

**Vol. 763**  
**No. 42**



**Wednesday**  
**16 September 2015**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**  
**(HANSARD)**

# **HOUSE OF LORDS**

## **WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS**

<b>Written Statements.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Written Answers.....</b>	<b>7</b>

[1] indicates that the member concerned has a relevant registered interest. The full register of interests can be found at <http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/standards-and-interests/register-of-lords-interests/>

Members who want a printed copy of Written Answers and Written Statements should notify the Printed Paper Office.

This printed edition is a reproduction of the original text of Answers and Statements, which can be found on the internet at <http://www.parliament.uk/writtenanswers/>. Proposed corrections should be sent to [holhansard@parliament.uk](mailto:holhansard@parliament.uk) for review.

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.

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

© Parliamentary Copyright House of Lords 2015

This publication may be reproduced under the terms of the Open Parliament licence, which is published at [www.parliament.uk/site-information/copyright/](http://www.parliament.uk/site-information/copyright/)

## Written Statements

Wednesday, 16 September 2015

### BBC Charter Review

[HLWS193]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** When I presented the BBC Charter Review Consultation to the House on 16 July 2015, I was clear that it was the first step in the Government's Charter Review process.

I am pleased to announce today one of the next steps of that process: an independent review into the governance and regulation of the BBC. The review will run over the autumn and will conclude in early 2016. The review will be led on behalf of the Government by Sir David Clementi.

A copy of the terms of reference has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

BBC Independent Review Terms of Reference [Terms of Reference for independent review on BBC governance and regulation.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2015-09-16/HLWS193/>

### EU Environment Council

[HLWS190]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Rt. Hon Friend the Secretary of State (Amber Rudd) has today made the following statement.

I will attend the EU Environment Council in Brussels on 18 September.

Following the adoption of the agenda the list of "A" items will be approved.

The one non-legislative item on the agenda is adoption of the Council Conclusions concerning preparations for the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 11th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 11) that will take place in Paris, from 30 November - 11 December 2015.

Ministers will also discuss further aspects of the international climate change negotiations in relation to COP 21 as well as the recent informal ministerial consultations that took place in Paris on September 6th to 7th, 2015

The following Any Other Business item will be discussed:

- i) The "Declaration of Luxembourg on Cycling as a Transport Mode"

### FCO Services

[HLWS192]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** My Honourable Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr James Duddridge), has made the following written Ministerial statement:

FCO Services operates as a trading fund of the FCO. I have set the following performance targets for 2015-2016

- i) An in-year surplus before interest, tax and dividend producing a net margin of between 1 and 5%
- ii) A return on capital employed of at least 3.5% (weighted average)
- iii) Cost of corporate functions as a % of revenue of no more than 6%
- iv) A utilisation rate for revenue earning staff of at least 75%
- v) A customer satisfaction result of at least 80%
- vi) Employee engagement in FCO Services using civil service survey of at least 59%

FCO Services will report to Parliament on its success against these targets through its Annual Report for 2015-2016.

### Planning and Onshore Oil and Gas

[HLWS194]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My rt. hon Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Greg Clark) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

My rt. hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Amber Rudd) has today laid before Parliament a Written Statement setting out the Government's view that there is a need to explore and develop our shale gas and oil resources in a safe, sustainable and timely way. The Statement sets out a number of measures to enable planning applications and appeals to be dealt with as quickly as possible. I am today also setting out further details of two of the planning measures on identifying underperformance in respect of oil and gas applications and a revision to the recovery criteria for appeals for planning permission for shale gas.

#### *Identifying underperformance in respect of oil and gas applications*

We are announcing today details of the scheme to identify local planning authority underperformance specifically in respect of their determination of planning applications for onshore oil and gas, including for exploring and developing shale gas. It is separate to the statutory regime provided by section 62A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the designation of underperforming local planning authorities. This new non-statutory scheme will operate in the following way:

- A table setting out local planning authority performance on speed of decision making specifically on onshore oil and gas applications will be added to DCLG's

quarterly planning application statistical release from the next scheduled release on 22 September 2015 onwards. Data in the table will be subject to the same adjustments as detailed in 'Improving planning performance Criteria for designation', as amended from time to time (the criteria document<sup>[1]</sup>) for the tables on speed of decision making for major development.

- The measure of speed of decision making and the assessment period will be the same as those set out for major development in the criteria document. The same threshold will also apply for the identification of local planning authority underperformance in respect of its oil and gas applications as for the designation of underperformance in respect of major development, currently 50% or fewer applications being made within the statutory determination period or such extended period as has been agreed in writing by the applicant. The same limited exemption will be applied, namely, that local planning authorities will not be liable to identification as underperforming in respect of oil and gas applications if they decided no more than two during the assessment period.

- We will identify any underperforming local planning authorities in respect of oil and gas applications annually, in the final quarter of each calendar year. Prior to the decision to identify a local planning authority as underperforming, it will be given an opportunity to set out any exceptional circumstances, with supporting evidence, which it considers make its identification unreasonable. These circumstances will be judged against the tests set out in the criteria document. We will undertake the first identifications of any underperforming local planning authorities in the final quarter of 2016.

- Where a local planning authority is identified as underperforming in respect of planning applications for oil and gas, it will remain as such for a period of one year. For this one year period, for any such application validated by the relevant authority, I will actively consider exercising the power under section 77 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to call-in the application for my determination. In considering whether to call-in any such application, I will have regard to my current policy for the use of my call-in powers<sup>[2]</sup>.

- We will review the scheme in the final quarter of 2019, after an initial period of three years following the first identification of any underperforming local planning authorities.

#### *Recovery criteria for appeals*

As indicated in today's Statement by my rt. hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, I may want to give particular scrutiny to planning appeals for exploring and developing shale gas. I am therefore revising the criteria for consideration of the recovery of planning appeals to include the additional criterion: proposals for exploring and developing shale gas. The new criterion is added to the recovery policy of 30 June 2008, *Official Report, column 43WS*, and will be applied for a period of two years from today (16 September

2015), after which it will be reviewed. I am also making a consequential change to planning guidance to reflect this.

<sup>[1]</sup> The current version of the Criteria document is available to view at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/446762/Improving\\_Planning\\_Performance\\_-\\_Criteria\\_for\\_Designation\\_revised\\_2015\\_pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/446762/Improving_Planning_Performance_-_Criteria_for_Designation_revised_2015_pdf)

<sup>[2]</sup> Set out in a written answer of 16 July 1999 ( [http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm199899/cmhansrd/vo990616/text/90616w02.htm#90616w02.htm\\_sbhd5](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm199899/cmhansrd/vo990616/text/90616w02.htm#90616w02.htm_sbhd5) ) and a Written Ministerial Statement of 26 October 2012 ( <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121026/wmstext/121026m0001.htm#12102628000003> )

## **Rail Franchising: East Midlands**

[HLWS189]

**Lord Ahmad:** My Honourable Friend, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport (Claire Perry) has made the following Ministerial Statement:

I am pleased to inform the House that my Department has reached agreement with Stagecoach to continue to operate train services on the East Midlands franchise. This new agreement means that passengers from London St Pancras International to Northamptonshire, the East Midlands, Lincolnshire, Staffordshire and South Yorkshire will continue to be served by East Midlands Trains for a period of 2 years and 5 Months from 18 October 2015, with an optional extension period of 13 railway periods callable at my sole discretion

East Midlands Trains have had a good track record of punctuality and passenger satisfaction since they began operating the franchise in 2007 and I expect this service to be the minimum provided throughout the period of this Direct Award.

In addition to retaining at least the same train services as today, this new agreement will see East Midlands Trains provide 22 additional trains between Newark and Nottingham, which will ensure that there is a half hourly service on Saturdays as well as week days. There are also further improvements to the Nottingham to Lincoln timetable that will provide for reduced journey times and more services on Saturdays. My Department is continuing to work with East Midlands Trains to examine further improvements to the weekend timetables for many passengers.

The agreement will also see a number of significant enhancements for passengers as a result of £13m investment in the franchise. This will provide for improved passenger information; more ticket machines; a new mobile app, that will provide up to the minute information as well as allowing tickets to be purchased; cleaner trains; and an extended catering service. Passengers to and from London will also benefit from improved wifi up to 4G standard.

This Agreement not only provides benefits for passengers today but also ensures that this franchise is in the best position for the full franchise competition in 2018. By laying the groundwork for this now and in conjunction with the significant upgrade works already

delivered, such as the transport hub in Nottingham, and those planned and underway for the railway in the area, such as the track doubling between Kettering and Corby, I am confident that we will see the East Midlands franchise continue to provide excellent service for passengers at good value for the taxpayer for many years to come.

## Shale Gas/Oil Policy

[HLWS195]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Rt. Hon Friend the Secretary of State (Amber Rudd) has today made the following statement.

My Rt Hon Friend Greg Clark (Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government) and I wish to set out the Government's view that there is a national need to explore and develop our shale gas and oil resources in a safe, and sustainable and timely way, and the steps it is taking to support this. In laying this statement before Parliament, it formally replaces the Shale Gas and Oil Policy Statement issued by DECC and DCLG on 13 August 2015. This statement to Parliament should be taken into account in planning decisions and plan-making.

*The national need to explore our shale gas and oil resources*

Exploring and developing our shale gas and oil resources could potentially bring substantial benefits and help meet our objectives for secure energy supplies, economic growth and lower carbon emissions.

Having access to clean, safe and secure supplies of natural gas for years to come is a key requirement if the UK is to successfully transition in the longer term to a low-carbon economy. The Government remains fully committed to the development and deployment of renewable technologies for heat and electricity generation and to driving up energy efficiency, but we need gas - the cleanest of all fossil fuels - to support our climate change target by providing flexibility while we do that and help us to reduce the use of high-carbon coal.

Natural gas is absolutely vital to the economy. It provides around one third of our energy supply.

- About one third of gas supply is used for industry and services, not just for power or heating but also as feedstock, e.g. for chemicals;

- one quarter is used for electricity generation; and

- the remainder is used in domestic households for heating and cooking<sup>[1]</sup>.

Since 2004, the UK has been a net importer of gas due to the rapid decline of production from the UK Continental Shelf.

- Last year around 45% of UK gas supply was made up of net imports<sup>[2]</sup>. Our projections suggest that domestic production will continue to decline and, without any contribution from shale gas, net imports could increase to 75% of the gas we consume by 2030<sup>[3]</sup>.

- Domestic oil production has also declined since reaching a peak in 1999. Currently net imports comprise

around 40% of the oil we use and DECC projections suggest net imports could increase to 73% by 2030<sup>[4]</sup>.

Meanwhile events around the world show us how dangerous it can be to assume that we will always be able to rely on existing sources of supply. Developing home-grown shale resources could reduce our (and wider European) dependency on imports and improve our energy resilience.

There are also potential economic benefits in building a new industry for the country and for communities.

- Nationally, we will benefit from development of a new industrial sector, building on the experience and skills developed here in 50 years of on- and offshore oil and gas development.

- Developing shale resources would deliver investment in key domestic energy infrastructure, boosting the UK's capital stock and leading to increased productivity and growth.

- Reducing imports would improve the balance of trade.

- Consultants EY estimated in 2014<sup>[5]</sup> that a thriving shale industry could mean cumulative investment of £33 billion and support 64,500 jobs in the gas, oil, construction, engineering and chemical sectors at peak. Locally that might mean new facilities and jobs for local companies.

We do not yet know the full scale of the UK's shale resources nor how much can be extracted technically or economically.

- The British Geological Survey estimates the shale gas resource in the Bowland-Hodder basin under Northern England could be 1300 trillion cubic feet (tcf)<sup>[6]</sup>, compared to current UK annual gas consumption of around 2.5 tcf<sup>[7]</sup>. The industry need to test how much of this gas in place can be extracted technically and economically.

- National Grid's Future Energy Scenarios (2015) report<sup>[8]</sup> presents a wide range for potential shale gas production in the UK up to a peak of 32 bcm/year in 2030. This would be around 40% of all the gas we are projected to consume and result in our import dependency falling to 34%, compared to current projections that net imports could reach 75% in 2030.

Shale gas can create a bridge while we develop renewable energy, improve energy efficiency and build new nuclear generating capacity. Studies have shown that the carbon footprint of electricity from UK shale gas would be likely to be significantly less than unabated coal and also lower than imported Liquefied Natural Gas<sup>[9]</sup>.

The Government therefore considers that there is a clear need to seize the opportunity now to explore and test our shale potential.

*Safety and environmental protection will be ensured through responsible development and robust regulation*

This must and can be done whilst maintaining the very highest safety and environmental standards, which we have established with a world-leading framework for extracting oil and gas for over 50 years.

Reports by the Royal Society and Royal Academy of Engineering, Public Health England and others have considered a wide range of evidence on hydraulic fracturing in the UK context, and concluded that risks can be managed effectively if the industry follows best practice, enforced through regulation<sup>[10], [11]</sup>.

The Government is confident we have the right protections in place now to explore shale safely (see Annex). Planning authorities can also have confidence that the regulators will enforce safety, environmental and seismic regulation effectively. But we are not complacent. We will continuously look to strengthen and improve regulation where necessary as the industry develops.

#### *Transparency and information for the public*

It is also important that the public has objective information about shale and that communities where shale development is proposed are effectively engaged, with the opportunity to hear from the expert regulators at the Health and Safety Executive and the Environment Agency.

The Government allocated £5m for 2015-16 in the last Autumn Statement for this purpose (see Annex).

#### *Planning*

The Government is committed to ensuring that local communities are fully involved in planning decisions that affect them. We are also making the planning system faster and fairer for all those affected by new development. No one benefits from the uncertainty caused by delay. This is why we expect every planning application or appeal, large or small, to be dealt with as quickly as possible.

There is a clear expectation that local planning authorities should ensure that decisions on planning applications are made within statutory timeframes: 16 weeks where an application is subject to Environmental Impact Assessment. This should be supported through an upfront timeline agreed with the applicant including the anticipated decision date.

To avoid unnecessary work causing delay, when determining planning applications, local planning authorities should carefully consider which issues can be left to other regulatory regimes, taking full account of the Government's planning guidance on this issue.

We also expect local planning authorities to make full use of the funding available for 2015/16 through the £1.2m shale support programme. This will ensure there are adequate resources locally to enable the timely determination locally of planning applications for shale gas. Local planning authorities should also agree to Planning Performance Agreements where this is appropriate.

But we cannot be complacent. Therefore:

- Appeals against any refusals of planning permission for exploring and developing shale gas, or against non-determination, will be treated as a priority for urgent resolution. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government may also want to give particular

scrutiny to these appeals. To this end he will revise the recovery criteria and will consider for recovery appeals for exploring and developing shale gas. This new criterion will be added to the recovery policy issued on 30 June 2008 and will be applied for a period of two years after which it will be reviewed.

- The Secretary of State will also actively consider calling in shale applications. Each case will be considered on its individual merits in line with his policy. Priority will be given to any called-in planning applications.

- The Government commits to identifying underperforming local planning authorities that repeatedly fail to determine oil and gas applications within statutory timeframes. When such applications are made to underperforming local planning authorities, the Secretary of State will consider whether he should determine the application instead.

- The Government has published its response to consultation and will take forward amending permitted development rights to allow the drilling of boreholes for groundwater monitoring. The Government is also inviting views on proposals for further rights to enable, as permitted development, the drilling of boreholes for seismic investigation and to locate and appraise shallow mine workings. These proposals will speed up the delivery of essential monitoring information for safety and environmental protection and free local resources for where the express attention of the local planning authority is required.

My Rt Hon Friend Greg Clark (Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government) will be laying before Parliament a written ministerial statement setting out more detail.

#### *Sharing shale income with communities*

We also strongly believe that communities hosting shale gas developments should share in the financial returns they generate. The Government welcomes the shale gas companies' commitment to make set payments to these communities, which could be worth £5-10m for a typical 10-well site, and we want to go further. As announced by the Chancellor in the 2014 Autumn Statement, and set out in our manifesto, we are determined to ensure that local communities share more of the proceeds and feel more of the benefits, using a proportion of the tax revenues that are recouped from shale gas production. We will present our proposals later this year for how we intend to design the sovereign wealth fund.

#### *Annex*

This Annex contains supporting material for the main statement.

#### *Safety and environmental protection*

- Our regulatory system is robust and we are proven world leaders, with a 50 year track record, in well-regulated, safe and environmentally sound oil and gas developments. We have strict requirements through environmental permitting and DECC licencing for on-site

safety, to prevent water contamination, air pollution and mitigate seismic activity.

- The Health and Safety Executive and the environmental regulators (the Environment Agency in England) are independent and highly specialised regulators. They will enable the development of shale gas in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

- The Environment Agency assesses the potential use of chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing fluids on a case-by-case basis. The use of hazardous chemicals will not be permitted where there is a risk that they may enter groundwater and cause pollution.

- The Health and Safety Executive scrutinise well design and require week by week written updates on drilling progress.

- DECC has implemented a thorough system of rigorous checks before any drilling or fracking and a live traffic light system during the actual operations, to ensure earth tremors will not occur.

To reinforce the existing regulatory regime further, the Infrastructure Act 2015 brought forward a range of additional requirements and safeguards if an operator is to carry out hydraulic fracturing.

- These include taking account of the environmental impact of development, baseline monitoring of methane in groundwater in the 12 months preceding hydraulic fracturing operations, disclosure of all chemicals, community benefits and the exclusion of protected areas.

- Draft regulations, laid on 16 July, defining the protected areas in which fracking will be prohibited as specified areas of groundwater, National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Broads and World Heritage Sites. Fracking can only take place at depths below 1200 metres in these areas.

- Ministers also set out their clear commitment to ensure that hydraulic fracturing cannot be conducted from wells that are drilled at the surface of National Parks and other protected areas. This is not intended to impact on conventional drilling operations.

#### *Transparency and information for the public*

Following the Autumn Statement announcement of £5m for 2015-16 to “provide independent evidence directly to the public about the robustness of the existing [shale gas] regulatory regime”, DECC received £1.7m to establish independent environmental monitoring and is working with a research consortium led by the British Geological Survey to expand an existing Lancashire-based programme for gathering baseline environmental data to North Yorkshire, where a planning application for a shale gas project is being submitted. The data produced would be made available to the public.

In addition, DCLG announced in March a £1.2m fund to support Mineral Planning Authorities dealing with shale planning applications. The Health & Safety Executive has received £0.5m to increase the availability of inspectors for onshore oil and gas operations and to double its local engagement capacity. The Environment

Agency received £1.5m to undertake pro-active local engagement by deploying dedicated local officers. The Government is also publishing factual material on shale, including web documents and videos.

[1] DECC, Digest Of UK Energy Statistics, July 2015

[2] DECC, Digest of UK Energy Statistics, July 2015

[3] DECC, UK Oil and Gas Production Projections, March 2015  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/414172/Production\\_prjections.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/414172/Production_prjections.pdf)

[4]Ibid

[5] EY, Getting Ready for UK Shale Gas, April 2014  
[http://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/Getting\\_ready\\_for\\_UK\\_shale\\_gas/\\$FILE/EY-Getting-ready-for-UK-shale-gas-April-2014.pdf](http://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/Getting_ready_for_UK_shale_gas/$FILE/EY-Getting-ready-for-UK-shale-gas-April-2014.pdf)

[6] BGS/DECC, Bowland Shale Gas Study, June 2013  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bowland-shale-gas-study>

[7] Based on DECC, Digest of UK Energy Statistics, July 2015

[8] National Grid, Future Energy Scenarios, 2015

[9] Mackay-Stone report (requested by DECC), Potential Greenhouse Gas Emissions Associated with Shale Gas Extraction and Use, Sept 2013

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/237330/MacKay\\_Stone\\_shale\\_study\\_report\\_09092013.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/237330/MacKay_Stone_shale_study_report_09092013.pdf)

[10] The Royal Society and The Royal Academy of Engineers, Shale gas extraction in the UK: a review of hydraulic fracturing, 2012  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/256359/Publication\\_RoyalSociety\\_2012-06-28-Shale-gas.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/256359/Publication_RoyalSociety_2012-06-28-Shale-gas.pdf)

[11] Public Health England, Review of the Potential Public Health Impacts of Exposures to Chemical and Radioactive Pollutants as a Result of the Shale Gas Extraction Process  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/shale-gas-extraction-review-of-the-potential-public-health-impacts-of-exposures-to-chemical-and-radioactive-pollutants>

## **UK Sport and Sport England: Triennial Review**

[HLWS191]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** My Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has made the following Written Ministerial Statement. I am today publishing the report of the triennial review of UK Sport and Sport England announced on 21 November 2014 by my hon Friend the then Minister for Sport and Tourism.

The review has concluded that the functions of UK Sport and Sport England remained necessary and should continue to be exercised by their current organisation and that both bodies should remain as NDPBs.

The review also has made a number of recommendations for improving the effectiveness of UK Sport and Sport England, primarily through working more closely together in the areas of talent, participation and the governance of sports’ national governing bodies (NGBs) and action to raise participation and strengthen diversity. The report recommends improving efficiency primarily through sharing more services and exploiting the scope for significant efficiencies in the NGBs they fund through co-location and shared services.

The triennial review has been carried out independently within Government and with the full participation of UK Sport and Sport England, as well as a range of stakeholders from across Government and the sport sector. I am grateful to all those who contributed to the

review. The final review report is being deposited in the House Libraries and is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-sport-and-sport-england-triennial-review-report>

The report will be an important contribution to our forthcoming sport strategy.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Triennial Review of UK Sport and Sport England [Report of triennial review of UK Sport and Sport England.pdf]

Triennial Review- annexes [Annexes to triennial review of UK Sport and Sport England.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2015-09-16/HLWS191/>

## Written Answers

Wednesday, 16 September 2015

### A303

Asked by **Lord Cameron of Dillington**

To ask Her Majesty's Government in which year they currently expect the dualling of the A303 around Stonehenge to be completed. [HL2056]

Asked by **Lord Cameron of Dillington**

To ask Her Majesty's Government in which year they currently expect the dualling of the A303 along the Ilminster by-pass and the A358 link to the M5 to be completed. [HL2057]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Road Investment Strategy sets out an intention to upgrade all remaining single carriageway sections of the A303 between the M3 and the A358 to dual carriageway standard as part of a long-term commitment to creating a new Expressway to the South West. We are starting this process with three major improvements: A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down (Stonehenge), A303 Sparkford to Ilchester and the A358 Taunton (M5) to Southfields. Construction of these schemes is expected to start in the first Road Period (by 1 April 2020), depending on planning, and completion is expected by the middle of the 2020s at the latest. We would expect subsequent Road Investment Strategies to fund the remaining improvements, such as to the Ilminster by-pass.

### Airports: Lost Property

Asked by **Lord Hoyle**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of lost property is recovered from (1) Heathrow airport, (2) Manchester airport, (3) Liverpool airport, (4) Gatwick airport, and (5) Glasgow airport. [HL2103]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government does not collect statistics on what proportion of lost property is recovered from airports. This is a matter for the airports concerned.

Asked by **Lord Hoyle**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what happens to the lost property that is not recovered at (1) Heathrow airport, (2) Manchester airport, (3) Liverpool airport, (4) Gatwick airport, and (5) Glasgow airport; and what revenue, if any, property that is not recovered raises for each airport. [HL2104]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government does not hold information on the lost property arrangements of individual airports or any revenue that they collect as a result. However it is usual practice for items to be retained for a minimum of 90 days and then either

auctioned, donated or, where they may be deemed hazardous, to be disposed of in a suitable manner.

### Animal Products: Import Controls

Asked by **Lord Hanningfield**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to introduce legislation to ban the import of animal trophies into the United Kingdom, particularly trophies from endangered species. [HL1898]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Under international rules set by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, a hunting trophy of an endangered species can only be exported if the exporting country is satisfied that the hunt was both legal and sustainable in terms of its impact on the overall population of the species in that country.

However, in light of growing concerns about the sustainability of the hunting of some species, we have worked within the EU to introduce stricter controls on the import of hunting trophies of particular species. This requires the importing country to also carry out an assessment of the sustainability of the hunt. In this way the import of hunting trophies of certain species from certain countries is currently prohibited by the EU.

The Government considers that properly managed, legal and sustainable trophy hunting can play a part in species conservation efforts, including providing an important source of funding for some countries. As such we have no plans to introduce legislation banning the import of all animal trophies, but we will continue to monitor the impact of trophy hunting and will work with the EU and our international partners to put in place greater protection, including prohibiting imports, where this is shown to be needed.

### Animal Products: Imports

Asked by **Lord Hanningfield**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what records they keep of the import of animal trophies into the United Kingdom; and whether they plan to publish data regarding the number of such imports and the respective countries of origin. [HL1899]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The UK holds records of applications and permits issued to import hunting trophies of species listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to the UK from outside the EU. We also hold information on which import permits were returned as used.

The UK annually submits trade data in CITES specimens, including hunting trophies, to the CITES Secretariat, which administers the Convention. These are publicly available on the CITES Trade Database on the CITES website.

## Archaeology

Asked by **Lord Renfrew of Kaimsthorn**

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to publish the review of local government archaeology services by John Howell MP and Lord Redesdale, which was commissioned in October 2013 by the Minister for Culture, Communication and Creative Industries, Mr Ed Vaizey MP; and when they plan to announce their response. [[HL2095](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The review of local government archaeology services usefully highlighted the imperative of ensuring that local planning authorities have the historic environment information and expertise they need to help deliver sustainable development. Historic England is currently working with the Historic Environment Forum to develop sector-led ideas for new approaches to managing change in the historic environment that make the best use of local government resources and reduce burdens.

## BBC: Royal Charters

Asked by **Baroness Grender**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the members of the BBC Charter renewal advisory panel will be required to declare any relevant interests; and if so, what is the process for doing so. [[HL1874](#)]

Asked by **Baroness Grender**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any declarations of interest by the members of the BBC Charter renewal advisory panel will be published. [[HL1875](#)]

Asked by **Baroness Grender**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the BBC Charter renewal advisory panel will have the power to commission research; and, if so, from whom. [[HL1877](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Department published the names of the Advisory Group members, as well as their principal roles, both current and former, in July 2015. This information is shown in the table below:

<i>Advisory Group Member</i>	<i>Current or former role</i>
Dawn Airey	Senior Vice President of Yahoo's business in Europe, the Middle East and Africa and formerly Chairman and Chief Executive of Channel 5.
Dame Colette Bowe	Chairman of the Banking Standards Board, President of the Voice of the Listener and Viewer and former Chair of Ofcom.
Andrew Fisher	Executive Chairman at Shazam.
Darren Henley OBE	CEO of Arts Council England and former Managing Director of Classic FM.

<i>Advisory Group Member</i>	<i>Current or former role</i>
Ashley Highfield	CEO of Johnston Press, one of the largest local media groups in the UK, and former director at the BBC.
Alex Mahon	Former CEO of Shine Group, global television content production company.
Lopa Patel MBE	Digital entrepreneur and founder/CEO of NewAsianPost.com and Diversity UK.
Stewart Purvis OBE	British broadcaster and academic, and former Editor-in-Chief and CEO of ITN.

The Group has no legal status or powers and no decision-making or research commissioning functions. These are not public appointments and therefore the Group is not subject to the Cabinet Office guidelines for public appointments.

Asked by **Baroness Bonham-Carter of Yarnbury**

To ask Her Majesty's Government by what process the members of the BBC Charter renewal advisory panel were appointed. [[HL1883](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The members of the Charter Review Advisory Group were appointed by invitation from the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. The Group is not a decision-making body, and forms one part of a wider Charter Review process which includes public consultation. As set out in the published terms of reference, additional members may be co-opted as and when required by the Chairman. Members of the Group act in a voluntary capacity and on the basis of their personal experience and expertise rather than as representatives of their respective organisations.

## Careers and Enterprise Company

Asked by **Baroness Jones of Whitchurch**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to reply by Lord Nash on 10 December 2014 (HL Deb, col 1830), what progress has been made in establishing the Careers and Enterprise Company and making it operational. [[HL1961](#)]

Asked by **Baroness Jones of Whitchurch**

To ask Her Majesty's Government who is on the board of the Careers and Enterprise Company. [[HL1962](#)]

Asked by **Baroness Jones of Whitchurch**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much of the proposed £20 million funding has been spent on the Careers and Enterprise Company to date; and when its first accounts will be published. [[HL1963](#)]

Asked by **Baroness Jones of Whitchurch**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effect that the Careers and Enterprise Company has had (1) on the level of employer input into careers education in schools and

colleges, and (2) on the quality of careers education in schools and colleges. [HL1964]

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which Local Enterprise Partnerships have been involved with the Careers and Enterprise Company to date. [HL1965]

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how the progress of the work by the Careers and Enterprise Company will be reported to Parliament. [HL1966]

**Lord Nash:** The Careers & Enterprise Company, which was set up to take a lead role in transforming the provision of careers, enterprise and employer engagement experiences for young people, was incorporated in February 2015. Since then it has been working with employers, schools and colleges, careers, enterprise and employer engagement providers and others to devise its strategy for transforming the way in which schools and colleges, in partnership with employers, help to prepare young people for adult life.

On 1 July 2015 the company announced the appointment of Claudia Harris as its Chief Executive Officer and a company board comprising Christine Hodgson, Chair of Capgemini UK (chair); Lord Young of Grafton, former Enterprise Adviser to the Prime Minister; Steve Holliday, Chief Executive Officer of National Grid; Brian Lightman, General Secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders; and Dame Julia Cleverdon, Vice-Patron of Teach First and Vice-President of Business in the Community.

The Careers & Enterprise Company has made good progress with its set up and its delivery plans. The company will commence its services in the coming months, including publishing research on 'what works' in school-work engagement; launching its £5 million investment fund; and development of a digital 'Enterprise Passport' to help young people broaden and showcase their experience. The company has been engaging Local Enterprise Partnerships recently and the enterprise advisers in the network will support schools to improve their careers and enterprise offer, in particular by brokering links with employers and local careers and enterprise providers.

To date the company has received £10.95 million from government for its activities leading to delivery of the objectives set out by my Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State in December. As an independent company, it is for The Careers & Enterprise Company to publish its accounts in accordance with The Companies Act 2006.

My Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State is accountable to Parliament in the usual way for progress on improving careers advice and guidance for young people, including the contribution that the company makes to this.

## **Compulsorily Detained Mental Patients: Children**

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children aged under 18 were detained in police custody during the past 12 months, after being sectioned under the Mental Health Act 1983; and what action they plan to take, if any, to prevent such detention in future. [HL2033]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** In 2014-15 there were 145 cases of children under the age of 18 being detained in police cells after being sectioned under the Mental Health Act 1983; this represents a 40% decrease from the previous year, and a 55% decrease since the figures began to be collected in 2011-12.

The Crisis Care Concordat was launched in February 2014 seeking to improve the experience of those in crisis, and in particular, prevent those detained under section 136 of the Mental Health Act being held in police cells. All localities signed up to the principles of the Concordat before the end of 2014. Detailed action plans are now in place across England setting out how local partners will work together to improve service responses for people in crisis. The Department of Health, NHS England and Mind continue to work with local areas to strengthen and improve their "local Concordat action plans".

As announced by the Home Secretary in May earlier this year, this Government will also be reforming the law on the use of police cells to end this practice altogether for under 18s. This will be backed by £15 million to improve the provision of health-based places of safety so that there is better availability of alternatives to police cells for people of all ages.

## **Cycleways: Greater London**

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have plans to designate roads that form part of strategic cycle networks in London, such as the Cycle Superhighways, as Greater London Authority roads. [HL1904]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The government has no such plans. Any re-designation would be a matter for the Mayor and the Greater London Authority.

## **Cycling: Safety**

*Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to help protect cyclists from collisions with heavy goods vehicles caused by the driver being unable to see the cyclist on the near side. [HL1923]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government is committed to ensuring the roads are safe for all road users. The European Union has required improved mirrors on new models of heavy goods vehicle launched after 30

June 2014. Further changes are expected in due course, to allow camera monitoring systems and the redesign of lorry cabs for better vision.

We are also watching closely the impact of Transport for London's proposals in this area, including the Safer Lorry Scheme.

### Dolphins: Japan

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Goss Moor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Japan to discourage the annual killing of dolphins in the town of Taiji in Japan. [HL2163]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The UK Government raises its opposition to the annual coastal dolphin hunts that take place in Taiji, Japan, at every appropriate opportunity.

In July 2015, Minister of State for Farming, Food and Marine Environment, George Eustice MP, wrote to the Japanese Government to raise the UK's opposition to their on-going coastal hunts and continued programme of lethal scientific research on cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises).

Prior to this, the UK Commissioner to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) met the Japanese Commissioner to the IWC in May 2015 and officials from the Japanese Embassy in March 2015, where he strongly re-iterated the UK Government's opposition to their continued hunting of cetaceans. Her Majesty's Ambassador to Japan has also written previously to the Japanese Government on this issue.

### Electronic Tagging

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to extend the mandation of electronic tagging to include individuals under a Domestic Violence Protection Order. [HL1916]

**Lord Bates:** The Government is wholly committed to protecting women and girls from violence and supporting victims and survivors. We are currently developing a refreshed strategy on violence against women and girls which will include intervening earlier in the abuse cycle to deter and rehabilitate perpetrators, as well as continuing to improve the protection for victims and bring offenders to justice.

We are supportive of any tools that can assist the police to manage offenders and protect victims. The potential application of new technologies and electronic monitoring to protect victims of domestic abuse is something that we are exploring as part of our refreshed strategy and we are committed to working with police forces to test new technology. We have no immediate plans to mandate the use of electronic tagging in relation to Domestic Violence Protection Orders.

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to address the delays in implementing the contract for GPS electronic tagging technology. [HL1918]

**Lord Faulks:** A comprehensive review of the Electronic Monitoring programme to introduce GPS technology is underway.

### Food

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to publish a 25-year plan to boost productivity and growth in the food and drink sectors; and whether this will include consideration of any negative consequences of increased alcohol production. [HL2040]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Our aim is to publish the 25 year Food and Farming Plan around the end of the year. The plan will have a strong focus on the potential for our world leading food and farming sector, including the alcoholic drinks industry, to create jobs and deliver economic growth. The issue of alcohol related harm is complex and multi-faceted, and we have regular discussions with Public Health England and the Department of Health on this and other areas of common interest.

### GCSE

*Asked by Lord Quirk*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the criticisms of GCSEs by the High Master of St Paul's School who was reported in the press on 18 August as saying that "one size doesn't fit all" and that "the curse of GCSE is that the size on offer fits no one". [HL2009]

**Lord Nash:** The government's plan for education is designed to help every student, regardless of their background, develop the knowledge, skills and values to prepare them for life in modern Britain. That is why we are reforming GCSEs and A levels to be robust and rigorous, to match the best education systems in the world and to keep pace with universities' and employers' demands.

We have also introduced gold-standard technical and vocational qualifications, ensuring our young people can choose from a wide range of academic and vocational courses.

The government has consulted extensively with a range of educational stakeholders including the teaching sectors and employers.

### Health Services: Armed Forces

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to provide injured service men and women with full access to NHS facilities and treatments; and

whether any such provision would be made for individuals who have access to private treatment. [HL2100]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Injured service men and women are able to access National Health Service facilities and treatments.

All secondary acute and community care is currently provided by the NHS for those serving in the Armed Forces and primary care is provided by the Ministry of Defence's Defence Medical Services (DMS). In some cases, injured serving personnel can be granted temporary registration with an NHS general practitioner for primary care if authorised by the DMS for up to two years where it is in the best interest of the patient's care.

Any patient is free to choose to fund privately a healthcare procedure, but as a result will generally be required to pay all costs associated with that procedure.

### **HMS Queen Elizabeth: Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft**

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the purchase of sufficient F35B Sea Lightnings to form a carrier air wing for HMS Queen Elizabeth is dependent on the outcome of the next Strategic Defence and Security Review. [HL1944]

**Earl Howe:** I refer the noble Lord to the answer given to him by my predecessor (Lord Astor of Hever) on 22 January 2015 to Question number HL4163.

The number of F-35B Joint Strike Fighter aircraft to be purchased to enable carrier strike from HMS Queen Elizabeth will be determined through the Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Aircraft Carriers [Hansard Extract 14 January 2015.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-07/HL1944>

### **Madeleine McCann**

*Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what has been the cost to date of the investigation into the disappearance of Madeleine McCann, Operation Grange; what provision has been made for funding the operation in the future; and what criteria they are using to judge how long funding should continue. [HL2087]

**Lord Bates:** The total cost of the investigation, into the disappearance of Madeleine McCann (Operation Grange), up until end of June 2015, is £10.1m. The Home Office has budgeted £2m for the investigation in 2015/16.

The Home Office funds this work from the Special Grant budget. The level of funding provided to the

Metropolitan Police in relation to this investigation is reviewed regularly and will continue to be monitored.

### **Mental Illness: Children**

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment has been made of the mental health problems being experienced by children in the United Kingdom; and what action they plan to take, if any, to reduce the number of children aged under 10 who suffer from severe depression. [HL2034]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The last prevalence survey, published in 2004, found that around 10% of children were suffering from a diagnosable medical condition. Around one in a thousand children was a child aged under 10 suffering from severe depression. Based on these figures, the charity Young Minds has estimated that around 8,000 children aged under 10 suffer from severe depression.

This Government is committed to improving children and young people's mental health and wellbeing as a major priority. All clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) have been asked to work with their local partners to develop plans to transform their offer through the development of local transformation plans. These plans, alongside existing investment, should include the full spectrum of interventions: from prevention and resilience building, to support and care for existing and emerging mental health problems, as well as transitions between services and addressing the needs of the most vulnerable. This local transformation will be supported by a national programme of work, which includes piloting single points of contact so that young people have access to mental health advice and support in schools and the extension and expansion of the Children and Young People's Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme.

Additionally, the Department is commissioning a new comprehensive prevalence survey of children and young people's mental health. The programme is on track to announce a contractor in autumn 2015, and final publication is expected in 2018. The findings of the survey will help identify where best to target improvements.

### **Mental Illness: Prisoners**

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Oxford University study Psychiatric disorders and violent reoffending: a national cohort study of convicted prisoners in Sweden, and whether they have plans to improve the current level of diagnosis of and treatment provided to prisoners with mental health problems before their release. [HL2050]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** We have made no assessment.

The joint National Health Service and National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Offender Personality Disorder (OPD) programme provides a pathway of psychologically informed services for offenders who have a severe personality disorder and who pose a high risk of harm to others or a high risk of reoffending in a harmful way.

The programme has developed a range of services to improve the assessment, treatment and management of this group of offenders from sentence through custody to community-based supervision and resettlement. The NHS is re-investing up to £30 million in OPD services in 2015-16, mainly in prisons and probation services.

In response to the objective in the Government's Mandate to NHS England to provide better healthcare across for people in the criminal justice system in England, including improved mental health care, NHS England has introduced a range of measures to improve mainstream mental health services in prisons.

NHS England's new national specifications for health and justice services will help to promote effective and coordinated mental health services across the prison estate in England. All 116 prison establishments now have clear commissioning strategies to improve service delivery.

NHS England has also developed new performance indicators for prison healthcare with NOMS. These Health and Justice Indicators of Performance will provide assurance that healthcare delivery in prisons, including mental health care, is fit for purpose.

Options for a new mental health pathway, connecting custody, community, as well as secure hospitals, are also being developed to ensure that any prisoner can have mental health treatment equivalent to that they would receive in the community, and that this is also available during a community sentence and after prison.

### Motorways: Repairs and Maintenance

*Asked by Lord German*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the last major maintenance work was undertaken on (1) the junction of the M6 and the A38(M), known as Spaghetti Junction, and (2) the elevated section of the M5 between junctions 1 and 2. [HL2116]

*Asked by Lord German*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the annual cost of maintaining the motorway junction of the M6 with the A38(M), known as Spaghetti Junction, for each of the last 10 years. [HL2117]

*Asked by Lord German*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the annual cost of maintaining the elevated motorway section of the M5 between junctions 1 and 2 for each of the last 10 years. [HL2118]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** From Highways England's records that are readily available,

(1) The last major maintenance work at the junction of the M6 and the A38 (M), known as Spaghetti Junction was undertaken in 1995.

(2) The last major maintenance work at the elevated section of the M5 between junctions 1 and 2 was undertaken in 1987.

On the matter of the annual maintenance cost:

The cost of maintaining the motorway junction of the M6 with the A38(M), known as Spaghetti Junction was approximately £8.2m for the 12 month period July 2014 to June 2015.

Costs for earlier periods are not readily available.

The cost of maintaining the elevated section of the M5 between junctions 1 and 2 was approximately £2.4m for the 12 month period July 2014 to June 2015.

Costs for earlier periods are not readily available.

### Motorway Service Areas

*Asked by Lord Steel of Aikwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to encourage motorway service station signs to advertise on approaching road signs the brand and prices of fuel they are selling. [HL1930]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government is currently finalising the detailed design for trialling new traffic signs, displaying comparative motorway fuel prices, to provide greater transparency on the pricing of fuel at service areas and to encourage competition. The first sign will be installed this Winter, with the remaining three signs by Spring 2016.

### Nurses: Migrant Workers

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many NHS nurses they estimate will be affected by the new pay threshold for migrants; and whether they anticipate there will be a shortfall in NHS nursing staff as a result. [HL2027]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Home Office estimate that there were 713 visas issued to nurses in 2011/12 to whom the pay threshold and six year cap would apply if they are still resident in the United Kingdom.

Health Education England (HEE) is responsible for delivering a better health and healthcare workforce for England and for ensuring a secure future supply of nurses with the right skills, values and behaviours to meet future demand.

HEE has increased nurse training places by 11% over the last two years and there are currently over 20,000 more professionally qualified clinical staff since 2010, including over 8,100 more nurses on our wards.

## Nurses: Recruitment

Asked by *The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there are targets for the recruitment of British nurses; if so, what they are; and how much it is estimated that this recruitment process will cost. [HL2028]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Department has not set any targets for the recruitment of British nurses.

National Health Service organisations are best placed to decide how many staff they employ. Services should be tailored to meet the needs of their patients and local communities, to deliver safe care.

NHS trusts are able to recruit nurses using the NHS Jobs dedicated online recruitment service for the NHS, free of charge.

## Police and Crime Commissioners

Asked by *Lord German*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the cost of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for each police area in England and Wales for each year between 2012 and 2015. [HL2091]

**Lord Bates:** The Government does not collate centrally information in respect of the cost of the former Police Authorities or of the Offices of the Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs).

Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, it is the responsibility of PCCs to determine how each police area's funding settlement is allocated, including setting the police force budget and the running of the PCC's office.

The 2011 Act specifies that PCCs must publish key information as prescribed by the Secretary of State. The Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011 (and amended in 2012) sets out what information must be published: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/3050/contents/made>

The publication of this information enables the local electorate to judge whether the PCC is making the best use of public money at the ballot box.

PCCs perform a completely different role from the old Police Authorities they replaced. PCCs are providing accountable, visible leadership, and making a real difference to policing locally.

The Home Affairs Select Committee recognised in their 2014 report that individual PCCs are providing greater clarity of leadership for policing in their areas, and are increasingly recognised for the strategic direction they are providing. In contrast, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary found, in 2010, that only four of the 22 police authorities inspected were judged to have performed well in two of their primary functions: setting strategic direction and ensuring value for money.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

The Elected Local Policing Bodies - Order 2011 [SI - 2011 - No 3050 - Police, England and Wales - Elected Local Policing Bodies - Order 2011.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-08/HL2091>

## Power Stations

Asked by *Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the peak generating capacity of (1) Longannet, (2) Ferrybridge, (3) Ironbridge, (4) Eggborough, (5) Lynemouth and (6) Rugeley power stations; what percentage of the total generating capacity of the United Kingdom each one represents; and when those power stations are expected to close. [HL1984]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The installed generating capacities of each power station and expressed as a percentage of total UK generation capacity are shown in the table below.

Power Station	Installed Capacity (MW)*	Percentage of total UK Generating Capacity*
Longannet	2260	2.8
Ferrybridge	980	1.2
Ironbridge	360	0.4
Eggborough	1960	2.4
Lynemouth	420	0.5
Rugeley	1006	1.2

\*Source: Chapter 5.10 Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics (DUKES) <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/electricity-chapter-5-digest-of-united-kingdom-energy-statistics-dukes>

Decisions on plant closures are a commercial matter for individual plant owners. The owners of Longannet and Ferrybridge have publicly stated their intention to close these plants by 1 April 2016. Ironbridge is required to close by end 2015 under the requirements of the Large Combustion Plant Directive. The owner of Eggborough has announced the plant may cease generating at the end of March 2016.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Chapter 5 Digest of UK Energy Stats (DUKES) [DUKES\_2015\_Chapter\_5.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-07/HL1984>

## Prisoners: Older People

Asked by *Lord Trefgarne*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) males, and (2) females, over the age of 80 are currently serving sentences in prisons in England and Wales. [HL1895]

**Lord Faulks:** As at 30 June 2015 there were 133 male, and 1 female, prisoners aged over 80 years serving sentences in England and Wales.

### Rescue Services: Belfast

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the coastguard boat based in Belfast was given an Irish Language name; and what steps they plan to take to ensure equality of cultures in any such namings in the future. [HL2142]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Her Majesty's Coastguard does not have a boat based in Belfast.

### Rescue Services: Training

*Asked by Lord Carlile of Berriew*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that the standard of training for air-sea rescue, formerly provided by the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force, is maintained under the contract with Bristow Group. [HL1967]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The standard of training provided by Bristow Helicopters for its search and rescue (SAR) helicopter crews is scrutinised in two separate ways. Firstly, as a civil helicopter operator, Bristow Helicopters is regulated by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Bristow must demonstrate to the CAA that its crews have at least the minimum standard of training the regulator requires for the SAR services Bristow provides to the Government. Secondly, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency will regularly audit Bristow's contractual compliance with its contract specification, much of which mirrors the military's SAR standards.

### Scientific Advisers

*Asked by Lord Strasburger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government on what grounds scientific advisory committees may choose not to publish their agendas and minutes; and what assessment they have made of whether such grounds comply with the need for transparency set out in the Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees. [HL1853]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Government is committed to openness and transparency, in particular in relation to scientific advice. The Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees sets out principles upon which departments and SACs set their own publication policy.

Defra's Scientific Advisory Council, and Scientific Advisory Committees, may choose not to publish their agendas or minutes when they relate to:

- confidential information;
- there is non-disclosure associated with the meeting subject material;

- Government Security Classified documents; or
- commercially sensitive information.

This decision to do so is assessed against the Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees. A publicly available explanation is provided when Committees decide not to publish minutes.

In assessing whether grounds for not publishing comply with the Code of Practice's need for transparency, the committee considers:

- public interest in the subject material;
- the commercial impact should the material be published;
- the timing of the material be published; and
- the policy impact, for example, in relation to UK negotiations with another country.

### Small Businesses: Advisory Services

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effectiveness of the Growth Vouchers programme. [HL2004]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Since the growth voucher programme launched in January 2014, we have carried out two qualitative assessments and published the findings. Our evaluation is ongoing. All research and evaluation relating to the programme will be published and can be found at the gov.uk website.

### South Wales Railway Line: Electrification

*Asked by Lord Wigley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there has been any revision to the target date for the completion of the electrification of the South Wales Main Line railway link between London and Swansea. [HL2002]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** As the Prime Minister stated on 24th June 2015, this Government is committed to the electrification of Great Western line from Swansea to Cardiff and on to London.

The Secretary of State for Transport announced on the 25th June 2015 that Great Western was a top priority for delivery and that is why he has asked Sir Peter Hendy, the new chair of Network Rail, to put forward proposals for replanning the enhancement programme across England and Wales, which includes electrification. Sir Peter is due to report to the Secretary of State in the Autumn.

### Surgery: Waiting Lists

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why, and by how many, the number of people waiting longer than 18 weeks for treatment for surgery has risen since May 2010. [HL2064]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government by how much waiting times have risen since May 2010 for those patients who are not treated for common forms of surgery within the 18 weeks waiting limit. [HL2065]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Referral to treatment waiting times data, which measure waiting times from referral to the start of consultant-led treatment for non-urgent conditions, does not distinguish between patients waiting for surgery and patients waiting for other types of consultant-led treatment.

At the end of July 2015 there were 232,424 people waiting more than 18 weeks to start consultant led treatment compared to 209,411 in May 2010, an increase of 23,013 people. The main driver for this increase is the growth in demand for elective care over the period due to a range of demographic and other factors such as technological changes in the provision of care. However, the number of people waiting more than 18 weeks as a proportion of the total number of people waiting to start consultant-led treatment is lower in July 2015 than in May 2010, 7.1% of the total waiting list compared to 8.1% in May 2010.

The average median waiting times for all patients who started treatment and that involved an admission during July 2015 was 9.1 weeks compared to 8.4 weeks in May 2010. The time waited for those patients who had waited more than 18 weeks to start treatment is not separately identified.

**Toxicity of Chemicals in Food Consumer Products and the Environment Committee***Asked by The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of Item 3 of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food and the Environment (COT) held on 30 June, relating to inaccurate representation of the Committee's conclusions in official replies, what steps they plan to take to address the fact that COT believes "COT advice to Government ha[s] been repeatedly misrepresented in ministerial communications, including answers to Parliamentary questions"; and whether they plan to inform members of both Houses who receive those answers about their correspondence with COT on this issue. [HL2047]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Department for Transport's officials have held a meeting on 7 September 2015 with the Committee on Toxicology and Public Health England to discuss these concerns. All sides agreed constructive steps to ensure the Committee's concerns are addressed. The Government plans to write to members of both Houses who have received correspondence or responses to Parliamentary Questions on the issue, with a full description of the Committee's advice in the light of these discussions with the Committee on Toxicology. A copy of this letter will be placed in the libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

## Index to Statements and Answers

<b>Written Statements.....1</b>	
BBC Charter Review.....1	Prisoners: Older People ..... 13
EU Environment Council .....1	Rescue Services: Belfast..... 14
FCO Services.....1	Rescue Services: Training ..... 14
Planning and Onshore Oil and Gas.....1	Scientific Advisers..... 14
Rail Franchising: East Midlands .....2	Small Businesses: Advisory Services..... 14
Shale Gas and Oil Policy.....3	South Wales Railway Line: Electrification ..... 14
UK Sport and Sport England: Triennial Review ..5	Surgery: Waiting Lists..... 14
<b>Written Answers.....7</b>	Toxicity of Chemicals in Food Consumer Products and the Environment Committee ..... 15
A303 .....7	
Airports: Lost Property.....7	
Animal Products: Import Controls .....7	
Animal Products: Imports.....7	
Archaeology .....8	
BBC: Royal Charters.....8	
Careers and Enterprise Company .....8	
Compulsorily Detained Mental Patients: Children .....9	
Cycleways: Greater London.....9	
Cycling: Safety.....9	
Dolphins: Japan .....10	
Electronic Tagging .....10	
Food.....10	
GCSE.....10	
Health Services: Armed Forces .....10	
HMS Queen Elizabeth: Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft .....11	
Madeleine McCann .....11	
Mental Illness: Children .....11	
Mental Illness: Prisoners .....11	
Motorways: Repairs and Maintenance .....12	
Motorway Service Areas .....12	
Nurses: Migrant Workers .....12	
Nurses: Recruitment .....13	
Police and Crime Commissioners .....13	
Power Stations.....13	