features for all consumers legally resident within the EU.

The Regulations are required in order to implement the requirements of the Payment Accounts Directive (2014/92/EU) ("PAD") which was adopted on 23 July 2014. In order to meet treaty obligations, EU Member States must implement the majority of the measures set out in PAD by 18 September 2016.

The Government has already taken forward a number of initiatives for the purposes of improving the experience of UK current account customers. For example, the 7-day Current Account Switch Service (CASS) supports current

account switching and basic bank accounts have been available in the UK for over ten years, most recently augmented by the December 2014 agreement concluded by the nine largest providers of current accounts in the UK. That new agreement clarified and improved the terms upon which basic bank accounts are offered.

To complete the transposition of PAD, the UK must establish these initiatives in legislation and amend existing legislation related to the provision and regulation of payment accounts. However, due to the measures that the UK already has in place, the proposed Regulations aim to minimise any negative impact on structures and services that are working well.

PAD allows Member States to extend provision in a number of areas. Under the draft Regulations, application will not be extended beyond what is necessary.

The exception to this is Chapter IV of PAD (payment accounts with basic features), where UK policy on basic bank accounts is more developed than that set out in the Directive. As a result, the Government intends to implement PAD in such a way as to preserve the UK's existing basic bank account policy, while creating the necessary legal certainty for consumers required by PAD.

The consultation closes on 3 August. The consultation document is available online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/latest?departments%5B%5D=hm-treasury>.

Justice and Home Affairs: Post-Council Statement

[HLWS46]

Lord Faulks: My Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May) has made the following written statement.

“The Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council took place on 15 and 16 June in Luxembourg. My Right Honourable Friend, Lord Faulks QC, Minister for Civil Justice and I attended on behalf of the United Kingdom. The following items were discussed.

Justice Day started with the Latvian Presidency securing a General Approach on the Data Protection Regulation, following three and a half years of negotiations. The UK supported the text as a basis for negotiations with the Parliament, however, UK support had a number of caveats. The UK stressed the need for a balanced instrument that strengthens privacy rights in a simple, coherent and informed way and does not threaten innovation or the success of the Digital Single Market. The UK also voiced strong concerns on the effect on SMEs and other business, about the overly bureaucratic “one stop shop” model, and the threats posed to freedom of expression by the so-called “right to be forgotten”, which the UK opposes on principle. The UK sees no justification for an expanded right such as that contained in the Data Protection Regulation.

Luxembourg, as the incoming Presidency, stressed that it would keep all of these concerns in mind during

trilogue negotiations. Luxembourg is committed to keeping both the Regulation and Directive (covering personal data processed for investigating and prosecuting crime) together as a package, with the aim of full agreement on both instruments by the end of the year.

This was followed by agreement on a General Approach on the Simplification of Public Documents Regulation. The Council supported the Presidency compromise text, with many States noting that this helped to remove barriers and administrative burdens within the internal market. The UK and Ireland highlighted the importance of equal respect for common law and civil law traditions. The incoming Luxembourg Presidency would take forward trilogue negotiations with the European Parliament on the basis of this General Approach.

Over lunch, justice-related aspects of the Commission's Digital Single Market Strategy were discussed. The Commission wanted clear, simple and legally certain rules, with targeted legislation to harmonise only where there were gaps; they stressed they were not seeking a repeat of the proposed Common European Sales Law. The UK highlighted domestic legislation on online purchases of digital content and the UK's vibrant e-commerce sector, suggesting that this model could be a useful starting point for EU-level work. The UK emphasised that work on these proposals should respect better regulation principles, including appropriate consultations and impact assessments. The UK also raised combating illegal content online, arguing that a voluntary removals approach, working with industry, had greater global reach than legislation and could deliver more effective results on removals.

On the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), Ministers agreed "broadly expressed conceptual support" for the text of Articles 1 to 16 of the draft Regulation which cover the balance of power between the central office and delegated prosecutors. The UK reminded Member States that we would not participate in this measure.

Under AOB, the Presidency noted progress on the Data Protection Directive and work with the European Parliament to reach a compromise on the Small Claims Regulation. The Presidency and the Commission updated the Council on the recent EU-US JHA Summit in Riga. The Commission highlighted cooperation with the US on combating money laundering and terrorist financing, as well as progressing on the data-related Umbrella Agreement and Safe Harbour.

The incoming Luxembourg Presidency, starting in July, presented its priorities for the justice field: the two main priorities would be data protection and the European Public Prosecutor's Office. Linked to the European Public Prosecutor, they planned to drive forward progress on the draft PIF (“Fraud against the EU's financial interests”) Directive and Eurojust Regulation. In Civil law, they would introduce proposals on family law and continue work on the simplification of public documents. A motion underlining the Council's will to move towards EU accession to the European Convention on Human Rights

would be put to the October JHA Council. Finally, the Luxembourg Presidency said they planned to present a proposal to improve political discussions at Council at their Informal JHA Council meeting in July.

The Interior session began with a policy debate on migration. While there was broad support for elements of the Commission's European Agenda on Migration, there was no agreement on the relocation proposal. The Commission pointed to the development of 'hotspots' to ensure processing of arriving migrants, beginning in Sicily, and progress on the proposed 'multi-purpose centre' in Niger to try to mitigate flows through that country, alongside enhanced efforts to combat the facilitators. The European External Action Service (EEAS) confirmed that the first phase of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) mission in the Mediterranean would be launched shortly. The UK joined other Ministers in emphasising the need to tackle the root causes of migration, to tackle people smugglers and traffickers, and to break the link between rescue at sea and the expectation of remaining in the EU by returning economic migrants while supporting their reintegration in their home countries. The UK also recalled the European Council's clear agreement that EU relocation and resettlement schemes should be voluntary rather than mandatory.

The incoming Luxembourg Presidency gave a presentation which confirmed the following priorities in the area of migration: more effective returns including use of readmission agreements; progress on operational proposals such as the centre in Niger and 'hotspots'; agreement to the draft Regulation currently under negotiation that would clarify the treatment of minors under the Dublin Regulation and political agreement on the Visa Package and the Students and Researchers Directive. Other priorities included: combating terrorism (in particular dealing with the threat from foreign fighters), implementing the new Internal Security Strategy, concluding trilogues on the Europol Regulation, and seeking agreement with the European Parliament on the Passenger Name Records (PNR) Directive by the end of the year.

During lunch there was a discussion on Returns which saw broad agreement that greater ambition was required in this area as part of the comprehensive approach on migration. More effective EU readmission arrangements were seen as an important element.

The Council Conclusions on the Internal Security Strategy were adopted without substantive discussion.

The Presidency presented papers which updated Ministers on progress since the 12 February Informal European Council Statement on the EU response to the Paris terrorist attacks.

The Commission (Avramopoulos) drew attention to its Communication 'The European Agenda on Security' and highlighted that in the short term Counter Terrorism (CT) priorities included: a high level Internet Industry Forum event in the Autumn; making the Europol Internet Referrals Unit (IRU) operational as quickly as possible;

swift adoption of an efficient and legally sound EU PNR Directive; and preparing for a revision of the EU Framework Decision on Terrorism.

The EU CT Coordinator (Giles de Kerchove) called for detailed planning on handling the increasing wave of European returnees from Syria/Iraq. This meant investing now in exit and rehabilitation programmes and supporting Commissioner Jourová work on prison radicalisation. In his view, the EU also needed to find the resources to enable Europol, Eurojust and CEPOL to enhance cooperation and capacity building in third countries.

The UK welcomed progress on the Europol Internal Referral Unit (IRU) and announced a UK secondeed into the unit. The UK also praised the work of the Syria Strategic Communication Advisory Team (SSCAT). Whilst welcoming the Commission's action in establishing the Industry Forum, the UK cautioned that certain aspects of tackling terrorist abuse of the internet (including encryption and interception) were matters of national security and thus for Member States rather than the EU. The UK called for robust minimum standards on legislation on firearm deactivation; for enhanced data sharing on illegal firearms and ammunition; and for the Commission to step up its work on proactive sharing of criminal records via the European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS). Finally, the UK again underlined the urgency of adopting, with the European Parliament, a strong and effective PNR framework, including intra-EU PNR, before the end of the year.

Europol drew attention to the excellent cooperation it has received from Member States' intelligence agencies. Europol also reported significant increases in the use of their existing CT tools. Most notably, this included the Terrorist Finance Tracking Programme (TFTP) which had led to 3000 separate intelligence leads since the Paris attacks (some 1500 of which were related to foreign fighters). Europol was on track to establish the IRU by 1 July and had worked constructively with social media companies in recent months.

The Presidency urged renewed vigour to implement the post-Paris conclusions in order to keep pace with the threat. The Presidency would report the priorities outlined during the debate (and those identified in the Internal Security Strategy Council Conclusions) as the JHA Council's input to the June European Council's review of the post-Paris Statement it agreed in February.

Under AOB, the Commission provided a brief overview of the bi-annual report on the functioning of the Schengen area, noting that Schengen was the solution not the problem providing that all Member States fully applied the rules of the Schengen acquis. The Commission also confirmed that a new Smart Borders proposal would be published following the results of the pilot phase. The Presidency provided an update on the EU-US Ministerial meeting which took place in Riga on 2/3 June; this agreed a Statement defining the common EU-US JHA agenda over the next five years. The Presidency also provided an update on ongoing legislative negotiations including on the European Police College (CEPOL) and the European

Union's law enforcement agency (EUROPOL) Regulations and the Students and Researchers Directive.”

Telecommunications Council

[HLWS44]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: My Honourable Friend the Minister of State for Culture and the Digital Economy (Mr Ed Vaizey) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement. The Telecommunications Council took place in Luxembourg on 12th June 2015. I represented the UK and below are the agenda items and the positions, where applicable, I took on each of them. Please be aware that the order of the agenda, as laid out in the pre-Council statement was changed by the Latvian Presidency at the last minute. This statement reflects those changes.

The first item was an exchange of views on the Commission's Digital Single Market Strategy, which was published on 6th May. The debate was informed by two questions from the Presidency. My intervention was as per the pre-council statement. The Commission Vice President Ansip opened the debate by identifying 3 priorities for the Digital Single Market - Goods and services; infrastructure; and e-commerce and e-society. He also noted the need for progress on geographic price blocking. On copyright, he also suggested that more work was needed to harmonise exceptions currently invoked by member states.

Member State interventions covered a range of issues, including e-skills, infrastructure, e-commerce and the internet of things. Copyright and platform regulation were also two of the more commonly raised issues, with clear emerging divisions between Member States. The UK, Finland, Netherlands, Poland and Sweden also linked the Commission's better regulation agenda and the Digital Single Market, noting the benefits of industry-led approaches where possible.

The second item was for Council to reach agreement for a General Approach on the proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a programme on interoperability solutions for European public administrations, businesses and citizens (ISA2 - First reading - EM11580/14). As per my pre-council statement, I abstained from voting for the general approach. However, the rest of Council agreed to the general approach and this approach will now form the basis of the Council discussions going forward.

I hope that the improvements to the text that could not be agreed in Council will be made during the trilogue negotiations, so that the UK may support the proposal when it comes to final agreement. The UK continues to

encourage the inclusion of more tangible efforts to make ISA2 a more effective programme, including clearer prioritisation and evaluation of programme actions based on user needs and clearer analysis of how actions support efforts in other parts of the Commission.

The Presidency then presented a progress report on the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the accessibility to public sector bodies' web-sites (First reading - EM16006/11). There was no debate on this item.

This was followed by the adoption of draft council conclusions on the transfer of the stewardship of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions to the multi-stakeholder community. Council agreed to the adoption of these conclusions and there was no debate on this item.

There were three items under AOB on the agenda. The first two items were information from the Presidency on the 'state of play' on negotiations regarding 'A Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down measures concerning the European single market for electronic communications and to achieve a Connected Continent' (EM13562/13 and 13555/13 + ADDs 1-2) and information from the Presidency on a Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning measures to ensure a high level of network and information security across the Union (NIS Directive). (First reading - EM6342/13). The Presidency updated Council on the progress of both, which are each in the middle of trilogue negotiations between the Council, Parliament and Commission. There was no substantive debate on either of these items and I did not intervene.

As noted in my pre-council statement, the readout from the Presidency on the Connected Continent package was informed by the informal Ministerial breakfast whose aim was to reach political agreement on the Regulation.

At this breakfast, Council could not reach such an agreement and the negotiation of this package therefore continues. At the breakfast, I intervened as per my pre-council statement, especially pushing the cessation of EU roaming charges in the near future and the importance of a future-proof approach to net neutrality. I was given strong support on this approach by Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands. However, the majority of Council did not agree with this approach.

Finally, under AOB, the Luxembourg delegation informed the Council of their priorities for their forthcoming Presidency before Council adjourns until the next meeting in quarter four 2015.

Written Answers

Tuesday, 23 June 2015

Agency Nurses

Asked by *Baroness Manzoor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many agency nurses worked across the National Health Service in (1) 2011–12, (2) 2012–13, and (3) 2013–14; and how many are working or have worked in the National Health Service in the current financial year. [HL431]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Department does not hold information on the number of agency nurses that work or have worked across the National Health Service.

Agency Nurses: Greater London

Asked by *Baroness Manzoor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many agency nurses worked in London teaching hospitals in (1) 2011–12, (2) 2012–13, and (3) 2013–14; and how many are working or have worked in the National Health Service in the current financial year. [HL430]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Department does not hold information on the number of agency nurses that work or have worked in London teaching hospitals.

Army Reserve

Asked by *Earl Attlee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average age of an Army Reserve Officer. [HL436]

Earl Howe: As at 1 April 2015, the average age of Army Reserve Officers was 26 years (untrained) and 44 years (trained), providing an overall average of 43 years.

Army: Reserve Forces

Asked by *Earl Attlee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many direct entry Army Reserve or Territorial Army Officers have been commissioned each year for the last 15 years. [HL495]

Earl Howe: It is not possible to identify commissions of direct entry Army Reserve or Territorial Army Officers before April 2012. Rounded figures for the financial years from 2012–13 to 2014–15 are shown in the table below:

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Direct Entry Commissions</i>
2012–13	30
2013–14	35
2014–15	50

Blood: Donors

Asked by *Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to raise awareness of the shortage of blood donors. [HL375]

Lord Prior of Brampton: Although blood stocks are currently in a healthy position, there is a continuing need for new donors to fill the gaps left by existing donors who are not able to give blood, particularly from those with blood types A, O and B - to ensure that there is the right mix of blood groups to match patients' needs. As part of National Blood Week (8–14 June 2015), NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) launched the 'Missing Type' campaign highlighting the need for these blood types. NHSBT co-ordinates local and national awareness campaigns such as the 'Missing Type' campaign which are intended to motivate thousands of people to start donating blood, specifically targeted at encouraging younger people (aged 17–30) and people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities to become blood donors.

Climate Change

Asked by *The Lord Bishop of Salisbury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the Lambeth Declaration on Climate Change, signed by the leaders of the United Kingdom's Christian and other faith communities and launched on 17 June. [HL655]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: I very much welcome publication of the Lambeth Declaration 2015 on climate change and would like to thank the Bishop of Salisbury, Nick Holtam, for his work in securing it.

Faith communities have a strong track record of bringing about real and lasting change at every level of society so we welcome this significant intervention on climate change and urge all faiths to work together in the lead up to Paris Climate Summit and beyond.

We all have a responsibility to learn how to live and develop sustainably in a world of finite resources. Caring for our environment and being conscious of our impact on it is central to many faith's beliefs and something that faith groups communicate better than anyone.

The UK Government is working hard to secure a global climate deal in Paris and will continue to work with stakeholders from all sectors to help deliver an ambitious international agreement on climate change.

Dermatology: Greater Manchester

Asked by *Baroness Finlay of Llandaff*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the reduction of dermatology services in Nottingham, what action they are taking to ensure that those services remain in place in Manchester. [HL399]

Lord Prior of Brampton: Local health services, including dermatology services, are commissioned by local clinical commissioning groups, taking into account the healthcare needs of their populations and having regard to National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidelines.

It is for the National Health Service in Manchester to determine the provision of dermatology services locally.

We understand that South and Central Manchester, along with Trafford, clinical commissioning groups have commissioned a new community dermatology service to increase capacity and reduce waiting times.

Exercise

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan actively to promote physical activity in the light of reports that cities that do so experience increases in retail activity and revenue, and lower healthcare and crime costs. [HL473]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Government recognises the health, economic and social benefits to individuals, communities and the nation of increasing physical activity levels. Through the Government's National Planning Policy Framework, local authorities are encouraged to ensure development plans and proposals promote active, healthy lifestyles and well-being including active travel, like cycling and walking, and access to high quality open space and sport and recreation facilities. It is for local authorities, as statutory planning bodies, to determine how best to apply this guidance in their own area.

Foreign Investment in UK

Asked by Lord Wigley

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many new inward investment projects were secured for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland respectively in the last year for which figures are available; and what is their estimate of the number of new jobs associated with these projects in each of the four nations respectively. [HL517]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: During 2014/15 UKTI recorded a total of 1,988 successful foreign direct investment projects successfully landing in the UK. The table shows the regional distribution of these projects, and the estimated number of new jobs created.

<i>Nation</i>	<i>Inward Investment Projects 2014/15</i>	<i>Estimated new jobs associated</i>
England (excluding London)	905	38,157
London	796	21,776
Scotland	119	5,445
Wales	101	5,085
Northern Ireland	48	4,007

General Election 2015: Fraud

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government what role the police played in the prevention of electoral fraud at the General Election in (1) areas identified as being at particular risk of fraud, and (2) other areas. [HL297]

Lord Bridges of Headley: At elections in the UK, the police are responsible for ensuring that electors' democratic rights are upheld. The police are also responsible for investigating all allegations of electoral fraud.

The previous Government made an additional £500,000 available to 17 local authorities identified as being at greater risk of electoral fraud and the majority of these worked with the police in some capacity. Initiatives included police analysis of data to identify potential issues and providing a greater police presence before and during the poll. Feedback from Returning Officers has been positive.

Illegal Immigrants: France

Asked by Lord Condon

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they have taken in recent weeks, and what action they intend to take, to respond to the number of displaced people in Calais. [HL443]

Lord Bates: The large number of displaced people in Calais is, in part, a consequence of the Schengen Area, in which the UK does not participate. The maintenance of law and order on French soil is, of course, a matter for French Government, but it is in the UK's interest to work with them to bolster security at the port.

The Home Secretary and French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve set out a number of commitments in a joint declaration on 20 September 2014 to tackle problems at the port of Calais. This included £12m from the UK Government to help reinforce security.

We continue to work with the French Government to implement the practical solutions that have been agreed. We are also working to address the wider problem of illegal migration, for example by increasing joint intelligence work with the French to target the organised crime gangs behind people smuggling.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they expect the report of the Chilcot Inquiry to be published before the summer recess; and, if not, why not. [HL304]

Lord Bridges of Headley: Sir John Chilcot and the Prime Minister exchanged letters on 15 and 17 June. In his letters, Sir John said that once the essential Maxwellisation process was complete, it was his intention

to provide the Prime Minister with a timetable for the completion of the Inquiry's report.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

David Cameron to Sir John Chilcot Letter [2015-01-20_Cameron_to_Chilcot.pdf]

Sir John Chilcot to David Cameron Letter [2015-01-20_Chilcot_to_Cameron.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-08/HL304>

Israel: UNRWA

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Israel on the subject of that country helping with the funding of UNRWA. [HL415]

Earl of Courtown: The UK regularly engages with the Government of Israel on the need for both parties to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to reach a political solution which includes a just, fair and realistic settlement for Palestinian refugees. The UN Relief and Works Agency's mandate is to provide protection and assistance to Palestinian refugees until such a solution is reached.

Life Peers

Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to address the disparity in representation in the House of Lords between the Liberal Democrats and Ukip, in the light of their respective shares of votes in the recent General Election. [HL371]

Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to recommend more Liberal Democratic peerages to Her Majesty the Queen; if so, why; if not, why not. [HL372]

Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to recommend any Ukip peerages to Her Majesty the Queen; if so, why; and if not, why not. [HL373]

Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the proportionality objective on appointments to the House of Lords as set out in the agreement made by the governing parties in the 2010–15 Coalition agreement remains an objective for Her Majesty's Government over the next five years. [HL509]

Baroness Stowell of Beeston: Appointments are a matter for the Prime Minister. Any appointments will be vetted for propriety by the House of Lords Appointments Commission.

Mental Health Services: Young People

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to improve mental health services for teenagers. [HL476]

Lord Prior of Brampton: This Government is committed to improving mental health services for teenagers as part of our focus on children and young people's mental health and wellbeing. The Department is working with NHS England and other partners to drive forward system wide, sustainable transformation to improve the support offered to children and young people.

We are already making progress in a number of areas including:

- the extension and expansion of the children and young people's Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme;

- the commissioning of a new prevalence survey on mental health problems in children and young people; and

- joint training and piloting of staff in schools and local mental health services to strengthen the mental health support and advice available in schools.

In addition, NHS England is leading work to develop new access and waiting time standards for eating disorder services.

Mental Patients

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many patients with serious mental illnesses absconded from care in (1) 2009–10, (2) 2010–11, (3) 2011–12, (4) 2012–13, and (5) 2013–14. [HL426]

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the risk to the public from the increase in the number of seriously mentally ill patients who have absconded from care since 2009–10. [HL427]

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the cut in mental health in-patient beds on the number of patients with serious mental illnesses who have absconded from care. [HL428]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The information is not held in the format requested. Mental health providers have been required to notify the Care Quality Commission (CQC) of patients who have been absent without leave. The following table shows the number of notifications of patients absent without leave since 2010-11 and 2012-13, latest data available.

Notifications of absence without leave from 2010-11 to 2012-13

Year	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Notifications	4183	4896	3923

Source: Care Quality Commission

Since 1 April 2010, providers have been required to notify the CQC of any inpatients who are absent without leave, which is defined by certain parameters. For the first three years of this data collection, providers were required to notify the CQC of all patients absent without leave whose absence records were still open at midnight on the day the absence began. Incidences of absences at any time from high security hospitals, and the return of persons from unauthorised absences had to be recorded also.

Between 2010-11 to 2012-13, all mental health providers were required to notify the CQC of patients who were absent without leave.

Since 1 April 2013, only mental health providers with a designated level of security of high, medium or low are required to notify the CQC of patients who are absent without leave. In 2013-14 there were 909 notifications of absence without leave from services designated as low, medium or high security.

There has been no assessment of the risk to the public of patients absent without leave. Instances of mental health patients absent without leave causing harm to the public are rare. We would expect mental health providers to work with their commissioners, other partners and the authorities if a patient reported as absent without leave poses a significant risk to the public.

There has been no assessment of the impact of availability of mental health beds on the numbers of patients reported as absent without leave. Commissioners and mental health providers work together to ensure the availability of inpatient beds for people who require them based on need.

Mesothelioma: Compensation

Asked by Lord Wills

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of (1) the number of people who have received compensation under the terms of the Mesothelioma Act 2014 since the Act came into effect, and (2) the number of people projected to receive compensation in each of the next three years. [HL496]

Baroness Altmann: The information requested is available from the attached Impact Assessment for the Diffuse Mesothelioma Payment Scheme which was published in March 2014 and sets out the anticipated levels of claims over the first 10 years of the scheme.

The scheme has now been running since April 2014 with payments being made from July 2014. We will publish statistics on the number of claims made in 2014/15 in due course, and consider a review of the

estimates made in the Impact Assessment in light of this data.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Impact Assessment for Mesothelioma Payment Scheme
[mesothelioma-payment-scheme-ia-mar-2014.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-15/HL496>

NHS Foundation Trusts: Private Finance Initiative

Asked by Baroness Manzoor

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many NHS foundation trusts have major Private Finance Initiative contracts; and how many of those hospitals are in debt. [HL432]

Lord Prior of Brampton: 37 of the 153 National Health Service foundation trusts have a completed major (over £10 million capital cost) Private Finance Initiative scheme. Of these 37, 20 will end 2014-15 with a financial deficit.

NHS: Expenditure

Asked by Lord Tebbit

To ask Her Majesty's Government what they expect will be the total expenditure on the National Health Service for each of the years 2014-15 and 2015-16. [HL597]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Department expects to spend £113.3 billion in 2014-15 and £116.6 billion in 2015-16 on health and social care, of which £98.1 billion and £101.1 billion respectively was allocated to NHS England to commission health services.

These figures represent total Departmental Expenditure Limit spending and include National Health Service commissioners, NHS providers, the Department of Health itself and its arm's length bodies, including Public Health England and Health Education England.

Asked by Lord Tebbit

To ask Her Majesty's Government what part of the total expenditure on the National Health Service during 2014-15 was incurred (1) by general practice, (2) by individual hospitals, and (3) in respect of administration of the National Health Service (a) at Government level, and (b) by NHS management above the level of individual hospitals. [HL598]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The 2014-15 data is not available as the accounts are still being audited.

North Africa: Refugees

Asked by Lord Ahmed

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to encourage the international community to house refugees from the north of Africa. [HL390]

Lord Bates: We believe resettlement of refugees should be a matter for individual countries. Resettlement has a place as part of the wider asylum process, including as a route for particularly vulnerable refugees, but resettlement of all refugees in North Africa is not practical and could not meet the needs of all genuine refugees. It also would not address the reasons for their flight and risks increasing concentrations of illegal migrants in North Africa. The only sustainable solution is to address the drivers of illegal migration: increasing stability and supporting the development of countries of origin; increasing the capacity of countries in the region to protect refugees so they may return home when circumstances permit; establishing a more effective process of returning illegal migrants; and cracking down on the ruthless criminals who are playing so callously with human lives.

Nuts

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to promote the eating of nuts, in the light of reports that doing so could substantially lower the risk of early death. [HL477]

Lord Prior of Brampton: Nuts can make a useful contribution to intakes of protein, fibre, vitamins and minerals within a balanced diet. They are also rich in fat and are therefore a concentrated source of energy (calories).

Government promotes a healthy balanced diet as visually depicted in the eatwell plate. As part of this, the Government recommends people eat some meat, fish, eggs, beans and other non-dairy sources of protein including nuts.

Police: Horses

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 8 June (HL172), when the most recent assessment of the utility of the work of police horses in preventing crime and maintaining public safety was made. [HL536]

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 8 June (HL172), what is the proportion of the work of police horses (1) in operational activity such as crime prevention and maintaining public safety, and (2) in ceremonial activity. [HL537]

Lord Bates: There is no formal assessment process to determine the utility of police animals, how resources are deployed is an operational matter which rightly rests with chief officers. The contribution of police horses remains important and the Home Office corresponds with the relevant national policing lead on an ad-hoc basis to stay apprised of their views. The most recent contact by my officials was this month and the merits of mounted policing remain unchanged.

The Home Office does not record this information, how police horses are used is a matter for chief officers to determine.

Public Buildings: Asbestos

Asked by Lord Wigley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with Ministers and officials in the Welsh government regarding exposure to asbestos in public buildings in Wales. [HL516]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: There have been no discussions. The statutory responsibility for ensuring that risks from asbestos are managed falls to the duty holder and to any employer undertaking work on asbestos-containing materials in those premises. For public buildings in Wales this could include, but is not exclusive to, the local authority, schools or the Welsh Government.

Public Transport

Asked by Lord Hanningfield

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to encourage commuters to give up their seats to the elderly and differently able. [HL366]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: This remains an operational matter for public transport operators to decide on. There are already good practice examples within the industry such as Southern's Priority Seat Card which can be shown to fellow passengers who are sitting in a priority seat. This will indicate that the passenger using the card has been recognised by Southern as needing a priority seat. The Government is keen to encourage further uptake of these schemes. It remains the responsibility of train operators and their staff to assist priority passengers to obtain a seat and direct other passengers occupying seats accordingly.

Pupils: Gender Recognition

Asked by Baroness Barker

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance they give to schools to ensure that the names of transgender children are recorded appropriately and in such a way as to protect their privacy. [HL478]

Asked by Baroness Barker

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that the School Information

Management System records the names of transgender children in such a way as to protect their privacy. [HL479]

Lord Nash: The department does not give specific guidance to schools about recording the names of transgender children. The operational arrangements as to how information is recorded and protected within a school's own information management system are for them to decide locally.

The department advises in its equalities guidance for schools that they must protect from discrimination because of gender reassignment, and address any issues early on, sensitively and proactively. The equalities guidance links to further helpful transgender guidance written by a partnership of bodies in Cornwall, which schools might like to follow.

Racial Discrimination

Asked by Lord Ouseley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the actions and resources required to minimise the adverse effects and impact of institutional racism in society as a whole and in the Metropolitan Police Service, particularly in the light of the statement by the Commissioner for the Metropolitan Police that institutional racism remains a serious problem. [HL492]

Lord Bates: The Government recognises that people from all communities want the police to fight crime while having confidence that their individual needs will be understood and respected.

The Metropolitan Police have worked hard to improve equality and diversity since the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry. The officer workforce is more representative in terms of gender and ethnicity than it has ever been. However, the Government is clear that there is more for all police forces to do.

Our reforms will allow for faster progress on equality and diversity. PCCs and the College of Policing will play a key role in ensuring improvements in forces. The College of Policing has published advice for forces on the use of more proactive, lawful approaches to the recruitment and progression of officers from currently under-represented groups, using positive action provisions in the Equality Act 2010.

New entry routes into policing such as direct entry and Police Now are also helping to improve the diversity of the police workforce. Police Now, a flagship Metropolitan Police scheme aimed at attracting top university graduates, which is supported by Home Office funding received over 2,200 applications, of which 48% were from women, and 19% were from people from Black or Minority Ethnic backgrounds. 79 individuals accepted provisional job offers. Of these, 16% are from a Black or Minority Ethnic background and 47% are women. This is in contrast to the current representation levels in the Metropolitan Police where only 11% of police officers are

from a Black or Minority Ethnic background and 25% are women.

We have reformed the use of stop and search to ensure that the police use all such powers lawfully, in a targeted and intelligence-led way; and local communities must be able to hold the police to account for their use of the powers. All 43 forces in England and Wales, and the British Transport Police, signed up to the voluntary Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme.

In London, the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) has introduced London residency criteria for police constable recruitment in 2014. Since its introduction MPS figures indicate that the proportion of black and other minority ethnic applicants is now reaching representative levels when compared with London's population.

Schools: Homework

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the initiative for schools to stop giving homework, to help reduce the incidence of teenage mental illness. [HL377]

Lord Nash: It is right that schools look at how and when they set homework to take account of their individual circumstances and best support pupils to achieve.

Homework is an important part of a child's education. There is no statutory obligation for schools to set homework. The government does not dictate how much homework children should have to do at any age.

The amount of time children spend on homework, and the type of homework set, varies between schools and depends on a number of factors including the ages of the pupils and their levels of ability. We expect schools to take into account the health and well-being of their pupils at all times, and they have a duty to do so.

Sleeping Rough: Greater London

Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are their latest estimates of the number of rough sleepers in the London area; and what was the equivalent figure five years ago. [HL158]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Local authorities provide a snapshot of the number of rough sleepers on a single night each Autumn. Based on these figures, the number of rough sleepers in the London area in Autumn 2014 was 742. A corresponding figure for 2009 is not available because of a new more robust assessment methodology was introduced in 2010 to provide a more accurate picture of rough sleeping across England.

A copy of the latest Statistics Release on rough sleeping is attached and further, detail, including figures for individual local authority areas, is available at:

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

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Autumn 2014 Rough Sleeping data [150226 Rough Sleeping Autumn 2014 Stats Release.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-01/HL158>

Social Security Benefits: Immigrants

Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many victims of trafficking with positive conclusive grounds decisions under the National Referral Mechanism have had applications for (1) Jobseeker's Allowance, and (2) Housing Benefit, refused since 1 January 2014. [HL543]

Lord Freud: This information is not collected by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

Visas: Overseas Students

Asked by Lord Green of Deddington

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many students from Scottish higher educational institutions

were granted a Tier 1 Post-Study Work visa in each year since 2009. [HL332]

Lord Bates: It is not possible to provide data on the number of students from Scottish higher educational institutions who were granted a Tier 1 Post-Study Work visa for every year since 2009 because our records for Tier 1 Post-Study Work applications do not record the previous sponsoring institution in a format which can be used as the basis for a search.

It is however possible to provide data on the number of applicants who were granted a Tier 1 Post-Study Work visa while they were resident in Scotland. This data can be found below.

Year Total amount of grants issued to migrants resident in Scotland

2009 2374

2010 2648

2011 2999

2012 2249

Total 10270

It cannot be confirmed that these migrants had previously studied at Scottish higher educational institutions, for the reasons previously stated. The Tier 1 Post-Study work route was closed to new applications on 6 April 2012.

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