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

# **HOUSE OF LORDS**

## **WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS**

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<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

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# Written Statements

*Monday, 2 November 2015*

## Foreign Affairs Council for Development

[HLWS275]

**Baroness Verma:** My right honourable friend, the Secretary of State for International Development (Justine Greening) has made the following statement:

On 26 October, I attended the Foreign Affairs Council for Development in Luxembourg. The meeting was chaired by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini. She also hosted a joint lunch with Environment Minister to discuss the implementation of the Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030. A provisional report of the meeting and Conclusions adopted will be deposited in the Library of the House for the convenience of members.

### *Humanitarian Affairs*

The Council discussed how the EU could play a leading role at the forthcoming World Humanitarian Summit. A notable common thread was on the need for a new approach to funding; more genuine partnerships with affected governments, the private sector, civil society and diaspora; and the need for innovation. I led calls for better enforcement of International Humanitarian Law to protect civilians; a reformed approach to finance, blending public and private approaches and moving beyond initial emergency response to focus on education and livelihoods; and a bold approach to gender equality in humanitarian action, including a global coordinated approach to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. In addition to the exchange of views, Commission Vice President Georgieva presented the work of the UN High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing.

### *Migration, refugees and development*

The Council discussion focussed largely on preparation for the forthcoming Valletta Summit, and in particular the Emergency Trust Fund which was intended to be a key deliverable for the Summit. I emphasized the UK's view that the Summit needs to demonstrate Europe's credibility, leadership, and commitment to respond quickly to the serious problems posed by migrants crossing the Mediterranean. The UK has taken a leading role in pressing for a substantive discussion on tackling the root causes of migration, a mutual challenge faced by Europe and Africa – a lack of growth, jobs, opportunity in African countries – and the concrete actions needed to turn the situation around. I emphasised the need to review the Commission's existing financial instruments to ensure they are flexible and fit for purpose for a rapid response to ongoing crises. I also pressed other Member States to step up their own financial commitments to address the Syria crisis, alongside UK leadership.

### *Gender Action Plan*

The Council adopted Conclusions on the new Gender Action Plan (2015-2020) (GAP), which the UK has been a key actor in shaping. I welcomed the new GAP as a landmark opportunity for the EU to take significant steps forward in delivering tangible results for women and girls across the world and pressed for its full implementation.

### *EU-Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) relationship (“Post-Cotonou”)*

The Council also discussed the future of the EU's relationship with the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific group of states), with the expiry of the existing Cotonou Partnership Agreement set for 2020. This is an important opportunity for the EU to modernise its relationship with the ACP, so that it is relevant, forward-looking and consistent with Agenda 2030. I called for the Commission to have a broad review, base policy decisions on the evidence of Cotonou's impact and actively seek a wide range of views during the consultation period.

### *Implementation of the Agenda 2030*

During lunch, in a joint session with Environment Ministers, we discussed the implementation of the recently-agreed 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development (the Post-2015 Development Framework). I emphasized the importance of looking at the implementation of the Agenda 2030 alongside the other major processes - including the mid-term reviews of the financial instruments and the Cotonou Agreement – occurring over the next five years.

### *Any other business*

The Council adopted several sets of Council Conclusions, including on Afghanistan ; the Horn of Africa Action Plan ; and the 2015 Report on Policy Coherence for Development. In addition, the decision to open consultation with Burundi on restrictive measures under the EU-ACP (Africa, Caribbean, Pacific) Partnership Agreement was also approved. Details of these Council conclusions will also be placed in the Library of the House.

## Health Informal Council

[HLWS273]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of Health (Jane Ellison) has made the following written ministerial statement.

An Informal Health Council meeting was held in Luxembourg on 24-25 September 2015 as part of the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs (EPSCO) Council formation. The UK was represented by a senior official.

Among the issues discussed were prevention, removing stigma, early diagnosis and investment in research. The UK's work on dementia was recognised and there was agreement on the need for further work following the

World Health Organisation (WHO) conference that was held earlier in the year in March.

#### *Trans Fatty Acids (TFAs)*

A variety of views were expressed about whether regulation or a voluntary approach should be taken towards trans fatty acids (TFAs). Most Member States would await an upcoming Commission report on TFAs before taking a firm view. The UK outlined its national voluntary action to reduce TFAs and the importance of an evidence based approach. The Commissioner said that they were in the process of finalising the report and that it would be presented in December.

#### *Migration*

The UK outlined work it is undertaking with Syrian refugees in countries bordering Syria, called for a comprehensive approach to the crisis, and referred to the work of the Health Security Committee. The Commission called for solidarity and outlined the extra funding that had been allocated as well as a letter that had been sent to all Ministers on this issue.

#### *European Semester*

A vast majority of Member States argued strongly against the involvement of the European Semester in healthcare. The UK welcomed the recent narrower focus of the semester and called for it to concentrate on sustainability and cost effectiveness. The UK also called for Health Ministers to be more involved in the Social Protection Committee process on matters relating to healthcare.

#### *Cross Border Directive*

Most Member States were positive about progress that has been made on the Cross-Border Directive, with a number suggesting that patients should be better informed about their rights. The UK welcomed the Commission's report on the operation of the Directive but added that, whilst the principles of the Directive are sound, more needs to be done at EU level to clarify and simplify the interaction of this new legislation with existing patient mobility rules (the EU Social Security Coordination Regulations).

## **Housing Associations**

[HLWS274]

**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.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has altered, with retrospective effect, how private registered providers of social housing (commonly known as housing associations) are treated in the National Accounts. ONS has concluded that housing associations should have been classified as public rather than private since 2008, due to several of the regulatory requirements imposed by the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 introduced by the previous Government. ONS will now apply this change retrospectively back to 2008.

This is purely a statistical change. Reclassification makes no material changes to the operation of housing associations, does not nationalise housing associations and the Government have no plans to impose new controls on the sector – including over spending or borrowing. Housing associations will continue to be able to access those existing Government programmes that have been open to them. The Government remain committed to delivering 275,000 new affordable homes.

Housing associations are voluntary organisations and we are committed to reflecting their historic voluntary ethos and strongly believe they should continue to be independent of government. That belief is reflected in our decision to extend Right to Buy to housing association tenants by accepting a voluntary offer from the sector rather than implementing the policy through legislation.

As set out in our agreement with the housing association sector on Right to Buy, the Government is committed to developing deregulatory measures to help housing associations build more homes and help more people into home ownership. I set out the details of this agreement in my previous Written Ministerial Statement (12 Oct 2015: *Official report*, column 4WS - HCWS222). I now intend to bring forward a package of deregulatory measures that will deliver this commitment while also aiming to return housing associations to the private sector in the future. The regulatory system will continue to ensure the good governance and financial viability of the housing association sector, retaining the confidence of lenders.

I will work with the housing association sector, the Social Housing Regulator and other stakeholders to finalise the deregulatory measures, with a view to delivering them through the Housing and Planning Bill.

## **Oral Question: Housing in London**

[HLWS272]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Following the Oral Question on the 26 October 2015, "To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to address the shortage of housing in London", asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark, I would like to clarify a statement that I made in response to a follow up question from Baroness Hussein-Ece.

In response to the noble Lady's question on the Right to Buy, I would like to clarify that under the voluntary agreement with the National Housing Federation, there will be a presumption that housing association tenants will have the right to purchase their home at Right to Buy level discounts, but associations will not be obliged to sell particular properties where there are reasons why this would not be in the interests of their operations.

This would also include housing associations exercising discretion over the sale of properties provided through charitable or public-benefit resources or bequeathed for charitable or public-benefit purposes, and in the possession of the housing association before it became

registered under the Housing Act 1974 (or later equivalent legislation).

There will be an additional new affordable home for every home sold under the Reinvigorated Right to Buy.

### Scotland Bill

[HLWS276]

**Lord Dunlop:** My right hon Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland has made the following Written Ministerial Statement: The UK Government is delivering on its commitment to make the Scottish Parliament one of the most powerful devolved parliaments in the world. Every deadline has been met in bringing forward new powers to the Scottish Parliament, and another milestone will be reached on 9 November when the Scotland Bill has its Report and Third Reading.

The Scotland Bill delivers the Smith Commission Agreement in full. The Agreement was reached by Scotland's five main political parties, and it means the Scottish Parliament will have control over around £11 billion of income tax revenues and responsibility over welfare benefits worth approximately £2.7 billion (by 2014-15 figures). For the first time, more than 50 per cent of the Scottish Parliament's budget will be funded from revenues raised in Scotland.

The Joint Exchequer Committee has met four times since June 2015 to take forward negotiations on Scotland's fiscal framework. The meetings have focussed on key elements of the framework - block grant adjustment and subsequent indexation mechanisms, administration and implementation costs, the no detriment principle, capital and resource borrowing, VAT assignment, fiscal scrutiny and governance.

Discussions have been constructive and are focused on securing a fair and workable fiscal framework which delivers the recommendations made by the Smith Commission in its report of November 2014.

Work is continuing and both Governments aim to complete this work as soon as possible in order to give respective Parliaments time for due consideration of both the Fiscal Framework and the Scotland Bill. This is likely to be after both the UK Spending Review and the draft Scottish Budget.

Since the Scotland Bill's introduction to Parliament in May 2015 it has been subject to healthy and productive scrutiny, including five days of debate in the House of Commons so far. During this time I have spoken to people from organisations representing the range of Scottish public life about the new powers the Bill contains, as have my Ministerial colleagues. I have worked with the Scottish Government to seek their views, and committees of the UK and Scottish Parliaments have taken evidence and reported on the Bill's provisions. Throughout this work I have been clear that I would reflect on sensible and constructive suggestions made.

Today I am tabling amendments to the Scotland Bill. I have listened to the debate and I am responding with amendments designed to improve the effectiveness of the

legislation and to ensure that the new powers for the Scottish Parliament work as the Smith Commission intended.

Part 1 of the Bill relates to constitutional arrangements. An amendment will strengthen the clause on the permanence of the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Government by including a provision that includes a requirement that the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Government should not be abolished except on the basis of a decision of the people of Scotland. Whilst the UK Government is clear this is a scenario that has never been envisaged, the amendment is intended to make clear that there is absolutely no doubt: Holyrood is here to stay. Additional amendments to Part 1 provide technical refinements to the elections clauses, and ensure the Scottish Parliament is responsible for relevant provisions related to the operation of the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Government.

Part 3 of the Bill includes provisions on welfare. The amendments will give further flexibility to the Scottish Parliament on benefits in relation to carers, and will enable the Scottish Parliament to legislate to provide for forms of non-financial assistance with a view to reducing maternity expenses, funeral expenses or expenses for heating in cold weather. There will no longer be a cap on the amount of discretionary financial assistance an individual who is in receipt of a reserved benefit can receive to assist with rental costs. The discretionary financial assistance must still be provided to help the individual with their housing costs and additional spending must be funded by the Scottish Government.

The Smith Agreement stated that Universal Credit will remain a reserved benefit to be administered and delivered by the Department for Work and Pensions, and Scottish Ministers to make decisions about varying the housing costs within Universal Credit for claimants who rent their homes as well as deciding when to pay those housing costs direct to landlords. A co-operative approach between the UK and Scottish Governments will be essential and amendments will clarify the Secretary of State's role in agreeing to Universal Credit regulations that can be laid by Scottish Ministers. Paragraph 54 of the Smith Agreement relates to the power to create new benefits in devolved areas. A new clause will be tabled to address this.

The remaining parts of the Bill transfer substantial powers to the Scottish Government and Scottish Ministers. Amendments will be tabled to clarify the approach taken to the devolution of tribunals and to the Crown Estate. In response to feedback from stakeholders the clause on equal opportunities has been amended in order to better set out the powers to be devolved. Other amendments strengthen the delivery of the Smith Agreement on the clauses relating to fuel poverty, onshore oil and gas licencing, consumer advocacy and advice and the Office of Communications. A new clause ensures the destination of Scottish fines, forfeitures and fixed penalties can be made explicit in primary legislation where necessary.

The Smith Commission Agreement outlined a number of areas for further consideration, and the UK and Scottish Governments have taken forward discussions on each of those. As a result of those discussions I am tabling amendments to devolve abortion policy and responsibility for welfare foods to the Scottish Parliament.

The amendments tabled today will strengthen the Scotland Bill and represent another milestone in making the Scottish Parliament one of the most powerful devolved parliaments in the world. I look forward to this important piece of legislation returning to the House for debate next week.

## Written Answers

Monday, 2 November 2015

### Agriculture: Sustainable Development

Asked by *Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the Land Use Policy Group published in June, The role of agroecology in sustainable intensification. [HL2795]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Defra officials have reviewed this report and contributed to its development. The report concluded that agroecological practices have the potential to benefit the sustainability of farming without adversely affecting productivity and profitability. It also found that agroecological approaches can particularly reduce the impact of farming on biodiversity, water quality, soils and greenhouse gas emissions. The report has informed further research, which is being undertaken through the Defra Sustainable Intensification Research Platform.

### Air Pollution

Asked by *Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what additional resources will be made available to enable local authorities to introduce clean air zones. [HL2786]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Government is currently consulting on draft plans to address nitrogen dioxide levels in the UK, including proposals for a framework for Clean Air Zones in England. The principal responsibility for deciding whether to introduce a Clean Air Zone, or other appropriate measures to tackle air quality, will rest with relevant local authorities. The Government is considering the appropriate incentives required to help secure the delivery of the air quality plans.

### Alzheimer's Disease: Drugs

Asked by *Lord Lucas*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will ask general practitioners who prescribe antifungals to patients with Alzheimer's disease to notify the National Health Service of the results of that treatment, in the light of the article published online by Nature on 15 October regarding the infection of different brain regions with fungi in Alzheimer's. [HL2877]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The use of antifungal medication is not licensed for the treatment of patients with Alzheimer's disease. Consequently there would be no requirement for systematic monitoring of the use of these drugs.

### Animal Welfare: Sentencing

Asked by *Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance is provided to magistrates and judges about when it is appropriate to apply the maximum tariff available in cases of animal cruelty. [HL2896]

**Lord Faulks:** Animal cruelty is a summary offence with a maximum penalty of a level 5 (unlimited) fine and/or 6 months' imprisonment. The maximum penalty for any offence is set by Parliament to deal with the most serious possible cases. Guidance on sentencing for this offence is contained in the Magistrates' Courts Sentencing Guidelines, which are published by the independent Sentencing Council.

These are the sentencing starting points from the guidelines for animal cruelty, based on a first time offender pleading not guilty:

<i>Examples of nature of activity</i>	<i>Starting point</i>	<i>Range</i>
One impulsive act causing little or no injury;	short term neglect	Band C fine Band B fine to medium level community
Several incidents of deliberate ill-treatment/frightening	High level community order	Medium level community order to 12 weeks custody
Attempt to kill/torture; animal baiting/conducting or permitting cock-fighting etc.; prolonged neglect	18 weeks custody	12 to 26 weeks custody

### Apprentices

Asked by *Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to improve the quality of the apprenticeship schemes, in the light of the conclusion in Ofsted's report that very few apprenticeships are delivering professional level skills. [HL2755]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** We have been taking steps to improve the quality of apprenticeships, including insisting that all apprenticeships should be paid jobs with substantial stretching training and robust assessment procedures and last for a minimum of 12 months. We are committed to delivering employer-led apprenticeship reforms, which are improving the quality of apprenticeships to provide the skills that employers need.

The availability of apprenticeships at a range of levels is essential to meet the skill needs of employers and improve productivity. We are committed to growing the numbers of Higher and Degree Apprenticeships, which are widening access to the professions, and developing the higher level technical skills needed to improve productivity and support British industry to compete internationally.

### Aster Fissehatsion

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the authorities in Eritrea regarding the detention of Aster Fissehatsion. [HL2935]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** I refer the Noble Lord to my response of 24 June 2015 (HL533). We continue to press the Government of Eritrea to fulfil its international human rights obligations. The UK made clear in our statement at the UN Human Rights Council on 23 June that this must include the release of all those arbitrarily detained, including Aster Fissehatsion.

### Asylum: Appeals

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the light of the judgment in Lord Chancellor v Detention Action [2015] EWCA Civ 840, they will reconsider the sections of the Immigration Bill that provide for individuals having to appeal their cases after deportation. [HL2817]

**Lord Bates:** The judgement in Lord Chancellor v Detention Action is not relevant to the changes in the Immigration Bill. That judgment relates to the appeals processes for asylum claims under the Fast Track procedure rules. The provision in the Immigration Bill which extends the power to certify to require appeals to be brought from overseas where that will not result in a breach of human rights applies only to human rights claims.

The Court of Appeal recently considered the operation of the certification provisions that were introduced in the Immigration Act 2014, for those liable to deportation and held that the provisions were lawfully applied. The changes in the Immigration Bill extends this power to all human rights claims and the Government thinks it right to build on this successful legislation.

*Asked by Lord Green of Deddington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 19 October (HL2532), which specific elements of European law require the right to challenge an adverse asylum decision via an effective remedy; and whether the nature of such a remedy is prescribed. [HL2964]

**Lord Bates:** Article 39 of the Asylum Procedures Directive requires that EU member states must provide an effective remedy before a Court or Tribunal in respect of a decision taken on a person's asylum application.

The nature of the remedy is not prescribed beyond requiring it to be before a Court or Tribunal.

### Asylum: Children

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have about the claim by the government of Italy that, of the 13,026 children who arrived unaccompanied in Italy in 2014, 3,707 disappeared after arriving; what assessment they have made of where those children are; and what consideration they are giving to the request of Save the Children that the United Kingdom should provide refuge for 3,000 unaccompanied children. [HL2689]

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with other European Union member states about children who have arrived in Europe unaccompanied or separated from family members; what assessment they have made of the vulnerability of such children; and what they are doing to ensure that those children are prioritised for security and shelter. [HL2690]

**Lord Bates:** The UK recognises the need to provide protection to those fleeing persecution. However, it is an accepted principle that asylum seekers should seek protection in the first safe country they reach. In line with their international obligations, EU Member States have a responsibility to register and process all asylum claims made on their territory, including those made by unaccompanied children. This extends to providing adequate support and accommodation.

The Government has been consistently clear that we do not agree with the relocation of asylum seekers between Member States. We believe it will act as a pull factor, and that it does not address the cause of the problem but simply moves it around the EU. Making an exception for children makes little sense as they are on the territory of Member States who have duties to protect and support them.

### Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

*Asked by Lord Soley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to develop a supportive environment in the United Kingdom for the development and deployment of new aircraft and engine technologies in order to reduce emissions from aviation. [HL2857]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government is supporting industry investment in the development and deployment of technologies for new aircraft, including technologies for new engines, aero structures and advanced systems, to reduce noise and other emissions from aviation.

This support is integral to the work between industry and Government through the Aerospace Growth Partnership and the Aerospace Technology Institute (ATI), which published its Technology Strategy 2015 in July. To date, 100 ATI projects, worth around a total of



£1bn, jointly funded by industry and government have been approved; and the majority of these are focused on technologies required to produce greener, more efficient and environmentally friendly aircraft.

### **Aviation: Fuels**

*Asked by Lord Soley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to encourage research into sustainable aviation fuels and advanced fuels technologies. [HL2931]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Department for Transport ran an Advanced Fuels Call for Evidence in 2013/14 to examine the potential of advanced fuels in aviation and other transport sectors that cannot be easily decarbonised without low-carbon fuels. A summary of the evidence received was published with the Department's response to the consultation on the post-implementation review of the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) in April 2014. Amendments to the RTFO earlier this year increased rewards for gaseous fuels, such as biomethane used in freight, to better reflect their energy content.

The Department also commissioned an independent feasibility study to examine the economic benefits and potential of advanced biofuels in the UK, published in February 2014, the study informed the design of the Advanced Biofuels Demonstration Plant Competition for £25m of matched grant funding. Winning projects were announced on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

Following the report of the Transport Energy Task Force in March 2015, we are assessing the benefits of making aviation biofuels eligible for certificates under the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) and support under that scheme for synthetic fuels from renewable electricity. We aim to include proposals in a public consultation next year on potential amendments to the RTFO scheme.

### **Aviation: Noise**

*Asked by Lord Soley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support research into new aircraft and engine technologies to reduce noise emissions from aviation. [HL2854]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government is supporting industry investment in the development and deployment of technologies for new aircraft, including technologies for new engines, aero structures and advanced systems, to reduce noise and other emissions from aviation.

This support is integral to the work between industry and Government through the Aerospace Growth Partnership and the Aerospace Technology Institute (ATI), which published its Technology Strategy 2015 in July. To date, 100 ATI projects, worth around a total of £1bn, jointly funded by industry and government have

been approved; and the majority of these are focused on technologies required to produce greener, more efficient and environmentally friendly aircraft.

### **Aviation: Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation**

*Asked by Lord Soley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to including producers of aviation fuel in the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation. [HL2852]

*Asked by Lord Soley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to encourage the development of sustainable aviation fuels in the United Kingdom. [HL2853]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Department for Transport and the Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership established a Transport Energy Task Force in September 2014 to examine options to meet our renewable energy and greenhouse gas reduction targets, including through the wider deployment of sustainable biofuel. The Task Force included input from representatives of the Sustainable Aviation group. The Task Force's report was published in March 2015 by the Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership. My hon Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport, the Hon Member for Harrogate and Knaresborough (Andrew Jones) met with Task Force representatives, including Sustainable Aviation, in July.

The Task Force recognised that sustainable biofuels have a valuable role in reducing carbon emissions from transport, particularly in sectors where there are limited alternatives such as aviation.

We are assessing the benefits of making aviation biofuels eligible for certificates under the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO). We aim to include proposals in a public consultation next year on amendments to the RTFO scheme.

### **Burma: LGBT People**

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the discrimination and abuse experienced by LGBT people in Burma and of any action being taken to address it. [HL2633]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are aware of cases of discrimination and abuse against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people in Burma and the use of legislation, such as the 1945 Police Act, to restrict the fundamental rights of the LGBT community, and the 1860 Penal Code which criminalises consensual same-sex relations. Together with partners in the international community, we continue to press Burma to improve its human rights performance, including on LGBT rights, through Resolutions at the UN General Assembly and

Human Rights Council, and the Universal Period Review process.

### Cancer: Drugs

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which medicines will be delisted following their planned changes to the Cancer Drugs Fund. [HL2910]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** NHS England has advised that decisions on which drugs will be removed from the national Cancer Drugs Fund list are still subject to change. A revised list will be published on NHS England's website in due course.

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what NHS pathways will be available to patients newly diagnosed as suffering from (1) multiple myeloma, and (2) rarer cancers, when changes are made to the Cancer Drugs Fund. [HL2911]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** NHS England has advised that a draft treatment pathway for patients with multiple myeloma is currently in the process of being finalised and is likely to be published early in 2016. This has been the subject of public consultation and is being revised to take into account the comments received.

Work on the treatment pathways for patients with rarer cancers is planned for development and consultation in 2016.

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on the United Kingdom life sciences industry of their planned changes to the Cancer Drugs Fund. [HL2912]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Neither the Department nor NHS England has made any such assessment.

The Government regularly holds discussions with life sciences companies about the United Kingdom business environment and these routinely include discussion about the impact of policies such as the Cancer Drugs Fund (CDF).

The independent Accelerated Access Review is considering the long term landscape for innovation adoption and how schemes like the CDF best fit within this.

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on the global standard of care that will result from their planned changes to the Cancer Drugs Fund. [HL2913]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** NHS England has advised that no assessment has been made of the impact on the global standard of care that will result from any changes to Cancer Drugs Fund.

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will review the appraisal criteria upon which medicines for rarer cancers are approved by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. [HL2914]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence has advised that it is not planning to specifically review the methods used for appraisal of medicines for rarer cancers.

### Cetaceans: Faroe Islands

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Goss Moor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 17 September (HL2164), what were the responses received from the government of the Faroe Islands; and whether they will place any written responses in the Library of the House. [HL2835]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** At the time of writing, no formal written response has yet been received from the Faroese Government.

However, as a result of our continued efforts, UK Government officials were invited to a meeting this month with officials from the Representation of the Faroes. This initial meeting provided a valuable opportunity for an exchange of views and, importantly, presents an opportunity for further dialogue with the Faroese authorities on this issue.

### Cetaceans: Japan

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Goss Moor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 16 September (HL2163), whether they will place in the Library of the House a copy of the letter of July 2015 from the Minister of State for Farming, Food and Marine Environment to the government of Japan on the United Kingdom's opposition to their ongoing coastal hunts and continued programme of lethal scientific research on cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises); and also a copy of any reply received. [HL2834]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** A copy of both the letter and the response received will be placed in the Library of the House. These are also attached for reference.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL2834 - Letter from Minister Eustice to Minister [HL2834 - Letter from Minister Eustice to Minister Hayashi - 19 July 2015.pdf]

HL2834 - Letter from Minister Hayashi to Minister [HL2834 - Letter from Minister Hayashi to Minister Hayashi - 21 August 2015 unofficial English Interpretation.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-10-20/HL2834>

## Child Tax Credit

Asked by **Lord Kirkwood of Kirkhope**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many families (1) with a disabled child, (2) where a parent has died, and (3) in problem debt, they estimate will be affected by limiting the child element of tax credits to the first two children. [HL2702]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The information requested is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Asked by **Baroness Manzoor**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) children, (2) kinship carers, and (3) victims of domestic violence, they estimate will be affected by limiting the child element of tax credits to the first two children. [HL2707]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** This information requested is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Clinical Priorities Advisory Group

Asked by **Lord Rogan**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what priority the NHS England Clinical Priorities Advisory Group gives to advice it receives from the Rare Diseases Advisory Group. [HL2929]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Given the range of specialised services that the NHS England Clinical Priorities Advisory Group (CPAG) needs to consider for prioritisation, CPAG draws strongly on the expertise that Rare Diseases Advisory Group is able to provide on highly specialised services.

Asked by **Lord Rogan**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what criteria the NHS England Clinical Priorities Advisory Group uses in making commissioning decisions. [HL2930]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The criteria against which NHS England's Clinical Priorities Advisory Group considers proposed investments for specialised services are as follows:

- There must be adequate and clinically reliable evidence to demonstrate clinical effectiveness;
- There must be measurable benefits to patients;
- The intervention should offer equal or greater benefit than other forms of care routinely commissioned by the NHS;
- While considering the benefit of stimulating innovation, NHS England will not confer higher priority to a treatment or intervention solely on the basis that it is the only one available;
- NHS England may agree to fund interventions for rare conditions where there is limited published evidence on clinical effectiveness;

- The intervention must be available to all patients within the same patient group (other than for clinical contra-indication);

- The intervention should be likely to reduce health inequalities and will have regard to any relevant broader equality issues;

- The intervention should benefit the wider health and care system;

- The intervention should advance parity between mental and physical health; and

- The intervention should demonstrate value for money.

The criteria are set out in NHS England's response to a public consultation, *Investing in Specialised Services*, of June 2015, a copy of which is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

CPAG Funding Principles [cpagfundingprinciples.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-10-22/HL2930>

## Compulsorily Detained Mental Patients

Asked by **Lord Ouseley**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many patients are detained in medium and high security psychiatric hospitals; and how many such patients there are broken down by (1) ethnicity, (2) gender, (3) age, and (4) the length of time detained under the different segregated regimes. [HL2866]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The information is not collected in the format requested.

## Conflict, Stability and Security Fund

Asked by **Baroness Uddin**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assistance will be given under the proposed Conflict, Stability and Security Fund. [HL2718]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The thematic breakdown of Conflict, Stability and Security Fund spending was provided in a Written Ministerial Statement of 12 March 2015 by the Minister for Government Policy at the Cabinet Office, which was repeated in the House of Lords on the same day by the noble Lord Wallace of Saltaire (HLW379). For reasons of national security, we cannot provide specific details of allocations for partner countries.

## Court Orders

Asked by **The Earl of Clancarty**

To ask Her Majesty's Government under what legislation and on what grounds courts in the United Kingdom can make orders for the destruction of (1) original photographs, (2) paintings, and (3) artwork in other media. [HL2720]

**Lord Faulks:** There is a range of powers that enable the forfeiture of such items.

Section 143 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 provides a general power of forfeiture allowing the courts, on conviction of an offence, to make an order depriving an offender of any rights in lawfully seized articles or articles in the possession or under the control of the offender at arrest or summons which were used, or intended to be used, for the purpose of committing, or facilitating the commission of, an offence or in relation to which the offender was convicted of an offence involving unlawful possession of property.

Section 5 of, and the Schedule to, the Protection of Children Act 1978 allows the forfeiture of any indecent photograph, pseudo-photograph or prohibited image of a child and any property which it is not reasonably practicable to separate from that property following any lawful seizure. The police must give notice of any intended forfeiture of such property and where forfeiture is contested the court must determine the issue.

Section 3 of the Obscene Publications Act 1959 allows the courts power to order the forfeiture of obscene articles kept for publication which have been seized under a warrant issued under that section.

### **Cycling: Road Traffic Offences**

*Asked by Lord Wills*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of breaches of traffic laws and regulations by bicyclists in each of the last five years. [HL3016]

**Lord Bates:** No assessment has been made of the number of breaches of traffic laws and regulations by bicyclists in each of the last five years. This information is not held centrally. It is important that cyclists follow the rules of the Highway Code. It is an operational matter for local Chief Officers to enforce the law.

### **Defamation: Northern Ireland**

*Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Viscount Younger of Leckie on 14 October (HL Deb, col 230), whether it is for the Secretary of State and the courts, or the Northern Ireland Executive, to decide whether the law of defamation in Northern Ireland is compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights. [HL2680]

**Lord Faulks:** Under the Human Rights Act 1998 (section 6), all public authorities are under a duty to act in compliance with the Convention rights set out in that Act. As the law on defamation in Northern Ireland is a devolved matter, it is for the Northern Ireland Executive, in considering its policy on the subject, to reach a view on whether the policy under consideration is compatible with the Convention rights.

The courts are equally under an obligation to act in compliance with Convention rights. Ultimately, if the compatibility of a policy or legislation is raised before the courts, then the courts will decide the question. In the case of a devolved matter, it would be for the Northern Ireland Executive in the first instance to consider how to respond to any judgment.

### **Diesel Vehicles**

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have received from Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace since 1995 in relation to the promotion of diesel engine cars. [HL2832]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** There have been numerous contacts between government departments and both Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth since 1995. The information on representations made is not readily available and it would be disproportionate to fully retrieve it.

I can however confirm that in the last month representations to more than one government department have been made by the organisations raising concerns regarding the possible promotion of diesel engine cars.

### **Diesel Vehicles: Exhaust Emissions**

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the timescale for complying with the Supreme Court judgment about tackling illegal levels of diesel fumes in British cities. [HL2785]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Supreme Court's judgement ordered the Government to prepare revised air quality plans and submit them to the European Commission by the end of 2015.

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to hold an inquiry into testing processes for emissions from diesel vehicles and so-called "defeat" devices. [HL2924]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** There is no plan to hold an inquiry, however, the Government is taking this issue very seriously. The Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA), the UK vehicle approval authority, is working to ensure that the use of defeat devices is not industry wide. VCA is rerunning laboratory tests starting with those VW Group engines for which VCA has provided approvals. These tests are comparing real world driving emissions against laboratory performance.

There is no evidence that these emissions tests have been falsified in the UK.

## Digital Technology: EU Internal Trade

*Asked by Lord Allen of Kensington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the European Commission's recommendation that spectrum should be harmonised and allocated across all 28 member states as part of the Digital Single Market. [HL2867]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government is currently assessing the risks and benefits of such harmonisation to inform its response to the public consultation and subsequent proposals.

## Ebola: Sierra Leone

*Asked by Baroness Hayman*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Verma on 19 October (HL Deb, col 438), whether they will publish a risk assessment on the threat to "the safety of the British public" which would be posed by the resumption of direct flights from the United Kingdom to Sierra Leone. [HL2800]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Public Health England's latest published risk assessment to the United Kingdom population posed by the Ebola outbreak in West Africa was on 24 June 2015 and is attached. The Government continually assesses the risk and any proposals to resume direct flights will be considered by the Government in the context of these assessments.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Ebola Risk Assessment [Hayman PHE RA.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-10-20/HL2800>

## Electricity Generation

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth on 21 October (HL2529), how the loss of coal-fired generating capacity will be made up, what level of spare capacity will be maintained between 2015 and 2020, how they will ensure that disconnections or significant reductions in voltage do not occur, and whether compensation will be available to victims of such measures should they happen. [HL3058]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** From 2018, the Capacity Market will ensure that retiring plant can be replaced by new investment by providing additional secure investment for both existing and new electricity generators. In the meantime, National Grid secures adequate loss of load expectation through the Contingency Balancing Reserve in which additional power stations are held to provide security in times of system stress.

Both facilities deliver against the statutory reliability standard of 3 hours of loss of load expectation, a level as high as anywhere else in Europe. Loss of load expectation does not equate to the number of disconnections in a year, but is the estimated number of hours in a year that the System Operator (National Grid) needs to intervene in the market in order to maintain supply. For 2015/16, National Grid procured 2.4GW of reserve to deliver a loss of load expectation of 1.1 hours, sufficient to maintain security of supply even in the toughest system conditions.

## Electronic Surveillance: USA

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the status of the PRISM programme in the United States following the European Court of Justice's judgment in case C-362/14, Maximilian Schrems v Data Protection Commissioner. [HL2675]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The status of the PRISM surveillance programme in the US is a matter for the US authorities.

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to end the indiscriminate mass surveillance identified in the European Court of Justice's judgment in case C-362/14, Maximilian Schrems v Data Protection Commissioner. [HL2676]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The European Court of Justice did not make any findings of fact in relation to alleged 'indiscriminate mass surveillance'. The UK agencies do not conduct 'mass surveillance'. The Investigatory Powers Tribunal (IPT), an independent court, has looked in detail at this. Like the Interception Commissioner, the IPT made clear that Government Communications Headquarters is not conducting 'mass surveillance'. Furthermore, the Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament conducted a comprehensive review of Privacy and Security, examining in detail the work of the intelligence agencies, and published its report on 12 March 2015. It said: "our Inquiry has shown that the Agencies do not have the legal authority, the resources, the technical capability, or the desire to intercept the communications of British citizens, or of the internet as a whole."

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that the indiscriminate mass surveillance identified in the European Court of Justice's judgment in case C-362/14, Maximilian Schrems v Data Protection Commissioner did not apply to Parliament, Buckingham Palace, the High Court or the Supreme Court. [HL2677]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The European Court of Justice did not make any findings of fact in relation to alleged 'indiscriminate mass surveillance'.

The UK agencies do not conduct ‘mass surveillance’. The Investigatory Powers Tribunal (IPT), an independent court, has looked in detail at this. Like the Interception Commissioner, the IPT made clear that Government Communications Headquarters is not conducting ‘mass surveillance’. Furthermore, the Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament conducted a comprehensive review of Privacy and Security, examining in detail the work of the intelligence agencies, and published its report on 12 March 2015. It said: “our Inquiry has shown that the Agencies do not have the legal authority, the resources, the technical capability, or the desire to intercept the communications of British citizens, or of the internet as a whole.”

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what assessment they have made of the compatibility of the advice of the former Interception of Communications Commissioner, The Rt Hon Sir Anthony May, at paragraph 2.4 of his report of March 2015 with the European Court of Justice’s judgement in case C-362/14, Maximillian Schrems v Data Protection Commissioner. [HL2679]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** National security is a matter solely for Member States. The UK already has one of the strongest frameworks for the oversight of investigatory powers in the world. Building on the independent reports by David Anderson QC, the Royal United Services Institute and the Intelligence and Security Committee, the upcoming Investigatory Powers Bill will update the legal framework governing investigatory powers to ensure it is modern, transparent, fit for purpose and respects both privacy and security. It will ensure consistent, effective statutory safeguards and enhance our already robust oversight system. It will replace the existing statutory scheme with one that is comprehensive and comprehensible, bringing together all of the powers available to the state to access communications in a transparent way.

## Equality

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, in the light of the Prime Minister’s party conference speech, when and how they will provide details of policies and programmes aimed at achieving the elimination of inequalities in the United Kingdom. [HL2749]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** This government is determined to extend opportunity to everyone. We have announced a number of new initiatives that will help achieve equality of opportunity in the UK.

On 25<sup>th</sup> October, the Prime Minister and the Minister for Women and Equalities announced new measures to eradicate gender pay inequality. The government now requires larger employers to publish information about their bonuses for men and women. We are also extending our plans for gender pay gap reporting to the public sector.

On 26<sup>th</sup> October, the Prime Minister launched a public and private sector initiative to tackle discrimination in recruitment. A number of organisations, including KPMG, HSBC and Deloitte, together with the Civil Service and local government, have committed to using name-blind applications for all graduate and apprenticeship level roles.

In addition, on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, the Home Secretary published diversity profiles on all police forces in England and Wales. These profiles showed that no force had a black and minority ethnic (BME) contingent equivalent to that of the local demographic. She has asked chief constables to use this information to help improve their recruitment, retention, and promotion of police officers from BME backgrounds.

## EU Action: Qualified Majority Voting

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what areas of policy were transferred from unanimity to qualified majority voting by the Lisbon Treaty; whether the United Kingdom has opt-outs from any of those areas; and, if so, from which areas. [HL2765]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** 51 provisions were transferred from unanimity to qualified majority voting by the Lisbon Treaty. These were published in the Explanatory Memorandum on the Lisbon Treaty of 17 December 2007 as amended by a Written Ministerial Statement by the then Minister for Europe on 20 February 2008, Official Report, column 53WS. Of these, the following 16 provisions either did not apply to the UK due to its opt-outs or would only apply if the UK decided to exercise its justice and affairs opt-in:

- 1) Provisions enabling repeal of the aspects of this article related to state aids policy and the effect of the past division of Germany
- 2) Provisions enabling repeal of this Article (on transport policy as it affects areas of Germany affected by its past division)
- 3) Appointment of European Central Bank (ECB) executive board (UK opt-out)
- 4) Social security
- 5) Use of the euro
- 6) Measures relating to the Broad Economic Guidelines and excessive deficit procedure
- 7) Procedure for entry into the euro
- 8) Mechanism for peer review of Member States’ implementation of policies in this area
- 9) Border checks
- 10) Immigration and Frontier Controls
- 11) Judicial co-operation in Criminal Matters
- 12) Minimum rules for criminal offences and sanctions
- 13) Crime prevention
- 14) Eurojust
- 15) Police co-operation
- 16) Europol

## Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Public Expenditure

*Asked by Lord Green of Deddington*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what were the budget totals for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in each of the last five available financial years; how much of each budget was within the discretion of that

department's management; and what proportion of the overall national budget expenditure those two figures represent for the last available year. [HL2662]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Providing the complete information requested would exceed the word limit for responses to written parliamentary questions. However, the information requested is available through Her Majesty's Treasury's Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s annual reports, which have been placed in the Library of the House.

### Government Departments: Accountancy

*Asked by Lord Butler of Brockwell*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many ministerial directions have been issued to accounting officers in the last 10 years, and in which departments. [HL2692]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** There have been 27 ministerial directions between 2005 and 2015.

The departments they were issued in were: Department of Trade and Industry; Ministry of Defence; Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform; HM Treasury; Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Department for Communities and Local Government; Ministry of Justice; Department for Business, Innovation and Skills; Department for Transport; and the Cabinet Office.

### Government Departments: Timber

*Asked by Baroness Parminter*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish the responses that were received following the letter sent by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Water, Forestry, Rural Affairs and Resource Management to all departments in March asking how each was addressing the timber procurement policy. [HL2708]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** We have no plans to publish the responses from Permanent Secretaries to Defra officials; however, where appropriate, Departments have covered timber under their supply chain reporting under the Greening Government Commitments.

Defra officials and the Central Point of Expertise on Timber (CPET) have used the responses to the letter sent to 15 Departments, to inform facilitated discussions with Departments. These discussions provided targeted support for effective Timber Procurement Policy (TPP) reporting for managers and leaders, as well as an opportunity to share good practice. For example, a standard set of legal clauses has been developed (in line with guidance from Cabinet Office) for use in future construction procurement projects, to mandate compliance against the TPP and provide for appropriate evidence from the supply

chain. Other Departments have Guidance Notes to support the TPP and have included CPET-recommended wording in technical specifications. CPET continue to train new procurers across Government, to ensure they understand how to implement the TPP. This week 30 staff from MoD are attending training.

*Asked by Baroness Parminter*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what services they will introduce to replace the advisory, training and assessment services on the government's timber procurement policy currently provided by the Central Point of Expertise on Timber when funding for its work comes to an end in 2016. [HL2761]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Central Point of Expertise on Timber (CPET) has been in place since 2004 and has advised and trained procurers across the public sector on implementation of the UK Government's Timber Procurement Policy (TPP). CPET has been educating public procurers to meet their requirements under TPP and guidance will continue to be made available via the GOV.UK website. The certification schemes FSC and PEFC have been recently reviewed and it has been confirmed that they continue to provide Category A evidence of meeting the TPP. Defra is working with stakeholders who may wish to create additional support services for procurers of timber.

### Graham Ovenden

*Asked by The Earl of Clancarty*

To ask Her Majesty's Government under what legislation the Metropolitan Police has brought the action against Graham Ovenden to order his collection of art to be forfeited and destroyed. [HL2957]

**Lord Faulks:** This action was brought under section 5 of the Protection of Children Act 1978. The Government believes in freedom of expression in the arts, but it is imperative that we have robust laws to prevent the making of indecent images of children. Decisions on the destruction of any artwork are made by our independent courts and may be subject to appeal.

### Great Western Railway Line

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have asked, or plan to ask, Hitachi to equip the trains that will be provided for the Great Western Mainline with diesel as well as electric engines. [HL2922]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The first 36 Intercity Express Programme (IEP) trains deployed on the Great Western lines from 2017 will be bi-modes capable of running in diesel or electric mode. The Department for Transport is actively looking at a range of options to ensure passenger benefits are delivered on time. No final decisions have been made.

## Health: Screening

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what response they plan to make to the recent article published in the Journal of Public Health reporting on the costs and benefits of health checks for 40 to 74 year olds. [HL2780]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Public Health England (PHE) provided a response to Capewell et al's article on NHS Health Check, which appeared in the same issue of the Journal of Public Health. PHE's Chief Executive also responded in letters published in the Guardian and the British Medical Journal (BMJ), and through a special e-bulletin to NHS Health Check stakeholders. Copies of the article and responses have been placed in the Library.

## Hepatitis

Asked by *Baroness Masham of Ilton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the timetable for (1) the completion, and (2) the publication, of the hepatitis C improvement framework. [HL2790]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Completion and publication dates for the hepatitis C framework have not yet been confirmed. In the meantime, Public Health England continues working with NHS England and Operational Development Networks to establish a process of monitoring treatment access and uptake.

Asked by *Baroness Masham of Ilton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, to date, how many patients have commenced treatment under NHS England's commissioning policy for the treatment of cirrhosis in adults with hepatitis C, and how much that commissioning policy has cost. [HL2791]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** NHS England has invested in two policies enabling access to some of the new treatments (in advance of the publication of National Institute for Health and Care Excellence technology appraisals) for patients with hepatitis C with the greatest clinical need.

NHS England's Interim Clinical Commissioning Policy Statement of April 2014 provided an Early Access Scheme for around 1,000 patients with decompensated cirrhosis. Then in June 2015, NHS England extended that policy so the next group of patients with the greatest clinical need, those with cirrhosis, could also benefit from the new Direct Acting Antivirals. A copy of both of these policies has been attached.

Between publication of the cirrhosis policy in June and 19 October, NHS England received over 1,900 notifications of decisions to treat under the policy. These notifications are submitted by treating clinicians and confirm that patients meet the policy criteria.

In order to confirm the actual cost of this policy, NHS England needs to complete a process of validating treatment notifications against actual trust reported activity and invoicing data on dispensed drugs. These data sources are submitted at different times and so an accurate assessment of the cost of the policy to date will not be able to be possible until the end of the year. Any data shared on the cost of the policy will need to observe commercial in confidence pricing agreements.

Based on preliminary modelling, NHS England set aside £190 million in 2015-16 for the treatment of hepatitis C.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Hep C Policy Statement [hep-c-cirrhosis-policy-statmnt-0615.pdf]

Sofosbuvir Policy Statement [sofosbuvir-pol-stat.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-10-20/HL2791>

## Herbal Medicine: Regulation

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will respond to the Herbal Medicines and Practitioners Working Group report on the regulation of herbal practitioners published in March. [HL2985]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government response to the Report on the Regulation of Herbal Medicines and Practitioners will be published by the end of 2015.

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether, and to what extent, the report of the Herbal Medicines and Practitioners Working Group on the regulation of herbal practitioners represented the views solely of the Chairman. [HL2986]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Report on the Regulation of Herbal Medicines and Practitioners is Professor Walker's independent advice to Government. As the Report acknowledges this advice was informed by the input of the Working Group.

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the report of the Herbal Medicines and Practitioners Working Group on the regulation of herbal practitioners was signed off by all members of that group. [HL2987]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The independent Report on the Regulation of Herbal Medicines and Practitioners is Professor Walker's and so, although the Herbal Medicines and Practitioners Working Group informed the development the Report, it was not signed off by the Group.



*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the governance arrangements of the Herbal Medicines and Practitioners Working Group report on the regulation of herbal practitioners. [HL2988]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** As an independent Working Group the governance arrangements were a matter for the Chair and members of the Herbal Medicines and Practitioners Working Group to determine. The Working Group agreed its terms of reference and membership.

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the draft report of the Herbal Medicines and Practitioners Working Group was shared informally amongst members of that group prior to publication. [HL2989]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** As an independent Working Group, the informal sharing of the Report was a matter for the Chair to determine.

**Homelessness: Veterans***Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what programmes are currently in place to help homeless veterans sleeping rough in the United Kingdom; and what plans they have (1) to help such individuals into permanent housing, and (2) to prevent veterans becoming homeless in the first instance. [HL2894]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** This Government is committed to preventing and tackling homelessness and protecting the most vulnerable in society, including veterans.

We have changed the law so that former service men and women with urgent housing needs are always given high priority for social housing, and cannot be disqualified from social housing because of a local connection requirement.

Since 2010, we have invested over £500 million to prevent homelessness among the most vulnerable. Our £20 million Homelessness Transition Fund has supported the roll-out of No Second Night Out across England ensuring more rough sleepers, including veterans, are found and helped quickly so that they do not spend more than one night on the street.

**Immigrants: Detainees***Asked by Baroness Hamwee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the recommendation by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees and the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Migration in the report of the inquiry into the Use of Immigration Detention in the United Kingdom published in March 2015 that the wording of the Government's policy on the detention of

individuals with mental illnesses should be changed to that which was in place before August 2010. [HL2668]

*Asked by Baroness Hamwee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the extent to which medical professionals are using the definition of torture as defined in R (EO & Ors) v SSHD [2013] EWHC 1236 (Admin) when completing Rule 35 reports in respect of persons in immigration detention. [HL2669]

**Lord Bates:** Stephen Shaw CBE, the former Prisons and Probation Ombudsman for England and Wales, has recently submitted his review into the welfare of vulnerable immigration detainees, including those with mental health difficulties and those who claim to have been victims of torture. He has recently submitted his report to Ministers at the Home Office and Department of Health. His findings are being carefully considered. The report will be published in due course by laying it before Parliament, alongside the Government's response to the recommendations.

Doctors working in immigration removal centres have been reminded of the need to use the definition of torture set out in the case of R (EO & Ors) v SSHD [2013] EWHC 1236 (Admin) when completing reports under Rule 35(3) of the Detention Centre Rules 2001.

**Immigration: Appeals***Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance they give to first-tier tribunals about what is a reasonable time to hear and determine asylum and immigration appeals. [HL2703]

**Lord Faulks:** Guidance is not given to the First-tier Tribunals about what is a reasonable time to hear and determine asylum and immigration appeals. The Tribunal Procedure (First-tier Tribunal) (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) Rules 2014 provide an overriding objective for the Tribunal to deal with cases fairly and justly including avoiding delay, so far as is compatible with proper consideration of the issues.

**Internet: Fraud***Asked by Lord Birt*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their latest estimate of (1) the number of instances of internet frauds committed annually in the United Kingdom, and (2) the level of financial loss that is caused annually in the United Kingdom by internet fraud. [HL2691]

**Lord Bates:** The Home Office does not hold data centrally on the number of internet frauds committed annually in the United Kingdom. The Office for National Statistics recently published a provisional estimate of 5.1 million fraud offences a year in England and Wales, based on trial data from a survey of 2,000 people. This did not include details of how many frauds were internet related.

The ONS also published the number of frauds referred to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) in the year to June 2015 – 599,689. It is not possible to establish exactly how many of these were internet related.

The Home Office does not hold data centrally on the level of financial loss caused annually in the UK by internet fraud. The Home Office ‘Costs of cyber crime’ working group seeks to agree on the best available data for formulating any estimates and develop an agreed model for assessing the social and economic costs of cyber crime. Working group members are drawn from a field of multi-disciplinary academics, industry representatives and other experts involved in cyber crime and cyber security

### Iron and Steel: China

*Asked by Lord Kinnock*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what discussions the Chancellor of the Exchequer has had, during and since his recent official visit to China, with the government of China and Chinese industrialists about steel production and trade; whether, in those discussions, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has raised the issue of steel products dumping; and if so, what response he has received. [HL2701]

**Lord O’Neill of Gatley:** There has been very substantial ministerial engagement with the Chinese government in recent months, both here and in China.

During the course of those meetings, developments in the steel market were discussed on numerous occasions, including in discussions between the Prime Minister, Chancellor and President Xi during the State Visit. It was also raised by the Business Secretary.

Our relationship with China includes regular discussions of the market reforms needed to underpin growth in both our countries. This Chinese State Visit is delivering over £30bn of trade and investment deals.

### Israel: Palestinians

*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what assessment they have made of reports regarding increasing violence towards Palestinians by Israeli troops. [HL2949]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** As the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) said on 9 October, “We condemn all acts of violence, including attacks by Palestinians and by Israeli settlers. We urge all sides to take immediate steps to de-escalate the tensions and avoid actions that threaten to exacerbate the situation”. In his Statement of 13 October, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr. Ellwood), said, “We are also concerned by the use of force by Israeli security personnel in response to protests and security incidents”.

*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether they have provided any advice to (1) the Palestinian authorities, and (2) the government of Israel, regarding the peace plan or the two-state solution. [HL2950]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK has made clear in conversations with the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli government that the best way to achieve a just and lasting resolution that ends the occupation and delivers peace for both Israelis and Palestinians is through negotiations. However, in order to achieve this, there must be an environment conducive to peace. That is why since the start of the current violence we have spoken regularly to both the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli government, urging them to use their influence to de-escalate the tensions.

### Lebanon: Diplomatic Service

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government when they expect their new Ambassador to Lebanon to be in post. [HL2870]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Hugo Shorter has been acting as Charge d’Affaires to Lebanon since 5 September.

We are currently seeking agrément for a substantive Ambassador from the Lebanese authorities. As soon as it is granted, a permanent appointment will be announced.

### Mahmoud Hussein

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what representations they have made to the authorities in Egypt regarding the detention of Mahmoud Hussein. [HL2936]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are aware of the case of Mahmoud Hussein, who has been detained in Egypt since 25 January 2014. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers have asked the Egyptian authorities to take action to release journalists and political detainees who remain imprisoned, to review mass judicial decisions, and to remove restrictions on civil society.

In January this year, I personally raised concerns over reports of mistreatment of detainees and the importance of due process with the Egyptian Deputy Assistant Minister for Human Rights, Dr Mahy Abdel Latif. Our Ambassador and officials in Cairo, regularly raise these issues with the Egyptian authorities, most recently in September 2015.

During the UN Human Rights Council’s Universal Periodic Review in November 2014, we expressed our concern on a number of issues relating to detainees, including the number of detainees in pre-trial detention and reports of mistreatment or torture. The UK also raised

the issue of torture and inhumane treatment in detention in Egypt at the UN Human Rights Council in June 2015.

### **Mental Patients**

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many incidents requiring the attendance of the police occurred on mental health wards in the past 12 months; what were the ethnic, gender and age characteristics of the patients involved; and what was the ratio of staff to patients at the time of each incident. [HL2863]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** This information is not collected centrally.

### **Migrant Workers: Nurses**

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will reconsider their proposal that nurses who are not United Kingdom citizens be deported if they are not earning £35,000 per annum after five years in the United Kingdom. [HL2615]

**Lord Bates:** In 2012, the Government introduced new rules to break the link between coming to the UK to work and settling permanently. Under these rules, which take effect from 6 April 2016, non-EEA workers will need to earn at least £35,000 to remain permanently, in order to ensure that those who settle are those who make the greatest economic contribution to the United Kingdom. Those in PhD level occupations or whose roles are in shortage will be exempt from the £35,000 threshold. Workers who do not meet the settlement rules after six years will be expected to leave the UK when their visa expires.

On 15 October, the Home Secretary announced that nurses will be added to the Government's Shortage Occupation List on a temporary basis, pending a full review by the independent Migration Advisory Committee. This will ease pressure on the NHS at a time when the Government is introducing tough new controls on costly agency spending. It will help the NHS improve continuity of care for patients, invest in the frontline and maintain safe staffing levels.

### **Motor Vehicles: Exhaust Emissions**

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations, if any, they have made to British Members of the European Parliament about voting against European Union legislation requiring countries to carry out spot checks on the emissions of vehicles under real operating conditions. [HL2783]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** In July this year, Defra prepared a voting brief for British MEPs concerning the

revised National Emission Ceilings Directive. This advised MEPs to oppose an amendment which included the introduction of spot checks on vehicle emissions under real operating conditions, because the aim of the amendment and how it related to existing regimes was unclear. The Government supports the implementation of real driving emissions testing for vehicles but strongly believes that this should be addressed in the appropriate legislation to ensure clarity.

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for establishing a national testing regime routinely to measure vehicle emissions under real operating conditions. [HL2784]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** There has been no assessment made at national level.

The government has been at the forefront of action at a European level to introduce real driving emissions (RDE) testing, to ensure tests of all new passenger cars and vans accurately represent performance out on the road and ensure public confidence. We will continue to press for the introduction of RDE at the earliest opportunity.

### **Motor Vehicles: Testing**

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to bring forward the introduction of new tests for fuel emissions and fuel economy in cars. [HL2925]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The government has been at the forefront of action at a European level to ensure tests of all new passenger cars and vans accurately represent performance out on the road and ensure public confidence. We will continue to press for the introduction of real world driving emissions (RDE) and updates to the current laboratory tests at the earliest opportunity.

### **Natural Resources**

*Asked by Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Damer*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what changes they intend to make to evaluation metrics at both farm and regional and landscape levels to take account of natural capital in policy-making decisions. [HL2796]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Government formally launched the development phase of its 25 year environment plan on 14 October 2015. This process will run through 2016 and capture all aspects of natural capital. We will draw on the Natural Capital Committee to help develop it. A key part of it will be to ensure we have the right tools to improve decision-making at all scales so that we can get the most from our resources in order to deliver on our goal of having the best environment possible.

## Network Rail: Performance Standards

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many key performance indicators are used by the Office of Rail and Road to monitor Network Rail's performance. [HL2892]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Office of Rail and Road (ORR) have informed me that in the current five yearly regulatory cycle (Control Period 5) that started on 1st April 2014, they established 13 categories of regulated outputs, some of which are disaggregated further, such as by franchised train operator route or by delivery milestones. These outputs include train service reliability, enhancements, health and safety, network availability, network capability, stations, depots, asset management and environment.

There are 25 categories of core indicators from these outputs, which are disaggregated further. Full details of the regulated outputs can be found on table 3.11, page 125 of the Final Determination for Control Period 5, a copy of which is attached.

The ORR publishes six monthly reports on Network Rail's progress in relation to these regulated outputs in the 'Network Rail Monitor' and the 'Network Rail Monitor for Scotland'.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Table 3.11 [HL2892 - ORR Table 3\_11.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-10-22/HL2892>

## Nuisance Calls

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reduce the number of nuisance phone calls made in order to extract money from businesses and consumers. [HL2758]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Tackling the problem of nuisance calls is an important priority which we are tackling on a number of fronts.

In April this year we made it easier for the Information Commissioner's Office to tackle nuisance calls by lowering the legal threshold for action and enabled OFCOM to issue bigger fines to companies breaking the rules. In the past five years, the average fine has been £85,000 with a recent fine of £200,000 by the Information Commissioner. Until 2011 fines were capped at £5,000.

Consumers and businesses can report fraudulent or scam activities to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040, or through their website at:  
[http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report\\_fraud](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud)

We are seeking the development of more innovative products to help consumers block unwanted calls. As part of budget measures announced in March to

help more vulnerable consumers, we have launched a competition fund with Innovate UK to do this:  
[https://sbri.innovateuk.org/competition-display-page/-/asset\\_publisher/E809e7RZ5ZTz/content/nuisance-calls/1524978](https://sbri.innovateuk.org/competition-display-page/-/asset_publisher/E809e7RZ5ZTz/content/nuisance-calls/1524978)

We will also be consulting on making it mandatory for all directmarketing callers to provide their calling line identification (CLI) so that consumers can see who is calling them.

We welcome the work being done by OFCOM and by Which? to help consumers know what steps to take to deal with the receipt of nuisance calls.

## Offshore Industry: Decommissioning

*Asked by Baroness Worthington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures are in place to limit the exposure of the public purse to costs arising through reliefs and repayments of Ring Fence Corporation Tax, Petroleum Revenue Tax, and the Supplementary Charge, incurred by the decommissioning of North Sea oil and gas infrastructure. [HL2713]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Government believes in making the most of the UK's oil and gas resources – to date the oil and gas industry has contributed £330bn to the Exchequer and is the UK's largest industrial investor, supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs, supplying a large portion of the UK's primary energy needs and making a significant contribution to GDP. With between 11 and 21 billion barrels of oil equivalent still to be exploited, the UK Continental Shelf can continue to provide considerable economic benefits for many years to come.

The Government is committed to ensuring decommissioning programmes represent value for money, which is why we have introduced provisions through the Energy Bill to:

- require decommissioning programmes to be cost effective;
- ensure the Oil and Gas Authority has the powers it needs to scrutinise companies' decommissioning plans to ensure they are cost effective; and
- enable the Secretary of State to require a company to take specific action to reduce the costs of decommissioning to address cost overruns.

## Overseas Loans: Republic of Ireland

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much the government of the Republic of Ireland has borrowed from Her Majesty's Government, and what are the arrangements for repayment. [HL2716]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** I refer the noble Lord to the most recent statutory report which the Treasury provided to Parliament as required by Section 2 of the Loans to

Ireland Act 2010. The last report was laid before Parliament on 15 October 2015 and is available in the Printed Paper Office

This report shows the outstanding loan principal is £3,226,960,000, with repayments due in tranches from 15 April 2019, until 26 March 2021.

### Police: Biometrics

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the review of the framework within which police forces use and retain custody images is yet complete; if so, what advice has been circulated to police forces as a result; and if not, why not. [[HL2849](#)]

**Lord Bates:** The review has not yet been completed. It is important that the issues identified by the review are properly tested with operational decision makers, so as to appropriately balance the protection of personal data and privacy with the public protection benefits and the operational need.

Due to the complexity of the operational and legal issues raised in the evidence gathering stage and the number of important stakeholders, this work is yet to be completed.

### Police: Finance

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what amendments were made to the formula for police funding following the consultation process with individual police forces. [[HL2813](#)]

**Lord Bates:** We received over 1,700 responses to our recent public consultation on proposed police funding reforms. The overwhelming view from respondents was supportive of a new formula and the principles we set out. We have carefully analysed the feedback received and, in light of this, are proposing a number of refinements to the model:

- retain population volume and households with no adults employed and dependent children as core indicators;

- clarify that the second population characteristic we intend to use is the updated 'urban adversity' version of the Acorn 5 indicator which has replaced the old 'hard pressed' version (this ensures that the model is in line with CACI Limited's current Acorn classifications);

- revise the bar density measure so that it takes account of bar volume as well as bar density, reflecting strong consultation feedback that this better captures scale and the impact of clusters of bars and the night-time economy within a force area;

- remove 'Band D equivalent properties' as a core indicator, reflecting strong consultation feedback that this variable did not adequately capture the ability to raise additional precept income as intended;

- add an Area Cost Adjustment (ACA) to the model to reflect regional variations in the cost base.

These proposed refinements to the model produce an adjusted set of weightings across the remaining four core indicators as follows:

<i>Variable</i>	<i>Weighting</i>
Population volume	30%
Households with no adults employed and dependent children	31%
Urban adversity/Acorn 5	31%
Volume and density of bars	8%

The Policing Minister wrote to all PCCs and Chiefs on 8 October to provide detail on the proposed refinements and to set out the indicative force-level impact and invite further comments.

We will then finalise the model in light of further feedback received.

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government to what extent the proposed new police forces funding formula is weighted to reflect the importance of (1) historic crime levels, (2) historic clear-up levels, and (3) preventative and educative work; and in what ways it reflects policy relating to the maintenance of a network of neighbourhood policing. [[HL2906](#)]

**Lord Bates:** Our proposed funding model is based on a set of four indicators which correlate well with long term patterns of crime. The indicators cover population, population characteristics and environmental characteristics. They are used as proxies for police demand and are based on objective, robust and reliable data that can be compared across all force areas.

Decisions about the size and composition of the police workforce are an operational matter for chief officers, working with their Police and Crime Commissioner.

We continue to strongly support neighbourhood policing, and are committed to the principle that tackling local crime and anti-social behaviour should be a priority for the whole force - not just neighbourhood policing teams - working collaboratively with other local agencies, businesses and residents to respond to the problems they face.

### Pregnancy Tests

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to ensure that all evidence, and not just scientific studies, is presented to the inquiry into the safety of hormone pregnancy tests. [[HL2939](#)]

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how people and organisations can make representations to the inquiry into the safety of hormone pregnancy tests. [[HL2940](#)]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The terms of reference for the inquiry into the safety of Hormone Pregnancy Tests (HPTs) state that the Expert Working Group (EWG) of the Commission on Human Medicines will consider all available evidence on the possible association between exposure in pregnancy to HPTs and adverse outcomes in pregnancy (in particular congenital anomalies, miscarriage and stillbirth). This will include scientific studies as well as wider sources of evidence.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is providing the secretariat to the review and is compiling all the available information. To date, the MHRA has requested relevant published and unpublished information from all companies whose predecessors marketed HPTs and has conducted a search of the National Archives with a view to obtaining a complete set of historical documents relevant to this issue. The MHRA will also search for all relevant published literature and review all suspected adverse drug reactions that have been submitted in association with HPTs in the United Kingdom. All of this information will be made available to the EWG.

Interested individuals and organisations were invited to provide any information relevant to a possible association between the use of oral HPTs and adverse outcomes in pregnancy through a public call for evidence between 25 March and 30 June 2015. In addition, the EWG will hear evidence from a number of individuals who feel their lives have been adversely affected by HPTs.

The report of the review and all documents will be made public subject to the usual legal requirements.

### Prison Governors

*Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to introduce proposals to give prison governors more power; and whether any such proposals will be subject to consultation. [HL2743]

**Lord Faulks:** As the Secretary of State made clear in his speech on 17 July, we need a new and unremitting emphasis on reform and rehabilitation in prisons – and we need to put the tools to drive this change in the hands of those who work with prisoners on a day-to-day basis. Prison Governors need greater freedoms so they can innovate and find new and better ways of rehabilitating offenders. With these freedoms will also come sharper accountability, so prisons are judged and rewarded according to how well they perform. This will make sure that that prisons are best equipped to help prevent reoffending. Further details of our proposals will be provided in due course.

### Prisoners' Release

*Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether and when they expect to introduce proposals on earned release for

offenders; whether such proposals will involve legislation; and whether they will be subject to consultation. [HL2742]

**Lord Faulks:** The level of re-offending following a custodial sentence is too high and we are looking at a variety of ways to make sure that when offenders leave prison they are better rehabilitated and better equipped to lead a crime-free life. We are attracted to the idea of earned release for those offenders who make a commitment to serious educational activity, who show by their changed attitude that they wish to contribute to society and who work hard to acquire proper qualifications which are externally validated and respected by employers. We are currently considering the options available in this area.

### Prisoners: Repatriation

*Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have signed a prisoner transfer agreement with the government of Jamaica. [HL2744]

**Lord Faulks:** During the recent visit by the Prime Minister, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Government of Jamaica. The Memorandum of Understanding will pave the way to the negotiation of a prisoner transfer agreement between the United Kingdom and Jamaica, in exchange for UK financial support for the construction of a new prison in Jamaica. The funding will only become available after the prisoner transfer agreement is signed and after satisfactory completion of each stage of the prison build.

### Prostitution

*Asked by Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what benefits they found resulted from the national Ugly Mugs Scheme piloted by the Home Office; whether it was assessed as good value for money; and if so, what was the result. [HL2880]

*Asked by Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which police forces contributed to the national Ugly Mugs Scheme during 2014–15. [HL2881]

**Lord Bates:** The National Ugly Mugs Scheme is a mechanism for reporting crimes committed against people involved in prostitution. The Home Office provided £108,000 for the pilot scheme that ran from April 2012 to March 2013, coordinated by the UK Network of Sex Worker Projects. The evaluation of the pilot is available on its website.

The previous Government supported the pilot as part of its drive to end violence against women and girls. This Government is pleased that the evaluation of the scheme shows that it was successful in increasing access to justice and protection for those involved in prostitution. Police

forces have been encouraged to contribute financially to the scheme, given its crime prevention focus and its role in encouraging reporting and contributing to intelligence. That is a decision for individual forces, and the Home Office does not collect information regarding which forces have contributed.

### Public Transport: Greater London

*Asked by Baroness Uddin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effectiveness of joint working between the Metropolitan Police Service and Transport for London in order to prevent abusive verbal attacks on public transport in London. [HL2942]

*Asked by Baroness Uddin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to Transport for London about ensuring that its staff are trained to deal with racial abuse, harassment and Islamophobia. [HL2943]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Government Ministers have regular meetings with the Mayor and Transport for London to discuss a variety of topics, with transport decision making in London being the primary responsibility of the Mayor, including making provision for ensuring the safety of passengers and staff.

The Government has also recently assured that all police forces will be specifically recording anti-Muslim hatred as a specific hate crime and this will be adopted into all thinking.

Our new Counter Extremism Strategy is also focused on dealing with all forms of hate crime and bigotry.

### Refugees: Employment

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the light of the current migration situation, they will make changes to allow refugees to work in the United Kingdom immediately, or within six months, of arrival, in order to allow refugees to contribute to the British economy, and reduce pressure on refugees facing destitution. [HL2818]

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what financial support is available specifically for refugees who have been granted asylum in the United Kingdom, and are therefore ineligible for the weekly allowance for asylum seekers. [HL2819]

**Lord Bates:** Those granted refugee status or humanitarian protection, including those resettled under our three resettlement schemes, are entitled to work without restriction and have full access to the mainstream benefits system on the same terms as British citizens and other permanent residents in the UK. Asylum seekers are only permitted to work in the UK if their asylum claim

has been outstanding for more than 12 months, providing the delay is not of their making. Employment is restricted to jobs on the shortage occupations list. We have no plans to reduce the time asylum seekers have to wait to take up employment.

### Refugees: Eritrea

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will revise the country guidance for Eritrea so that asylum applicants from that country are favourably considered for protection as refugees, in the light of the Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights on Eritrea and other reports of human rights abuses in that country. [HL2838]

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to call upon all European Union member states to uphold the principle of non-refoulement for refugees from Eritrea. [HL2839]

**Lord Bates:** We have updated our country information and guidance on Eritrea. This takes into account the UN Commission of Inquiry's report as well other sources reporting on the human rights situation. The revised documents, covering illegal exit and national service, were published on 9 September and are available on the Gov.uk website. They recognise that there are human rights challenges in Eritrea – particularly around the national service programme – but, as with all asylum applications, stress the need to consider each claim on its individual merits.

All EU Member States have a responsibility to respect the principle of non-refoulement. We are confident that our European partners understand and apply this, whether to Eritrea or anywhere else. We are in regular discussions with our EU counterparts – individually and via the European Asylum Support Office – to discuss various aspects of asylum policy and practice.

### Right to Buy Scheme: Housing Associations

*Asked by Baroness Bakewell of Hardington Mandeville*

To ask Her Majesty's Government for each local authority area what they expect to be the average discount from the Right to Buy scheme for housing association tenants in London. [HL2738]

*Asked by Baroness Bakewell of Hardington Mandeville*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what the average right to buy discount is expected to be for housing association tenants outside London; and whether they will break this data down by local authority area. [HL2827]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Working with the National Housing Federation, the Government has secured an historic agreement with housing associations

to give their tenants the opportunity to buy their home with Right to Buy discounts equivalent to those enjoyed by Council tenants, up to a maximum discount of 70% of market value, or £77,900 (£103,900 in London), whichever is lower. This will deliver the manifesto commitment to extend the benefits of Right to Buy to 1.3 million housing association tenants.

### Saudi Arabia: Prisons

*Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish the Memorandum of Understanding between the United Kingdom and the government of Saudi Arabia, which was signed on 11 September 2014. [HL2740]

**Lord Faulks:** The Information Commissioner's Office has upheld the decision not to publish this Memorandum of Understanding. That correspondence, dated 10 August 2015, can be found on the website of the Information Commissioner's Office.

### Saudi Arabia: Religious Freedom

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of steps taken by Saudi Arabia to revise textbooks, curricula, and teaching methods to remove content disparaging religions other than Islam. [HL2900]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Freedom of religion or belief is severely restricted in Saudi Arabia. Public expression of any religion other than Islam is forbidden, non-Muslims are not permitted to worship openly or establish places of worship in Saudi Arabia although private worship is permitted.

We are aware that the Saudi Arabian authorities have introduced programmes focussed on removing material from text books that might be considered hateful or inciteful. We continue to support dialogue and opportunities for reform.

### Severn River Crossing

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 12 October concerning operational expenditure on the Severn Crossings (HL2333), whether those figures include the costs of collecting tolls; and if so, what are the specific costs for each year between 2005 and 2014. [HL2815]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The figures provided with the previous answer (HL2333) included the cost of collecting the tolls at the Severn Crossings. The specific costs in relation to the collection of the tolls have not been made available by the concessionaire.

### Sexual Offences

*Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many persons imprisoned for sexual offences have been returned to prison after failing lie detector tests by polygraph; and how many were referred for polygraph tests in the last period for which statistics are available. [HL2729]

**Lord Faulks:** Polygraph tests for certain sexual offenders on licensed supervision in the community first became available in August 2014. As of October 2015, 681 sexual offenders had been made subject to polygraph testing as a license condition and had been referred for testing to the National Offender Management Service. As of the same date, 22 sexual offenders were recalled as a result of disclosures which they had made in connection with their polygraph test, whilst one was recalled for failing to attend a test which had been arranged.

### Sugar: Alcoholic Drinks

*Asked by Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will take further steps to advise the public about the amount of sugar in alcohol. [HL2774]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** We are not currently planning any national policies on nutrition labelling of alcohol. However, some businesses are choosing to label calories voluntarily on their alcoholic beverages. The possibility of mandating calorie labelling on alcohol is under discussion at European Union level.

### Sugar: Taxation

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for a sugar tax on sweetened drinks in order to tackle the rise in obesity. [HL2787]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** There are no plans to introduce a tax on sugar-sweetened drinks. However, we keep all taxes under review, with decisions being a matter for the Chancellor as part of the Budget process.

Calorie reduction, including sugar reduction, is being considered as part of the development of the Government's childhood obesity strategy which is due in the coming months.

### Taxis

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made on the Law Commission review of taxi and private hire cars, and rickshaws. [HL2861]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Law Commission has proposed extensive reform to the legislation around taxi and private regulation which requires careful consideration before recommending a way forward. We



will share this the outcome of this consideration once it is completed.

### Tickets: Sales

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking in the light of the 21 October Which? investigation reporting that listings on some ticket resale websites are in breach of the Consumer Rights Act 2015. [HL2909]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Where there are alleged breaches of legislation, enforcement authorities have powers to take appropriate action. Consumers or their representatives should report any alleged breach through the Citizens Advice consumer helpline who will report substantive breaches to Trading Standards, or to the police, to take enforcement action as appropriate.

The Government has launched an Independent Review of consumer protection measures in relation to ticket resale and online Secondary Ticketing facilities under Professor Waterson, and Contributions and evidence from interested parties are welcome. This review will gather evidence on how well the Consumer Rights Act's new ticketing provisions and wider consumer protections are working.

### Time Zones

*Asked by Lord Tanlaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the prime meridian can be correctly identified and correlated with GPS by the construction (with permission) in Greenwich Park of a suitable marker located at zero longitude. [HL2711]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** As the reference frame for the Global Positioning System (GPS) is established through a mathematical interpretation of satellite radio signals, rather than a physical meridian, it is not conceptually appropriate to represent it in the same way as other meridians have historically been marked at Greenwich.

We do not see any practical benefit in changing the reference point for UT1 even if it was a decision the UK Government could make unilaterally. Such a change could cause confusion as could use of the term "Greenwich Meridian Time". In line with the International Telecommunication Union Radio Regulations, all time-signal broadcasts in the UK transmit the international timescale UTC, and so any change to UT1 or GMT would have no impact on the time-signal available to the UK public.

*Asked by Lord Tanlaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for the civil timescale Greenwich Mean Time being renamed Greenwich Meridian Time, with a value of UT1 at longitude zero based on GPS rather than the historic location of the prime meridian. [HL2712]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** As the reference frame for the Global Positioning System (GPS) is established through a mathematical interpretation of satellite radio signals, rather than a physical meridian, it is not conceptually appropriate to represent it in the same way as other meridians have historically been marked at Greenwich.

We do not see any practical benefit in changing the reference point for UT1 even if it was a decision the UK Government could make unilaterally. Such a change could cause confusion as could use of the term "Greenwich Meridian Time". In line with the International Telecommunication Union Radio Regulations, all time-signal broadcasts in the UK transmit the international timescale UTC, and so any change to UT1 or GMT would have no impact on the time-signal available to the UK public.

### Trafficking and Kidnap Unit

*Asked by Baroness Jolly*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much funding was allocated to the Human Trafficking and Kidnap Unit of the Metropolitan Police Service in (1) 2012–13, (2) 2013–14, and (3) 2014–15. [I] [HL3005]

*Asked by Baroness Jolly*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many permanent members of staff are employed within the Human Trafficking and Kidnap Unit of the Metropolitan Police Service, and what staffing changes are envisaged in the next year. [I] [HL3006]

**Lord Bates:** The Government takes modern slavery very seriously and the Modern Slavery Strategy sets out our approach to improving the law enforcement response. We expect individual forces to allocate adequate resources to tackling serious crime including modern slavery, within the overall level of funding available to them. However, decisions about the specific level of funding and staffing for specific units within the Metropolitan Police, such as the Human Trafficking and Kidnap Unit, are matters for the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime.

### Turkey: EU Accession

*Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of Turkey's application to accede to the European Union, what assessment they have made of (1) freedom of the press and media, and (2) freedom of the judiciary, in that country. [HL2919]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** As part of their EU accession process, we encourage Turkey to continue to work towards the full protection of fundamental rights, including the principles of freedom of expression, the separation of powers and an impartial judiciary. We welcome progress made thus far, and as the EU

Commission has highlighted, further sustained work is needed to meet EU standards.

### **Turkey: EU Enlargement**

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of reports that the German Chancellor has promised to facilitate the full entry of Turkey to the European Union, what assessment they have made of (1) the impact of Turkish membership of the European Union on the United Kingdom's voting powers, and (2) whether all Turkish nationals would have rights of access to the United Kingdom under the existing free movement provisions. [HL2814]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government supports EU enlargement, subject to candidate countries meeting the requirements. Any impact on the UK's voting powers would depend on the specific issue being discussed and be contingent on the provisions in place on voting weights following any new accession.

Arrangements on free movement of people of any new Member state depends on transitional controls at the time of accession to the EU. The Government recognises the concern caused by the large-scale movement of people that has followed the accession of new countries to the EU. This issue would be subject to negotiation as part of the accession process. The Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), has made clear that there needs to be reform of the transitional controls on free movement of workers before any further countries join the EU.

### **UN Agencies: Finance**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made representations to the governments of France, Japan, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, with respect to their contributions to the budgets of the United Nations agencies which assist refugees and displaced people; and whether those contributions are not as large as those of other countries with comparable gross domestic product. [HL2725]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK has been at the forefront of the response to the Syrian crisis. To date, we have committed over £1.1 billion, making us the second largest bilateral donor after the US.

We are concerned that UN appeals for the Syria crisis remain severely underfunded. Donors must do more to support the needs of millions of Syrians across the region. That is why the UK continues to play a leading role in encouraging the international community, including EU member states and Gulf countries, to contribute generously to the UN appeals. We lobbied hard to mobilise funding from other donors ahead of the third Kuwait Pledging Conference on 31 March 2015 which raised \$3.6 billion. We are exploring with the UN and

major donors how best to ensure that the momentum on fund-raising is maintained in the longer term, including in response to the upcoming 2016 Appeals.

### **Universal Credit**

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many families with three or more children born before 6 April 2017 they estimated would be affected by the proposed two-child limit for new claimants for Universal Credit in the calculations of the Budget policy costings for (1) 2017–18, (2) 2018–19, and (3) 2019–20. [HL2847]

**Lord Freud:** The information requested is not available for publication.

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people currently receive Universal Credit, and at what cost to the public purse. [HL2953]

**Lord Freud:** The Universal Credit programme publishes official experimental statistics which are available on GOV.UK.

The statistics to 10 September show that 125,877 people were on the Universal Credit caseload. Cost information for the current UC caseload is not available for publication.

### **Victoria Station**

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether landowners in the vicinity of Victoria Station have contributed to the cost of current upgrading work there; and if not, why not. [HL3013]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Arrangements for the funding of the Victoria Station Upgrade are the responsibility of Transport for London (TfL) and the Mayor. However, I understand the scheme is funded by TfL, supported by a loan from the European Investment Bank.

### **Volkswagen**

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the Which? survey which showed that 9 out of 10 of the Volkswagen owners surveyed believe they should receive compensation. [HL2722]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** There has been no assessment of the Which? survey.

The Government expects Volkswagen to set out quickly the steps necessary to correct the problem and to support owners of the affected vehicles in the UK.

This Government is already playing its part by ensuring vehicle owners will not incur higher VED or Company

Car Tax if their existing vehicles are found to be fitted with illegal software that manipulates emissions tests.

### **Welfare Tax Credits: Self-employed**

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) how many, and (2) what proportion, of those affected by the cuts to tax credits due to take effect in 2016 are self-employed. [[HL2705](#)]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** This information is not available.

This Government is committed to moving from a high welfare, high tax, low wage economy to a lower welfare, lower tax, higher wage society. As the Chancellor has made clear, the Government will set out at Autumn Statement how we plan to achieve the same goal of reforming tax credits, saving the money we need to save to secure our economy, while at the same time helping in the transition.

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