

**Vol. 766**  
**No. 20**



**Tuesday**  
**17 November 2015**

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

# **HOUSE OF LORDS**

## **WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS**

<b>Written Statements.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Written Answers.....</b>	<b>8</b>

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

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

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

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

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

© Parliamentary Copyright House of Lords 2015

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

# Written Statements

Tuesday, 17 November 2015

## Devolution

[HLWS300]

**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.

I am pleased to inform the House that the Government has reached devolution agreements with local authorities in the Liverpool City Region and in the West Midlands. These agreements are another significant step in the Government's ambition for the Northern Powerhouse and Midlands Engine respectively.

Both agreements will give local leaders far-reaching new powers and enable voters in each region to directly elect Mayors in 2017, who will take on new powers over local transport budgets, adult skills funding, and strategic planning.

The deals also include local control over investment funds for the next 30 years, which will help realise the economic potential of each area.

As part of the agreement, the new, directly elected Mayors of the Liverpool City Region and West Midlands will act as Chair of their respective Combined Authorities and will exercise the following powers and functions devolved from Ministers in Central Government:

- Responsibility for devolved and consolidated transport budgets, with multi-year settlements to be agreed at the Spending Review.
- Responsibility for franchised bus services, which will support the Combined Authorities' delivery of smart and integrated ticketing across the city regions.
- Powers over strategic planning.
- The Mayors will also have the option, on the basis of support from local business, to raise business rates. Further details will be set out following the Spending Review through a place-based settlement.

The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and West Midlands Combined Authority will, working with their Mayors, receive the following powers:

- Control of multi-million pound investment allocations over 30 years, to realise the economic potential of their local areas as well as maximise the opportunities from HS2.
- Greater control over local skills provision including control over the 19+ adult skills funding from 2018/19.
- Joint responsibility with Government to co-design employment support for the harder-to-help claimants.
- More effective joint working with UKTI to boost trade and investment.

- Develop and implement a devolved approach to the delivery of national business support programmes from 2017.

Liverpool City Region's deal will build on the success of International Festival for Business 2014 and International Festival for Business 2016, and Liverpool City Region and the Government, and in particular UKTI and the GREAT Britain campaign, will continue engagement to establish International Festival for Business Liverpool as a vital feature of the international business calendar in 2018 and 2020.

As part of the West Midlands devolution deal, the Government will support the Combined Authority Shadow Board's HS2 Growth Strategy, and will approve the business case for a significant extension of the Enterprise Zone at Curzon Street.

Local Enterprise Partnerships have played a key role in the negotiation of these agreements. The Government welcomes and supports co-operation between businesses and local government, and will work with both areas to ensure that devolution supports both the public and private sectors to deliver strong, sustainable local growth.

These agreements mark the next step in an ongoing process to devolve funding, responsibilities and powers from central government to the Liverpool City Region and West Midlands. I look forward to both areas continuing to hold discussions with government in the future, to build upon today's agreements.

Copies of both agreements will be placed in the Library of the House.

## European Councils

[HLWS298]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** My Right Honourable Friend, Minister for Europe (David Lidington), has made the following written Ministerial statement:

My Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs will attend the Foreign Affairs Council on 16 November. My Right Honourable Friend, Minister of State and Deputy Leader of the House of Lords, Lord Howe will attend the Foreign Affairs Council (Defence) on 17 November. I will attend the General Affairs Council on 17 November. My Right Honourable Friend the Minister for Small Business, Industry and Enterprise will attend the GAC cohesion discussion on 18 November. The Foreign Affairs Council and Foreign Affairs Council (Defence) will be chaired by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, and the General Affairs Council will be chaired by the Luxembourg Presidency. The meetings will be held in Brussels.

*Foreign Affairs Council*

*Middle East Peace Process (MEPP)*

Ministers are expected to discuss the recent heightened tensions and violence in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The High Representative will brief

Ministers on her recent meetings with President Abbas and Prime Minister Netanyahu.

#### *Syria*

Ministers will have an exchange of views on Syria, following the international meeting in Vienna on 30 October. Ministers will discuss how the EU and Member States can further support the resumption of a Syrian political process, based on the principles of the Geneva Communiqué of 2012.

#### *Eastern Partnership*

Ministers are expected to exchange views on recent developments in the six Eastern Partnership States: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine.

#### *Migration*

The FAC will discuss the outcomes of the Valletta Summit on migration which will take place on 11-12 November, and the conference on the Western Balkans route which took place on 8 October. The UK places high importance on working with EU and international partners on migration and will encourage rapid implementation of the Action Plan due to be agreed at Valletta in order to tackle the causes and consequences of irregular migration.

#### *Libya*

The FAC will possibly consider latest developments in the UN-led political process. At a UK/UN co-hosted Senior Officials Meeting in London on 19 October, all international partners, including the EU, agreed to coordinate their assistance to Libya under a UN lead, using a draft structure to be agreed with a Government of National Accord (GNA). The UK will encourage the EU to maintain momentum by urging the House of Representatives and Libyan parties to reach agreement and establish a GNA.

#### *Foreign Affairs Council (Defence)*

Ahead of the FAC (Defence), the European Defence Agency (EDA) Steering Board will focus on the EDA budget and preparatory action on Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)-related research. The EDA will present its three-year planning framework, including possible new projects, contribution to hybrid threats and incentives to encourage greater defence cooperation. The FAC (Defence) will focus on three main agenda items: the Commission's work to develop and implement a European action plan to ensure that the European defence market is ready to meet future security needs; Capacity Building for Security and Development (CBSD) to build capacity in third countries to manage crises; and current operations, with a focus on the naval operation to interdict people smugglers in the Mediterranean and the mission in the Central African Republic.

#### *General Affairs Council*

The General Affairs Council (GAC) on 17 November is expected to focus on: preparation of the agenda for the European Council on 17 and 18 December 2015; Rule of Law; the Inter-Institutional Agreement on Better

Regulation; the 2016 Commission Work Programme; and the European Semester.

#### *Preparation of the December European Council*

The GAC will prepare the agenda for the 17 and 18 October European Council, which the Prime Minister will attend. The draft December European Council agenda covers: Migration; Economic and Monetary Union; the Single Market; the UK's renegotiation; and external relations issues, likely to include Russia and Ukraine.

#### *Rule of Law*

The Presidency will host the first annual dialogue on promoting the rule of law in the European Union at the GAC. The Luxembourg Presidency has outlined 'rule of law in the age of digitalisation' as the theme which Member States will discuss. First Vice-President Timmermans will also report on October's human rights colloquium, hosted by the European Commission, on combating anti-Semitism and anti-Muslim hatred.

#### *Inter-Institutional Agreement on Better Regulation (IIA)*

The GAC will receive a presentation from the Luxembourg Presidency updating Ministers on the progress of the IIA negotiations, including the recent political talks between the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council. We expect the discussion to be focused on the anticipated amended IIA text on Chapter 3 (better regulation) and 4 (legislative instruments) of the existing draft text.

#### *2016 Commission Work Programme*

The GAC will discuss the 2016 Commission Work Programme (CWP): 'No Time for Business as Usual' published on 27 October.

We want a more effective EU - a dynamic, competitive, outward focused Europe, delivering prosperity and security for the benefit of all its members. A CWP focussed on jobs, economic growth, trade, competitiveness and through the use of Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT) measures and withdrawals, a better regulatory environment for business is a step towards this goal.

#### *Annual Growth Review and Roadmap for the European Semester 2016*

The GAC will receive a Commission presentation on the 2016 Annual Growth Survey (AGS), to be released on 18 Nov. The AGS marks the beginning of the European Semester process and is published alongside the Alert Mechanism Report, the Joint Employment Report and the Commission draft budgetary opinions on eurozone Member States. The AGS sets out broad EU level economic and social objectives for the year ahead and is expected to contain a focus on euro area level priorities, as set out in the European Commission's 21 October Communication on steps towards Completing Economic and Monetary Union.

The GAC will also receive a presentation from the Luxembourg Presidency and incoming Dutch Presidency on the timeline and next steps in the 2016 European semester process.

### *General Affairs Council Cohesion*

The 18 November GAC will focus on issues relating to the EU's cohesion policy. The Presidency plans three discussions, with Council conclusions agreed on each; first on the contribution of the European Structural and Investment Funds to support the transition to a low carbon economy; second, on European Territorial Cooperation (or Interreg) programmes; and third, on steps that might be taken to simplify the implementation and administration of European Structural and Investment Funds.

### **Hazardous and Noxious Substances (Opt-in Position)**

[HLWS299]

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

The Government has decided to opt in to the proposed Council Decision on the ratification and accession by Member States, in the interest of the Union, to the Protocol of 2010 to the International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) by Sea, with regard to aspects related to judicial cooperation in civil matters.

The 1996 International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by sea ('the 1996 HNS Convention') was agreed by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to fill a gap in international law on the treatment of HNS at sea. A 2002 Council Decision agreed that EU Member States would take the necessary steps to ratify the 1996 HNS Convention within a reasonable time and, if possible, before 30 June 2006. Despite this, due to the concerns that many EU Member States, including the UK, had over the 1996 HNS Convention, none of them ratified it and it has never been brought into force.

The 2010 HNS Protocol consolidates the 1996 HNS Convention and amends it to address concerns with the initial agreement. However, the 2010 HNS Protocol created new concerns and made the implementation process complex. As a result, no state has yet ratified the 2010 HNS Protocol, and although some would like to do so, in practice none are likely to until the outstanding concerns with the Convention are resolved in the International Maritime Organization, and unless the Convention comes into force in other countries simultaneously (it will not enter into force until it has been ratified by at least 12 countries with enough contributing cargo).

The Commission has proposed two Council Decisions, one relating to matters of judicial cooperation in civil matters and one with the exception of matters related to judicial cooperation in civil matters. These Decisions, when combined, lift any barriers within EU legislation that were preventing EU Member States from ratifying

the 2010 HNS Protocol and so EU Member States will now be able to ratify if they wish to do so.

The Government took the view in this instance that UK interests would be best served by opting in to the proposed Decision that deals with "aspects related to judicial cooperation in civil matters", as this would retain the UK's ability to fully ratify the HNS Protocol, and the removal of any binding deadline from the proposal has the effect of maintaining the UK's current flexibility to be able to ratify and accede to the HNS Protocol if and when we are ready to do so.

### **Justice and Home Affairs Council**

[HLWS302]

**Lord Bates:** My right hon Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

On 9 November, I attended the extraordinary meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council in Brussels. The meeting was convened by the Luxembourg Presidency in response to the ongoing European migration crisis. The discussion focused on continuing efforts to manage migration pressures, including those at the external EU border, and efforts to improve the effectiveness of the migration 'hotspots' in Italy and Greece. The Council also discussed the implementation of relocation measures, in which the UK is not participating.

The Presidency urged Member States to deliver on the pledges made at previous JHA Councils to support those frontline Member States experiencing the most pressure. The UK is contributing substantial practical assistance in this regard.

The Council Conclusions agreed emphasised the need to implement the measures already approved, and the need to include tougher language on addressing non-compliance with asylum processes. I pressed for the Conclusions to clearly state that genuine asylum seekers must claim asylum at the first point of entry and that illegal migrants not in need of protection must be swiftly returned. I welcomed tougher language on combating abuse, especially in light of the great expense faced by Member States in processing those not in need of protection. And I made clear that Member States need to use detention as necessary in order to prevent secondary movement by those refusing to comply with asylum processes at the external border.

I also made clear that the EU is seeing an unprecedented interaction between organised crime and migration – and that there will continue to be serious security implications as long as the EU's external border controls fail to be properly enforced. I encouraged the Council to think about how information can be shared to ensure the UK can get access to the intelligence we need, and can take the decisions that keep us safe. I stressed the need for reciprocal access to key data between Schengen and non-Schengen countries and for better use of the information we have, not just for managing migration but also to ensure security.



I argued that the EU must also pay more attention to managing secondary movements. This should include recognising the significant impact of applications for family reunification and reducing the scope for abuse of free movement rights. It cannot be right that, following the Metock judgment, third country nationals illegally present in the EU could avoid return through EU law on free movement.

The Presidency announced the activation of the Integrated Political Crisis Response (IPCR) mechanism, which will produce regular analysis of information provided by Member States, facilitating a joint response to the current crisis. I confirmed that the UK would continue to respond quickly to requests under the EU's Civil Protection Mechanism, as well as working directly with Non-Governmental Organisations and the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

I made clear that the Government sees resettlement as an essential element in a comprehensive response to the crisis. Taking those in need of protection directly from the region under national schemes should remain the preferred approach. The UK is making good progress towards our aim to resettle 20,000 people by the end of this Parliament and we have teams working with UNHCR to identify the most vulnerable genuine refugees for our national programme.

The Council remained split on whether to take forward the Commission's proposal for a permanent crisis relocation mechanism. The Council Conclusions undertake to examine pending legislative proposals on this matter. The Government does not support relocation as it is the wrong response to the migratory pressures the EU faces. It undermines the important principle that asylum should be claimed in the first safe country and does not address the causes of illegal migration.

### Machinery of Government

[HLWS304]

**Baroness Stowell of Beeston:** My Rt Hon. Friend the Prime Minister has made the following statement to the House of Commons:

This written ministerial statement confirms that Infrastructure UK will be merged with the Major Projects Authority to form a new organisation called the Infrastructure and Projects Authority. The new organisation will report jointly to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Minister for the Cabinet Office, and will sit formally within the Cabinet Office. This change will be effective from 1 January 2016.

### Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe

[HLWS303]

**Baroness Stowell of Beeston:** My Rt Hon. Friend the Prime Minister has made the following statement to the House of Commons:

This written ministerial statement confirms that the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe is as follows:

#### Lord Bowness (Leader)

<i>Full Representatives</i>	<i>Substitute Members</i>
Ian Austin MP	Lord Arbuthnot of Edrom
Sir Simon Burns MP	Victoria Atkins MP
Lord Dubs	James Cleverly MP
Peter Grant MP	Stuart Donaldson MP
Baroness Hilton of Eggardon	Marcus Fysh MP
David Jones MP	Stephen Hammond MP
Caroline Nokes MP	James Heappey MP
Laurence Robertson MP	John Mann MP
Gavin Shaker MP	Bob Neill MP
Royston Smith MP	Nick Smith MP
Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP	
John Woodcock MP	

### Syria: Conflict, Stability and Security Fund

[HLWS301]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** My right Honourable Friend, the Secretary for State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Philip Hammond), has made the following written Ministerial statement:

It is the normal practice when a government department proposes to make a gift of a value exceeding £300,000, for the department concerned to present to the House of Commons a minute giving particulars of the gift and explaining the circumstances, and to refrain from making the gift until fourteen parliamentary sitting days after the issue of the minute, except in cases of special urgency.

There is an urgent strategic and operational need to provide the gift outlined in this statement at the earliest possible opportunity. It has therefore not been possible to conform to the normal notification period for this gift. As a result, the window for parliamentary objections to this gift has been reduced to ten parliamentary sitting days.

The Government's priority for Syria is to seek an end to the conflict through an inclusive political settlement by bolstering those who have a moderate and unified vision for the country and by putting pressure on the regime and its backers, and on ISIL, while alleviating human suffering through the provision of humanitarian aid. An important line of effort in achieving this strategy is the provision of non-lethal assistance to carefully vetted members of the Syrian Moderate Armed opposition.

This minute sets out the Foreign & Commonwealth Office's (FCO) plans to deliver two packages of support to the Southern Front of the Moderate Armed Opposition in Syria through our Conflict, Security and Stability Fund (CSSF): a medical and a border force project.

The Southern Front is a coalition of moderate armed opposition groups operating in the south of Syria. They have had recent successes on the ground and provide a real, moderate alternative to extremists. The provision of non-lethal aid to moderate groups can directly increase their effectiveness and resilience. Ensuring that moderate armed groups are logistically self-reliant and able to provide for the welfare of their constituents can directly increase their legitimacy and help to prevent extremist groups from poaching fighters. Accordingly, we plan to provide training and non-lethal equipment to vetted members of the Southern Front, in order to significantly improve their casualty evacuation capabilities, and their capacity to control and defend a defined section of the Syrian-Jordanian border.

As part of these two projects, the FCO plans to gift equipment to the Southern Front to the value of £2.05m, funded by the CSSF. The proposed list of equipment includes medical supplies for a rear trauma facility and ambulance units, generators, 4x4 vehicles, communications equipment, observation cameras and binoculars, uniforms and other logistical equipment such as tents. There are some Controlled Items in this package, which have been assessed against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria. These include radios designed to use encryption, observation

cameras with thermal imaging technology, chargers and a low grade of protective vests. The total budget for these two projects has been set at £5m, which also includes the costs of training.

Equipment will be procured through two carefully selected implementing partners, with whom HMG has worked previously. It will be delivered to vetted members of the Southern Front at a regional training site, after the completion of certain training modules, including training on Human Rights and the Law of Armed Conflict. HMG closely monitors the situation on the ground in Syria, and has long-established links with members of the Southern Front. All recipients are carefully selected to ensure that they are not involved in extremist activity or human rights abuses. We will monitor these projects closely, halting support if we believe the equipment is being misused.

The Treasury has approved the proposal in principle and, given the urgency involved, has agreed to the proposal to reduce the period for parliamentary scrutiny. If, during the period of ten parliamentary sitting days beginning on the date on which this minute was laid before the House of Commons, a Member signifies an objection by giving notice of a Parliamentary Question or a Motion relating to the minute, or by otherwise raising the matter in the House, final approval of the gift will be withheld pending an examination of the objection.

# Written Answers

Tuesday, 17 November 2015

## Academies

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will consult with local authorities and Academy sponsors on what role local authorities should play as strategic commissioners when all schools in an area have become Academies. [HL3434]

**Lord Nash:** At present there are no local authorities where all schools have become academies and therefore the issue has not arisen.

## Academies: Equality

*Asked by Baroness Uddin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to ensure that all academy schools, their leaders, boards of directors, advisers and heads of department, adhere to all aspects of equality legislation in the UK. [HL3478]

**Lord Nash:** Academy trusts, and the academies they run, are required to adhere to all aspects of equality legislation. The Department's model funding agreement for academy trusts, available on GOV.UK, states that the academy trust must ensure the academy promotes principles that support equality of opportunity for all. The Education Funding Agency is responsible, on behalf of the Secretary of State, for holding academy trusts to account for meeting the terms of their funding agreements.

## Academies: Finance

*Asked by Baroness Pinnock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much funding has been allocated via the academy conversion grant in each of the last five financial years. [HL3296]

**Lord Nash:** There have been 3,327 converter academies opened during the current and preceding four financial years, each receiving the standard conversion support grant of £25,000 to spend on the conversion process.

Further details are in the table below:

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Converter academies opened</i>
2014-15	608
2013-14	573
2012-13	786
2011-12	1,100
Total	3,327

Figures for 2015-16 are not available at this stage.

## Airbus SAS

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Chesterton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, following the French Foreign Minister's visit to Iran, they plan to use the UK's political and official diplomacy to promote Airbus products and make clear that they are not solely French products, but contain significant components from the UK. [HL3525]

**Lord Maude of Horsham:** We will continue to promote the UK interests in Airbus in support of their global sales campaigns. We work closely with the Company and the governments of France, Germany and Spain on these campaigns given the shared economic benefits that arise from sales of Airbus aircraft. Because of the significant level of UK products on Airbus aircraft, the company is frequently represented on UK trade missions; it also enjoys the financial support of UK Export Finance and the commercial support of UK Trade & Investment's overseas network.

## Armed Forces: Credit Unions

*Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent progress has been made in establishing a credit union for military personnel. [HL3344]

**Earl Howe:** I refer the noble Lord to the answer given by my hon. Friend, the Minister of State for Defence Procurement (Philip Dunne), in the House of Commons on 2 November 2015 to Question 13242.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-23/13242/>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

QnA extract on Armed Forces: Credit Unions  
[20151102\_13242\_Armed\_Forces\_Credit\_Unions.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-05/HL3344>

## Asylum: Finance

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to publish the outcome of the consultation on reforming support for failed asylum seekers; and whether they will publish a summary of the responses to that consultation. [HL3103]

**Lord Bates:** The response to the consultation was published on 5 November 2015 and can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-bill-part-5-support-for-certain-categories-of-migrant>



### **Azerbaijan: Election Observers**

*Asked by Lord Kilclooney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they participated in the election observer presence at the recent elections in Azerbaijan; and whether OSCE or Council of Europe observer delegations were also present at those elections. [[HL3332](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly decided not to send observers. However the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe sent a 28 member observation team.

### **Balkans: Immigration**

*Asked by Baroness Helic*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the influx of refugees and migrants into the Western Balkans on the security situation in that region, and what discussions they have had with (1) NATO, and (2) the EU, about that issue. [[HL3256](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government makes ongoing assessments of the impact of refugees and migrants on the security situation in the Western Balkans. There have been limited discussions in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) on migration as the issue is largely a national and EU competence. NATO can address some of the causes of migration by helping to improve the security and resilience of countries in the region through its partnership frameworks and Defence Capacity Building activity. We have been in regular contact with the EU on addressing all aspects of the crisis. The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Teresa May), participated in an EU Conference with Western Balkans and other countries in Luxembourg on 8 October, which agreed a comprehensive package of measures for dealing with the challenges of migration through the Eastern Mediterranean route. We consider it important that the actions agreed at this Conference, and other actions agreed between the EU and the Western Balkans - notably the 17-point Plan of 25 October - are implemented as soon as possible.

### **Bosnia and Herzegovina: Immigration**

*Asked by Baroness Helic*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent discussions they have had with the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina about the refugee and migrant crisis in the Western Balkans, and what provisions are in place to offer (1) UK, and (2) EU, support to the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina in the event of an influx of refugees and migrants into that country. [[HL3257](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are in contact with all governments of the region on the migration crisis. On 23 September, the Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), pledged a UK contribution of £308,078 to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)'s Sarajevo office for contingency planning. This was part of a wider pledge of £3.1 million of aid to international agencies to support Western Balkans countries affected by the migration crisis. On 1 November, the Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), announced a further £5 million of humanitarian aid to the countries on the Eastern Mediterranean route. We are also contributing substantially through EU assistance programmes in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The EU has provided €8.5 million of migration-related assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Some of this has been spent on technical assistance for effectively managing migration and asylum. It has also been spent on supply of equipment and on the construction of a reception facility for migrants. The EU is due to spend a further €2 million to support BiH's border police.

*Asked by Baroness Helic*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the capacity of institutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina to cope with a potential influx of refugees and migrants, in the light of the political and security situation in that country. [[HL3258](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) earlier this month gave a positive assessment of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)'s contingency planning, particularly in Bijeljina and Trebenje, which are two areas that could be at risk of overflow. The British Government remains concerned about BiH's limited capacity to register an influx of arrivals, and to conduct security screening, including through the use of biometrics. We welcome the fact that BiH and the UNHCR have identified the establishment of reception centres close to likely border crossing points as a priority, and look forward to the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina's provision of a comprehensive needs assessment to inform planning for external support.

### **Bovine Tuberculosis**

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of the badgers culled in the pilots undertaken in 2013 and 2014 had tuberculosis. [[HL3211](#)]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Badgers culled under licence in Somerset and Gloucestershire in 2013 and 2014 were not routinely tested for tuberculosis (TB), since this research had already been carried out under the Random Badger Cull Trial (RBCT). However, testing of badgers between 1998 and 2005 via the Randomised Badger Culling Trial and Road Traffic Accident surveys provided evidence of the typical prevalence of TB in badgers in

areas of high incidence of TB in cattle. TB was found in around one third of all badgers in these areas.

*Asked by **Baroness Jones of Whitchurch***

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to release the value-for-money assessment on the badger cull pilots undertaken in 2013 and 2014. [[HL3212](#)]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The expected benefits of the policy remain in line with those in the 'Measures to address bovine tuberculosis in badgers' impact assessment published in 2011. It will be some years before actual benefits can be quantified.

## Broadband

*Asked by **Lord Wills***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their latest assessment of the progress being made in achieving their target of establishing superfast broadband coverage to 90 per cent of the UK by 2016. [[HL3416](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government's Superfast Broadband Programme, which has £1.7 billion of funding from central government, local authorities, devolved administrations and European funding sources, has contributed to well over 3 million homes and businesses in the UK having access to superfast broadband. Our programme remains on track to deliver superfast broadband coverage to 90% of the UK by early 2016 and to 95% of the UK by December 2017.

## Broadband: Small Businesses

*Asked by **Lord Taylor of Warwick***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to improve broadband networks in the UK to support small businesses. [[HL3472](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Since 2010 the proportion of households and businesses with access to superfast broadband has risen from 45% to 83%. Thanks to the Government's investment this will rise to 95 per cent by the end of 2017. In addition, the Government's Broadband Connection Voucher Scheme has been a tremendous success. More than 55,000 small businesses across the UK have taken up the offer, many of which are already seeing significant boosts to their business as a result of improved broadband speeds.

## Burma: Human Rights

*Asked by **Baroness Helic***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of public threats made in Burma against the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Burma. [[HL3205](#)]

*Asked by **Baroness Helic***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations Ministers have made to the Burmese authorities regarding threats made in Burma against the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Burma. [[HL3206](#)]

*Asked by **Baroness Helic***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has made through the Permanent Mission to the United Nations regarding the incitement of violence in Burma against the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Burma. [[HL3207](#)]

*Asked by **Baroness Helic***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they give to the office of the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Burma. [[HL3208](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government supports the Special Rapporteur, Professor Yanghee Lee, and deplores the hateful and threatening language that has been used against her by MaBaTha monk Wirathu. We have also called for Burma's Ministry of Religious Affairs to take action on the matter. I was able to convey my sympathy and concern to Professor Lee in person during her visit to London in March. Last week, we publicly reiterated our support for Professor Lee and her mandate at the UN General Assembly in New York, at a dedicated session discussing her most recent report on the Human rights situation in Burma.

Unfortunately, statements like those of Wirathu are symptomatic of a troubling rise in intolerance, discrimination and hate speech in Burma. We have repeatedly raised our concerns over this trend, both bilaterally and in company with our international partners. The Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), did so with senior Burmese government ministers during his visit to Burma in July and, most recently, with Foreign Minister Wunna Maung Lwin in September in New York.

## Burma: Rohingya

*Asked by **Lord Alton of Liverpool***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the findings in reports by Yale Law School and Queen Mary University of London, and an investigation by Al-Jazeera, as well as research by Fortify Rights, that claim to provide evidence that genocide is being committed against the Rohingya people in Burma. [[HL3169](#)]

*Asked by **Lord Alton of Liverpool***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will support calls for the establishment of a full, international, independent investigation by the UN into

claims of genocide against the Rohingya in Burma. [HL3170]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** These and other disturbing reports from Rakhine State make clear that the Rohingya are being persecuted and denied the most basic rights. We welcome the work of a highly effective UN Special Rapporteur on Burma, who has shone a spotlight on violations against the Rohingya in Rakhine. She has not characterised the treatment of the Rohingya as genocide, and neither did the UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide in his 4 November Statement on Burma's elections.

However, any judgement on whether genocide has occurred is a matter for international judicial decision, rather than for governments or non-judicial bodies. A UN investigation would require high level international support for which we assess there is little prospect of agreement at this stage. Our approach is to seek an end to all violations, irrespective of whether or not they fit the definition of specific international crimes. British Government Ministers take every appropriate opportunity, both publicly and in private, to press the Burmese authorities to take urgent steps to address the situation of the Rohingya. Most recently, the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), did so with the Burmese Foreign Minister Wunna Maung Lwin in September in New York.

### Cancer: Diagnosis

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to improve rates of early diagnosis of cancer. [HL3259]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Improving early diagnosis of cancer is a priority for this Government. We will continue to work with NHS England, Public Health England and other partners to achieve early diagnosis through improved screening programmes, Be Clear on Cancer campaigns to raise awareness of signs and symptoms of cancer to encourage people with signs and symptoms to present promptly to their general practitioner (GP), and help for GPs to refer more accurately.

We have committed to implementing recommendation 24 of the Independent Cancer Taskforce's report that by 2020, everyone referred with a suspicion of cancer will receive either a definitive diagnosis or the all-clear within four weeks. NHS England is working with partners across the health system to consider how best to take this forward. A copy of the Taskforce's report *Achieving World-Class Outcomes: A Strategy for England 2015-2020*, is attached.

NHS England has launched a major early diagnosis programme, Accelerate, Co-ordinate, Evaluate (ACE), working jointly with Cancer Research UK and Macmillan Cancer Support to test new innovative approaches to identifying cancer more quickly. Outputs from the first

wave of test sites, which commenced in April 2015, will be delivered on a phased basis, with the majority falling between September 2015 and December 2016. It is expected that ACE Wave 1 evaluation will be complete by mid-2017. An ACE Wave 2 is being planned.

In June this year, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence published an updated guideline 'Suspected cancer: recognition and referral'. The guideline focuses on key symptoms, to make it easier to use and will continue to support GPs to identify patients with signs and symptoms of suspected cancer, and urgently refer them as appropriate. The guideline recommends a lower referral threshold for urgent referrals where cancer is suspected. A copy of the guideline is also attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Achieving World Class Outcomes [achieving\_world-class\_cancer\_outcomes\_-\_a\_strategy\_for\_england\_2015-2020.pdf]

Suspected cancer [suspected-cancer-recognition-and-referral-1837268071621.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-03/HL3259>

### Care Quality Commission: Fees and Charges

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the costs to the National Health Service of the proposed increases in fees set out in the consultation paper published by the Care Quality Commission on 2 November. [HL3260]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the cost to care providers of the proposed increases in fees set out in the options in the consultation paper published by Care Quality Commission on 2 November. [HL3264]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has published an initial impact assessment of the proposed fee increases alongside its consultation document. The CQC will publish a final impact assessment alongside its response to consultation document in March 2016. The initial impact assessment is attached and can be found on the CQC's website at:

<http://www.cqc.org.uk/content/health-and-social-care-fees-consultation>.

Under HM Treasury guidance (Managing Public Money), public bodies are required to set fees in order to cover the full cost of regulatory activities. The proposed fees increases being consulted upon for 2016-17 reflect the CQC's commitment to achieving full cost recovery, in line with *Managing Public Money*, within the period of the Spending Review. The fees being charged are therefore funding the CQC as an effective regulator, they allow the CQC's tough inspection regime to drive up

standards across the country, which in turn ensures quality and safety of health and social care provision.

The CQC does not underestimate the impact on providers of paying fees, and will continue to look carefully at its costs relating to regulation. The CQC has a responsibility to recover its regulatory costs by charging fees, but it is also accountable for demonstrating that CQC is fair, efficient, effective and proportionate. The CQC advises that in relation to the overall spending on health and adult social care in England is 0.16%.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Health and Social Care Fees Consultation  
[ID3780450\_20151030\_cqc\_fees\_from\_2016\_impact\_assessment\_final.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-03/HL3260>

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consultation will take place with MPs and Peers on the proposals to increase fees set out in the consultation paper published by the Care Quality Commission on 2 November. [HL3261]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Care Quality Commission(CQC) has no plan to hold a separate consultation with Members and Peers. The CQC encourages anyone who wishes to contribute to the consultation, including Members of Parliament, to do so through the public consultation process.

The consultation sets out the CQC's proposals in relation to fees for the 2016-17 fee scheme, and the pace at which it intends to achieve full cost recovery.

### **Castes: Discrimination**

*Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they next plan to consider the case for further consultation on caste discrimination. [HL3181]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We are currently considering the need for a consultation on caste discrimination. This is part of our wider consideration of the implications of the *Tirkey v Chandok* tribunal judgments.

### **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), whether they will place in the Library of the House a copy of the letter from the UK Commissioner to the International Whaling Commission to the governments of Denmark and the Faroe Islands about concerns over the welfare and sustainability of their hunts. [HL3338]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** A copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

### **Charities: Finance**

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bridges of Headley on 21 July (HL1392), whether, in the light of the collapse of Kids Company, they will now publish a list of charities receiving significant donations from government departments or the National Health Service. [HL3290]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The 2014/15 government Grants Register will be published in the coming months by the Grants Efficiency Programme in the Cabinet Office. The Register includes high level details on all central government grant schemes, not just those to charities. It does not include details of all recipients or grants made by the NHS or local authorities. To improve sharing of information on grant awards, the Grants Efficiency Programme is developing a grants data repository.

### **Cole Commission on Exports**

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many of the recommendations of the Cole Commission on UK exports they have implemented. [HL3530]

**Lord Maude of Horsham:** As ministers take forward plans to reform and improve the UK's export and investment effort, they will take into consideration recommendations in the Cole report, as well as advice and suggestions from a broad range of stakeholders.

### **Common Agricultural Policy**

*Asked by Lord Grocott*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 27 October (HL2665), how much of the 2015 Common Agricultural Policy budget has been, or will be, spent in support of United Kingdom agriculture. [HL3254]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** In 2015, the UK has been allocated around 7% of the total CAP budget, equivalent to a total of €4 billion.

In pounds sterling, based on the average European central Bank exchange rate for September used for calculating direct payments, this equates to a total of £2.9 billion. Of this amount, £2.3 billion is allocated to Pillar 1 direct payments and £620 million to Pillar 2 rural development.

### **Congenital Abnormalities**

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have about the average prevalence of births



affected by neural tube defects in countries applying food fortification with folic acid compared to those countries that do not. [HL3190]

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the prevalence of births affected by neural tube defects in the United Kingdom, and how that figure compares with (1) other member states of the European Union, and (2) the United States and Canada. [HL3191]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Data about fortifying and non-fortifying countries is not extensive and does not identify fortifiers and non-fortifiers in a meaningful way. As a result we do not have comparable data for prevalence of births with neural tube defects (NTDs) across the European Union or with North America pre and post fortification. Available data on prevalence is in the public domain and is listed below:

*Prevalence of NTD per 10,000 births for those EU members states where figures are available*

United Kingdom	12.8
Belgium	8
Croatia	4.64
Denmark	11.24
France	12.70
Germany	11.00
Ireland	8.19
Italy	5.36
Netherlands	6.71
Poland	10.14
Portugal	4.27
Spain	9.55

*Source: EUROCAT Special Report: Prevalence of Neural Tube Defects in younger mothers in Europe 2000-2008. EUROCAT (2010)*

United States	6.5
---------------	-----

*Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Updated Estimates of Neural Tube Defects Prevented by Mandatory Folic Acid Fortification — United States, 1995–2011. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. 2015; 64: 1-5.*

## Council Tax Reduction Schemes

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to ensure that residents in council areas with low levels of business rates are protected from the effects of the change to funding council tax benefit by retained business rates in 2020. [HL3354]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** By the end of this Parliament, when local government will keep 100% of the £26 billion of business rates they raise locally, our ambition is that local councils will meet their spending needs, including local council tax support, from local taxation and other locally raised income. At the point that

we introduce 100% business rates retention, there will continue to be a measure of redistribution to ensure that no authority loses out just because it starts from a relatively weaker position.

## Council Tax: Unpaid Taxes

*Asked by Baroness Afshar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) men, and (2) women, were imprisoned for non-payment of council tax in (a) 2012, (b) 2013, and (c) 2014. [HL3234]

**Lord Faulks:** Data showing how many people were imprisoned for non-payment of council tax in 2012, 2013 and 2014 are presented in the table below:

Year	Female	Male	Not Specified
2012	41	62	4
2013	41	60	7
2014	33	45	11

It should be noted that there are a few cases where the gender of the defendant has not been specified and these have been shown separately in the table above.

These data are sourced from the Libra Management Information System (MIS). As such this data set is not subject to the same levels of quality assurance as national statistics

In extracting this data only offences of complaint for council tax committal application have been included where the court hearing date occurred within each year reported (i.e. between 1 January and 31 December).

It should also be noted that, although committals to prison are reported as occurring within a particular financial year, the non-payment of council tax itself may relate to a previous financial year or even a period covering more than one financial year.

## Crime: Older People

*Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the level of (1) crime against older people, and (2) fear of crime amongst older people; and what steps they are taking to address both the incidence and fear of crime against older people. [HL2952]

**Lord Bates:** The Home Office has made no specific assessment of the level of crime against older people, and fear of crime amongst older people. The attached table shows figures from the independent Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) for the year to March 2015 for (1) the percentage of adults in each age group who were victims of crime, and (2) the percentage of adults in each age group who had high levels of worry about crime.

Police reform is working and the Crime Survey shows that overall crime is down by more than a quarter since

2010. We continue to develop the role of our elected and accountable Police and Crime Commissioners to shape policing services to local needs and priorities, as they are now doing in commissioning victims' services, setting policing priorities and driving reform.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Figures from CSEW [Attached tables.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-10-23/HL2952>

## Cybercrime

*Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to protect organisations and businesses in the UK from cybercrime and large-scale cyber-attacks, and what steps they are taking particularly to assist SMEs with cybersecurity. [HL3345]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government is investing £860m in a comprehensive National Cyber Security Programme (NCSP) to protect the UK from cyber attacks, tackle cyber crime and make the UK one of the safest places in the world to do business online.

Ministers have been looking at the whole of the government's cyber security programme in the light of recent problems at Talk Talk and elsewhere and a further statement will be made next week as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

## Defamation: Northern Ireland

*Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what role the Secretary of State has in ensuring that the law of defamation in Northern Ireland is compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights. [HL3182]

**Lord Faulks:** As set out in my Written Answer HL2680 on 30 October 2015, 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.

## Demonstrations: Students

*Asked by Lord Rogan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of how much policing the student march on 4 November in London cost. [HL3376]

**Lord Bates:** The Home Office has not made an assessment of the costs of policing this protest. It is an operational decision for the Commissioner of the Police

of the Metropolis, working with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime to determine the levels of resources required to manage such events.

## Egypt: Human Rights

*Asked by Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will designate Egypt as a country of concern in the next FCO annual report on human rights and democracy. [HL3368]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Foreign and Commonwealth reviewed the use of the designation "countries of concern" earlier this year. We now highlight "human rights priority countries" that we wish to work positively with wherever possible to improve their human rights trajectory.

Our criteria in designating a human rights priority country is an evidence-based assessment. We utilise internationally respected indicators and indices, such as the UN Gender Inequality Index and the Reporters Without Borders (RSF) World Press Freedom Index, to form our assessments. Once we have the relevant data, we will take informed decisions as to which countries will be human rights priority countries in 2016.

*Asked by Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of calls for a UN Commission of Inquiry into alleged human rights abuses by Egyptian security forces including those alleged to have taken place in July and August 2013. [HL3370]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are aware that calls were made for a UN Commission of Inquiry shortly after the events of July and August 2013, as well as on the recent anniversary of these events. In December 2013, Interim President Adly Mansour established a Fact-Finding Committee into the events that followed the removal of former President Morsi in July 2013. The Egyptian government released an executive summary of the Committee's findings on 26 November 2014, which included recommendations for the police, educational institutions, the legislature, investigative authorities and the media. Since the publication of the summary of the Fact-Finding Committee's report, the UK has encouraged the Egyptian government to release the report in full, and has stressed the importance of accountability for the deaths that took place during the clearances.

## Electoral Register: Young People

*Asked by Lord Lexden*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will ensure that local electoral registration offices in England and Wales work closely with schools, as has been done in Northern Ireland, to increase the number of young people registered to vote. [HL3184]



**Lord Bridges of Headley:** Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) in Great Britain already work with their local schools and colleges to identify and register young people.

In a report before the start of the current canvass of electors in Great Britain, the Electoral Commission called on all EROs to update their local public engagement strategies for the canvass. The Commission noted that strategies should reflect the activity EROs intended to carry out to target under-registered groups, such as attainers.

### Electronic Commerce: VAT

*Asked by Lord Lucas*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of recent reports about VAT fraud by online traders operating from abroad, what action they are taking to reduce the extent of such tax evasion, and whether that action will be completed before Christmas in order to protect UK businesses. [HL3224]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** HM Revenue and Customs is actively targeting operational and intelligence activity, as well as a range of other options, to tackle this issue.

*Asked by Lord Lucas*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of recent reports about VAT fraud by online traders operating from abroad, what is their estimate of the impact of such tax evasion on (1) the public purse, and (2) UK businesses. [HL3225]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** Any UK VAT losses arising from online traders operating from abroad are already included within the published UK Tax Gap.

The estimate of the VAT Gap published in "Measuring Tax Gaps 2015 edition" on 22 October 2015 is £13.1 billion. Overall, the UK Tax Gap was 6.4 per cent in 2013-14, down from 6.6 per cent in 2012-13. As part of that, the VAT Gap is calculated as 11.1 per cent in 2013-14, a reduction from 11.9 per cent in 2012-13.

*Asked by Lord Lucas*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of recent reports about VAT fraud by online traders operating from abroad, what discussions they have had in the last three months with (1) Amazon, and (2) eBay, about the extent of such tax evasion on their online marketplaces. [HL3226]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** HM Revenue and Customs is in regular contact with the largest businesses through its dedicated "Customer Relationship Manager" model. Details of discussions with individual taxpayers cannot be disclosed due to taxpayer confidentiality.

*Asked by Lord Lucas*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of recent reports about VAT fraud by online traders operating from abroad, whether they plan to require

HM Revenue and Customs to work closely with the Chartered Trading Standards Institute in tackling such tax evasion, in particular through Amazon's and eBay's online marketplaces. [HL3227]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** HM Revenue and Customs is actively targeting operational and intelligence activity to tackle this problem. This involves working closely with a number of external bodies, including Trading Standards.

*Asked by Lord Lucas*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of recent reports about VAT fraud by online traders operating from abroad, whether they plan to pursue (1) Amazon, and (2) eBay, for any UK VAT that has been evaded by traders using those online marketplaces; and if not, why not. [HL3228]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is actively targeting operational and intelligence activity to tackle this issue. However, HMRC is unable to give details of its plans in respect of any individual taxpayer because of taxpayer confidentiality.

### Electronic Surveillance: USA

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Neville-Rolfe on 3 November (HL2678), what steps they propose to take following the European Court of Justice's judgments in case C-362/14, Maximillian Schrems v Data Protection Commissioner. [HL3295]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** I refer the noble Lord to my answer of 3<sup>rd</sup> November [HL2678].

### Employment: Young People

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Equality and Human Rights Commission's Report "Is Britain fairer?", particularly with regard to the employment and earnings prospects of young people aged 16 to 24. [HL3217]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is an independent body, and its report "Is Britain Fairer?" covers a five-year period spanning the Labour and Coalition governments. We welcome the positive areas of progress and note the key challenges to which it refers. The information in the report will be used by the EHRC to help develop its next strategic plan, covering the period 2016-19.

Giving young people the skills that businesses need is important. That is why our work to ensure 3 million apprenticeship starts in England over this Parliament is crucial.

According to London Economics, the lifetime benefits associated with the acquisition of Apprenticeships at Level 2 and 3 are very significant, standing at between

£48,000 and £74,000 for Level 2 and between £77,000 and £117,000 for Level 3 Apprenticeships.

The latest data shows that 89% of apprentices are satisfied with their apprenticeship; 85% of apprentices said their ability to do the job had improved, and 83% of apprentices said their career prospects had improved.

### Empty Property: Greater London

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 24 September (HL2300), why empty dwellings in London are not being filled in order to tackle the housing shortage. [HL3281]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My answer of 24 September showed a trend of decreasing empty dwellings in London; from 42,600 in 2004 to 20,795 in 2014. Local authorities across the country have powers and strong incentives to tackle empty homes. Through the New Homes Bonus they can earn the same financial reward for bringing an empty home back into use as building a new one. Councils may also charge up to 150% council tax for homes empty for over two years.

My Department will continue to encourage London councils to use these empty dwellings for housing.

### English Votes for English Laws

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the new rules for English Votes for English Laws relating to votes on matters that have been returned from the House of Lords to the House of Commons during parliamentary ping-pong will allow for amendments to, and substitution of, Lords amendments, as well as the rejection of Lords amendments. [HL3133]

**Baroness Stowell of Beeston:** Members of the House of Commons will continue to be able to table amendments to, and suggest the substitution or rejection of, Lords amendments, as they can now.

### Enterprise Zones: Northern Ireland

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what communications they have had with the Northern Ireland Executive about the creation of Enterprise Zones in Northern Ireland. [HL3319]

**Lord Dunlop:** The Government communicates with the Northern Ireland Executive frequently on a wide range of issues.

In 'Building a United and Prosperous Community' (the 'Economic Pact') signed in June 2013, the Government made a commitment to consider any Executive-nominated sites to be designated as an Enterprise Zone. Budget 2014 announced that businesses located within the Executive's

proposed pilot Enterprise Zone near Coleraine could benefit from enhanced capital allowances until 2020.

I understand the Executive continues to work towards the implementation of this pilot Enterprise Zone.

### Eritrea: Human Rights

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the recent UN Commission of Inquiry report on human rights abuses in Eritrea under President Isaias Afwerki. [HL3179]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We recognise the important work of the UN Commission of Inquiry and are concerned by their findings on human rights in Eritrea, in particular reports of arbitrary detention, and shortcomings in the rule of law and respect for fundamental freedoms. At the Human Rights Council in July, we supported an extension of the Commission's mandate so that it can continue its work.

We regret that the Commission has been unable to visit Eritrea and therefore had to rely on witnesses who are outside of Eritrea and whose testimony may have been based on first-hand experience of Eritrea some time ago. We have made clear to the Government of Eritrea that it must improve respect for human rights and honour its international obligations, including allowing the Commission access.

### EU Budget: Contributions

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether, if the European institutions decided to increase the European Union budget due to the migration crisis, the United Kingdom would be legally required to pay a proportion of such an increase. [HL3240]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Government does not believe that it is meaningful to speculate on hypothetical scenarios. The Government's position is to argue for maximum reprioritisation of the EU budget from areas of lesser priority in order to accommodate migration spend within the limits of the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) in the 2016 annual budget negotiations.

### EU Immigration

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Germany to discourage them from creating a "pull factor" for migrants and refugees to enter the European Union. [HL3243]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron),

the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sevenoaks (Mr Fallon), as well as other ministers and officials, have all recently discussed migration with their German counterparts. These discussions have covered all aspects of the migration crisis, including measures to reduce the flow of refugees and other migrants into the EU.

## EU Reform

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government by what criteria, following negotiations, they will assess whether the European Union has been reformed. [HL3276]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), has been clear on the four areas where we seek to address the concerns of the British public: sovereignty, economic governance, competitiveness and welfare and immigration. He has written to the President of the European Council to set out the changes that the UK wants to see. We will work together with other countries to discuss and agree reforms before holding a referendum to ensure that the British people have the final and decisive say on the UK's membership of the EU.

## European External Action Service

*Asked by Lord Grocott*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the current cost of the EU delegations and offices in third countries, and where those delegations and offices are located. [HL3255]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Overall figures on the cost of EU Delegations overseas for the 2014 financial year have been taken from the Draft General Budget of the EU for the Financial Year of 2016 and are:

	<i>Remuneration and allowances €</i>	<i>Other administrative expenditure €</i>	<i>TOTAL €</i>
Total Delegations	162.395.182	141.772.693	304.167.875

A full breakdown of the total cost has been extracted and is in the document attached. The figures listed are in Euros.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

EEAS Admin Expenditure [EEAS ADMIN EXP.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-03/HL3255>

## Fluoride: Drinking Water

*Asked by Earl Baldwin of Bewdley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers on fluoride in drinking water by Lord Prior of Brampton on 21 September (HL1940 and HL2178), what evidential weight they give to ecological analyses which compare health outcomes in a fluoridated area with those in an unfluoridated one. [HL3315]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Ecological studies are used for comparing public health outcomes in populations. This is particularly so where multiple populations can be included, there can be a proper account of other factors that might have affected the recorded levels of disease and where reasonable assurance that the ascertainment of disease or exposure to a factor under study has been the same for all observed populations.

As such, this study design is appropriate for monitoring health outcomes in fluoridated and non-fluoridated populations. As an example of the caution that should be adopted when observing differences between fluoridated and non-fluoridated populations, the authors of the 2014 Public Health England (PHE) health monitoring report, both in the report and in a recent summary in the scientific literature (Young et al. 2015 which is attached) stressed that, whilst lower levels of renal stones and bladder cancer were observed in fluoridated populations, the ecological design prohibits any conclusions being drawn about a protective role of water fluoridation for these conditions.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Young et al 2015 [ID3780640\_Young et al (2015) - Community water fluoridation and health outcomes in England.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-04/HL3315>

## Folic Acid

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the implications of research published by Obeid et al on preventable spina bifida and anencephaly in Europe for the development of a policy to reduce births affected by neural tube defects. [HL3187]

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to review the Teratology Society recommendation regarding mandating folic acid fortification in Europe. [HL3189]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** We have not formally reviewed the 2015 Obeid paper but officials are aware of its conclusions which are in line with information already considered by Ministers.

The recommendation in the Teratology Society in essence repeats current advice on folic acid supplements. There are no plans to review this advice.

### Football

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to promote walking football. [HL3439]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** We are investing in walking football via Sport England as part of the FA's new National Game Strategy to get more people playing football. Sport England is currently working closely with the FA to understand the growing market for walking football. In partnership with the FA, the Premier League and Football League Community Foundations are also getting people playing walking football.

### Forensic Science: Languages

*Asked by Lord Quirk*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, and if so in what specific ways, they are sponsoring or encouraging research in forensic linguistics with a view to extending its use in the criminal justice system and the immigration services. [HL3221]

**Lord Bates:** A forensic linguistic process, known as "language analysis", has been used by the Home Office for immigration purposes for over ten years. The capability is provided by two private suppliers, who were contracted following a competitive tender in 2014.

Language analysis is used to assist in identifying an individual's true place of origin where it is in doubt, and to deter individuals from making fraudulent asylum claims based on false claims of origin for actual or perceived benefit. It is just one of the tools employed to help confirm an individual's nationality.

### Free Movement of People

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the present arrangements for the free movement of persons throughout the European Union are appropriate, in the light of the current level of population movement. [HL3242]

**Lord Bates:** The Prime Minister clearly set out in his speech and his letter to the President of the European Council the issues we are seeking to tackle through the EU reform negotiations.

### Government Departments: Procurement

*Asked by Baroness Redfern*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether steps are being taken to amend European Union procurement

rules to ensure more United Kingdom companies' involvement in government projects. [HL3278]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The new EU Directive on Public Procurement was transposed in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, which came into effect earlier this year. The Regulations implement a range of reforms, including offering flexibility for contracting authorities to take into account relevant wider social and economic considerations, where consistent with best value for money, in Government procurement activities. We have also published new Cabinet Office guidance which will help steel suppliers compete on a level playing field with international suppliers for major government contracts.

### Government Departments: Telephone Services

*Asked by Lord Quirk*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Bates, Lord Faulks, and Lord Bridges of Headley on 21 September (HL2010, HL2011, HL2014), to what extent they are examining the potential use of Automatic Speaker Verification in respect of the detection of fraudulent telephone access to government services. [HL3220]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The government currently has no plans to introduce Automatic Speaker Verification in respect of the detection of fraudulent telephone access to government services.

### Grammar Schools: Admissions

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether children from low socioeconomic status backgrounds with lower 11-plus test scores are more or less likely to be offered grammar school places than children from higher socioeconomic status backgrounds; and what steps they are taking to achieve equality of opportunity in education. [HL3218]

**Lord Nash:** The Department does not collect data on the selection test scores of prospective applicants to grammar schools.

We are committed to ensuring that every child, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to fulfil their potential. The recent report by the Public Accounts Committee on 'Funding for disadvantaged pupils' stated that, since the introduction of the pupil premium, the attainment gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers has closed by 4.7 percentage points in primary schools and by 1.6 percentage points in secondary schools.

We continue to invest in our academies and free schools programme, which is already raising standards in areas serving some of our most disadvantaged young people.



We are also putting high expectations at the heart of our school system, with a rigorous new curriculum, world-class exams, and a new accountability system that rewards schools that encourage every child to achieve their best.

## House of Lords Composition

*Asked by Lord Grocott*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Lord Privy Seal on 26 October (HL2541), whether they will publish the latest figures on the number of members of each party in the House, and the ratio of government to opposition members, including all those peers whose introduction has been scheduled. [HL3121]

**Baroness Stowell of Beeston:** Including all those peers whose introduction or retirement has been advertised in *House of Lords Business*, and assuming no other changes to the membership of the House, as of 19 January 2016 there will be 249 members on the Conservative benches, 212 members on the Labour benches, and 112 members on the Liberal Democrat benches. This means that there will be 75 more peers on the benches of the largest two opposition parties than on the Government benches.

That will be 29 more peers than at the end of the 2009-10 session, when there were only 46 more peers on the benches of the largest two opposition parties than on the Government benches.

## House of Lords: Government Defeats

*Asked by Lord Dobbs*

To ask the Leader of the House what percentage of House of Lords divisions resulted in Government defeats (1) in the 2001–2005 Parliament; (2) in the 2005–2010 Parliament; (3) in the 2010–2015 Parliament; and (4) since the 2015 general election to date. [HL3174]

**Baroness Stowell of Beeston:** Statistics compiled by the Journal Office indicate that the percentage of House of Lords divisions resulting in Government defeats were as follows:

<i>Parliament</i>	<i>Percentage of defeats</i>
2001-05	38%
2005-10	32%
2010-15	21%
2015-	69%

## Housing Benefit: Social Rented Housing

*Asked by Baroness Quin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what evidence they have to support the statement in the 2012 impact assessment Housing Benefit: Under-occupation of

social housing that the introduction of the under-occupancy charge would have no impact on health and well-being. [HL3309]

**Lord Freud:** Following on from the 2012 impact assessment an independent two year evaluation was commissioned that looked at the effects of this policy.

The report is due to be published by the end of the year.

## Housing: Floods

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will bring together key stakeholders in flood risk information with representatives of estate agents and property search websites to ensure people buying a property are given up-front information about its flood risk. [HL3209]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Potential buyers wishing to know whether a property has been flooded in the past can check with the local authority or Environment Agency.

Information relevant to flood risk is already available. An interactive map, which can not be attached to this answer, showing UK flood zones can be found on the Environment Agency's website at:

[http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/wiybyController?x=357683.0&y=355134.0&scale=1&layerGroups=default&ep=map&textonly=off&lang=\\_e&topic=floodmap&utm\\_source=Poster&utm\\_medium=FloodRisk&utm\\_campaign=FloodMonth13#x=500293&y=181865&lg=1,2,10,&scale=6](http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/wiybyController?x=357683.0&y=355134.0&scale=1&layerGroups=default&ep=map&textonly=off&lang=_e&topic=floodmap&utm_source=Poster&utm_medium=FloodRisk&utm_campaign=FloodMonth13#x=500293&y=181865&lg=1,2,10,&scale=6).

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to encourage builders of new homes to give potential purchasers details of the flood risk affecting those properties at an early stage. [HL3210]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** DEFRA and the Environment Agency provide readily available information on flood risk that any prospective house buyer can access and the Law Society have agreed that flood risk will form part of solicitors' searches before final purchase. The Law Society have a good practice note (attached) on how this can be carried out, which can be found online at:

<http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/support-services/advice/practice-notes/flood-risk/>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Law Society Flood Risk Practice Note [HL3210 Baroness Jones - Law Society Flood Risk Practice Note.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-02/HL3210>

## Human Rights

*Asked by Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are their criteria for identifying countries of concern in the FCO annual report on human rights and democracy. [HL3367]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** In the 2014 Foreign and Commonwealth Office Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy, we continued to use the criteria published in the 2012 report to determine whether a country should feature as a country of concern:

- the gravity of the human rights situation in the country, including both the severity of particular abuses and the range of human rights affected;
- whether a deterioration or improvement in the human rights situation in the country would have a wider impact in the region;
- whether the human rights situation in the country has an impact on wider UK interests; and
- whether we are able to influence the human rights situation there.

## Human Rights Act 1998

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what response, if any, they have made to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture in the light of his comments that moves to replace the Human Rights Act 1998 would set a very bad example for the rest of the world. [HL3274]

**Lord Faulks:** The Government has made no formal response to these comments. The UK has a proud tradition of respect for human rights which long pre-dates the Human Rights Act 1998. Our Bill will protect fundamental human rights, but also prevent their abuse and restore some common sense to the system. The Government will fully consult on our proposals before introducing legislation and we will set out our proposals in due course.

## Human Trafficking: Mediterranean Sea

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people smugglers have been apprehended by United Kingdom or other European Union armed forces or law enforcement agencies operating in the Mediterranean area. [HL3244]

**Earl Howe:** As at 10 November 2015, the EU Naval Force Operation in the Mediterranean, Operation SOPHIA, has been involved in identifying 42 suspected migrant smugglers to the Italian authorities for further investigation. Outside of Operation SOPHIA, UK vessels involved in search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean over the period from May to October

2015, have also identified a further 35 suspected smugglers to the Italian authorities.

The Ministry of Defence does not hold information on the total number of suspected migrant smugglers apprehended by European law enforcement agencies in the Mediterranean this year.

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many vessels belonging to people smugglers have been apprehended or destroyed in the Mediterranean in 2015. [HL3245]

**Earl Howe:** Since July 2015, the EU Naval Force Operation in the Mediterranean, Operation SOPHIA, has disposed of around 40 migrant boats. Her Majesty's Government does not hold information on the total number of boats destroyed by other European actors operating in the Mediterranean. Figures are correct as at 10 November 2015.

## Immigration: Appeals

*Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Faulks on 2 November (HL2703), what duty they have, if any, to enable First Tier Tribunals to deal with asylum and immigration cases fairly and within a reasonable time. [HL3183]

**Lord Faulks:** The Lord Chancellor has responsibility for ensuring an effective and efficient system of tribunal administration. This duty encompasses the First-tier Tribunal. The Lord Chancellor must also uphold the continued independence of the judiciary and in doing so have regard to their need to have the support necessary to enable them to exercise their functions.

HM Courts & Tribunals Service has allocated additional court time in place between December 2015 and June 2016 to ensure current waiting times do not increase for the tribunal user.

## India: British Nationals Abroad

*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 6 November (HL2947), why they have decided not to raise the issue of the three British citizens who were killed during the Gujarat Massacre in 2002 with Prime Minister Modi during his visit to the UK. [HL3386]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** This case is ongoing in the Indian courts. The United Kingdom cannot interfere in another country's legal system, as we would not expect them to interfere in ours. The British Government has registered its interest in this case, and our officials will continue to press the relevant Indian authorities for the family's appeal to be heard swiftly and fairly.



## International Assistance

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the proportion of aid funding which is channelled to large international agencies compared to that channelled to local non-governmental organisations. [HL3162]

**Baroness Verma:** UK Official Development Assistance (ODA) channelled through non-governmental organisations is set out in the table below. DFID is currently conducting the Civil Society Partnership Review, which is considering future funding arrangements.

2014 data will be published on the DFID website as National Statistics on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015.

<i>Channel Code Description</i>	<i>2013 ODA (£ millions)</i>	<i>% of Total UK ODA</i>
NGO (where country base is undefined)	£150,895	1%
Internationally-based (non-UK) NGO*	£362,696	3%
UK-based NGO*	£662,307	6%
Developing country-based NGO	£178,313	2%

\*Many international and UK-based NGOs have significant local developing country footprints.

## Iraq: Iran

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of who was responsible for the recent heavy missile attack on Camp Liberty. [HL3165]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We strongly condemn the shameful attack against the civilian residents of Camp Liberty in Iraq on Thursday 29 October. Officials from our Embassy in Baghdad raised the attack with the Iraqi Prime Minister's Office on Friday 30 October and made clear the importance of an urgent and comprehensive investigation into the incident and ensuring that all those responsible are brought to justice.

It is not clear at this stage who carried out the attack. Iraqi militia, the al-Mukhtar Army, has claimed responsibility, but we are unable to verify this claim.

In all of our engagement with the Government of Iraq on this issue, including at Ministerial level and in our Statements, we have emphasised the importance of the Iraqi government doing everything possible to ensure the safety of the residents of Camp Liberty. We support UN calls for more to be done to protect the residents.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the recent attack on Camp Liberty, whether they have joined the United States and the UNHCR in condemning the attack, and calling for an independent

investigation and prosecution of those responsible, and for the government of Iraq to take additional security measures to protect those who remain in Camp Liberty. [HL3166]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We strongly condemn the shameful attack against the civilian residents of Camp Liberty in Iraq on Thursday 29 October. Officials from our Embassy in Baghdad raised the attack with the Iraqi Prime Minister's Office on Friday 30 October and made clear the importance of an urgent and comprehensive investigation into the incident and ensuring that all those responsible are brought to justice.

In all of our engagement with the Government of Iraq on this issue, including at Ministerial level and in our statements, we have emphasised the importance of the Iraqi government doing everything possible to ensure the safety of the residents of Camp Liberty. We support the UN calls for more to be done to protect the residents.

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the recent missile attacks on Camp Liberty in Iraq. [HL3192]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We strongly condemn the shameful attack against the civilian residents of Camp Liberty in Iraq on Thursday 29 October. Officials from our Embassy in Baghdad raised the attack with the Iraqi Prime Minister's Office on Friday 30 October and made clear the importance of an urgent and comprehensive investigation into the incident and ensuring that all those responsible are brought to justice.

It is not clear at this stage who carried out the attack. Iraqi militia, the al-Mukhtar Army, has claimed responsibility, but we are unable to verify this claim.

In all of our engagement with the Government of Iraq on this issue, including at Ministerial level and in our Statements, we have emphasised the importance of the Iraqi government doing everything possible to ensure the safety of the residents of Camp Liberty. We support UN calls for more to be done to protect the residents.

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Iraq to ensure that the residents of Camp Liberty are protected from attacks and receive supplies of food, fuel and medicine. [HL3193]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We strongly condemn the shameful attack against the civilian residents of Camp Liberty in Iraq on Thursday 29 October. Officials from our Embassy in Baghdad raised the attack with the Iraqi Prime Minister's Office on Friday 30 October and made clear the importance of an urgent and comprehensive investigation into the incident and ensuring that all those responsible are brought to justice.

In all of our engagement with the Government of Iraq on this issue, including at Ministerial level and in our

statements, we have emphasised the importance of the Iraqi government doing everything possible to ensure the safety and well being of the residents of Camp Liberty. We support the UN's calls for more to be done to protect the residents.

*Asked by **The Lord Bishop of St Albans***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking in co-operation with the UN and other allies to ensure that a long-term solution is found to protect the residents of Camp Liberty. [\[HL3194\]](#)

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We strongly condemn the shameful attack against the civilian residents of Camp Liberty in Iraq on Thursday 29 October. Officials from our Embassy in Baghdad raised the attack with the Iraqi Prime Minister's Office on Friday 30 October and made clear the importance of an urgent and comprehensive investigation into the incident and ensuring that all those responsible are brought to justice.

In all of our engagement with the Government of Iraq on this issue, including at Ministerial level and in our statements, we have emphasised the importance of the Iraqi government doing everything possible to ensure the safety of the residents of Camp Liberty. We support the UN's calls for more to be done to protect the residents.

In 2011 the Government of Iraq signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the UN Assistance Mission to Iraq which allowed the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to make assessments on applications made by the residents for relocation. The UNHCR assessment process is underway, and a number of residents have now been relocated to third countries.

### **Israel: Palestinians**

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations have been made to the government of Israel concerning their use of live ammunition for crowd control. [\[HL3195\]](#)

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Our Ambassador in Tel Aviv most recently raised our concerns over the use of force, including lethal force, on 4 November with Prime Minister Netanyahu's Envoy on the Peace Process, Isaac Molho. He also raised our concerns with the Israeli Commander of Government Activities in the Territories, General Mordechai on 26 October.

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the new Israel Defence Forces rules of engagement with Palestinian stone-throwers, and the Israeli sentencing policy towards those individuals. [\[HL3196\]](#)

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are aware of press reports of changes to Israel Defence Forces Rules of Engagement. We are also aware of changes to sentencing policy. Like all countries, Israel has a right to defend its

citizens from attack and to hold perpetrators of attacks to account. We nevertheless regularly raise with Israel concerns over the use of force, including lethal force, by Israeli security authorities. Our Ambassador in Tel Aviv did this most recently on 4 November with Prime Minister Netanyahu's Envoy on the Peace Process, Isaac Molho, stressing the need for proportionality and proper accountability.

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about the demolition of the homes of Palestinian suspects as an act of collective punishment and deterrence. [\[HL3199\]](#)

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We regularly raise the issue of demolitions with the Israeli government. Our Ambassador in Tel Aviv raised the issue most recently with the Israeli Commander of Government Activities in the Territories, General Mordechai, on 26 October, and the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director General on 28 October. Our Consul-General to Jerusalem also raised the issue of demolitions with the Mayor of Jerusalem on 28 October.

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with Israeli ministers over the prosecution of settlers for acts of violence against Palestinians. [\[HL3200\]](#)

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We regularly raise the issue of settler violence with the Israeli authorities. Our Ambassador in Tel Aviv most recently raised our concerns on 26 October with the Israeli Commander of Government Activities in the Territories, General Mordechai. He pressed for a swift resolution of the investigation into the attack that occurred in Duma in July, as well raising wider concerns around increasing settler violence, including during the olive harvest.

### **Legal Aid Scheme: Children**

*Asked by **Lord Falconer of Thoroton***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applications for exceptional case funding (non-inquests) have been made to the Legal Aid Agency on behalf of applicants aged under 18 each year since the scheme began in April 2013; and of those, how many were granted. [\[HL2802\]](#)

*Asked by **Lord Falconer of Thoroton***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applications for exceptional case funding (non-inquests) have been made to the Legal Aid Agency from applicants aged 18 to 24 each year since the scheme began in April 2013; and of those, how many were granted. [\[HL2803\]](#)

**Lord Faulks:** The purpose of the Exceptional Case Funding (ECF) scheme is to provide funding where it is legally needed. It does not provide a general power to fund cases which fall outside the scope of legal aid. Legal aid is a vital part of our justice system, but we cannot escape the continuing need to reduce the deficit. We still have a very generous system - last year we spent £1.6bn on legal aid, around a quarter of the department's expenditure. Every ECF application is carefully considered by the Legal Aid Agency on an individual basis

Volume of applications and subsequent grants for non-inquest ECF cases by age category and financial year

<i>Under 18</i>		
<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Received</i>	<i>Granted</i>
2013-14	53	1
2014-15	24	5
2015-16 <sup>1</sup>	12	2
<i>18-24</i>		
<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Received</i>	<i>Granted</i>
2013-14	81	-
2014-15	110	19
2015-16 <sup>1</sup>	22	9
<i>Unknown</i>		
<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Received</i>	<i>Granted</i>
2013-14	648	4
2014-15	61	2
2015-16 <sup>1</sup>	31	7

Note: Age data for Exceptional Case Funding was collected from October 2013 onwards, hence the larger volume of unknowns in 2013-14 compared to the other years.

<sup>1</sup> The latest available published data is up to June 2015 so figures for 2015-16 are for one quarter only.

## Legal Profession: Equality

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support women and ethnic minorities to reach senior positions in the legal sector. [HL3384]

**Lord Faulks:** The Government is keen to see a diverse legal profession. Regulation of the legal profession is independent of Government. The Legal Services Board (LSB) and Approved Regulators are responsible for setting the requirements for entry to the profession as well as for continued professional development. These bodies have a duty to promote competition in the provision of regulated legal services, and encourage an independent, strong, diverse and effective legal profession.

There are a number of initiatives being taken forward on education and training by the three largest frontline regulators for the legal profession, the Solicitors Regulation Authority, the Bar Standards Board and

CILEx Regulation, to widen opportunities for a more diverse pool of people to enter the profession through more flexible routes to qualification. These are published on each of the frontline regulators' website.

## Legislation: Wales

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government on how many occasions since the National Assembly for Wales acquired full legislative powers (1) the Welsh Government has sought permission under Minister of the Crown functions for proposals within Welsh bills, and (2) such permission was refused. [HL3153]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Secretary of State consent to amend Minister of the Crown functions has been sought in relation to seven of the Acts passed by the Assembly since 2011. The Government has refused such consent once, in relation to the Local Government Byelaws (Wales) Act 2012, having suggested an amendment to the drafting which would have enabled the UK Government to give consent but was rejected by the Welsh Government.

## Local Government Pension Scheme Advisory Board: Public Appointments

*Asked by Baroness Janke*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what process they followed in making appointments to the Local Government Pension Scheme Advisory Board. [HL3223]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Secretary of State is responsible for appointing members to the local government pension scheme's advisory board. No more than 12 members in total may be appointed, divided equally between members representing scheme members and scheme employers in England and Wales.

The list of appointments made by the Secretary of State is shown below. The appointments were made on the basis of nominations submitted by the Local Government Association on behalf of local authority employers and the three major local government trade unions. The 12 appointments shown below replaced the members of a shadow scheme advisory board established in July 2013.

### Local authority employer representatives

Councillor Roger Phillips (Herefordshire County Council representing non-local authority employers)

Emelda Nicholroy (Universities and Colleges Employers Association representing education employers).

Councillor Michael Adams (London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham representing London councils).

Councillor Keiran Quinn (Greater Manchester Pension Fund representing Metropolitan authorities)

Councillor Denise Le Gal (Surrey County Council representing English local authorities)

Councillor Mary Barnett (Torfaen Pension Fund representing Welsh local authorities)

#### **Scheme member representatives**

Jon Richards - UNISON

Chris Tansley – UNISON

Brian Strutton - GMB

Gary Warwick - GMB

Fiona Farmer - UNITE

Dick Banks - UNITE

### **Local Government: Devolution**

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what communications they have had with the Northern Ireland Executive about the establishment of City Deals in Northern Ireland. [[HL3320](#)]

**Lord Dunlop:** The Government communicates with the Northern Ireland Executive frequently on a wide range of issues.

The Economic Pact between the Executive and the Government was modelled on some of the approaches the Government takes with City Deals but many of the policies included in City Deals in Great Britain are devolved in Northern Ireland and are the responsibility of the Executive.

### **Maldives: Politics and Government**

*Asked by Lord German*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the implications for British tourists of the recent state of emergency declared by the President of the Maldives. [[HL3359](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Following the declaration of a State of Emergency, the Maldives government made clear that there would be no restrictions on tourist movements and that tourist resorts were unlikely to be significantly affected. Our travel advice was updated to reflect this and advised British nationals visiting the Maldives to take extra care and follow local advice. On 10 November the Maldivian government lifted the State of Emergency. Our travel advice has been updated accordingly.

*Asked by Lord German*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the current political situation in the Maldives. [[HL3360](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** As the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), said in his press statement on 4 November, the British Government is deeply concerned by recent developments in the

Maldives. We believe the State of Emergency declared on 4 November impinged on the basic human rights of the Maldivian people and further undermined confidence in the country's democracy.

On 10 November the Maldivian government lifted the State of Emergency. As Mr Swire said in his tweet on 10 November, we welcome the lifting of the State of Emergency and look forward to further positive progress in the Maldives.

### **Maternity Leave: Discrimination**

*Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the research on maternity discrimination, Pregnancy and Maternity – Related Discrimination and Disadvantage: First Findings, whether they will consider extending the time limit for bringing maternity discrimination claims before an employment tribunal from three to six months. [[HL3337](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The government will await the final report on pregnancy and maternity discrimination and carefully consider any recommendations from the Equality and Human Rights Commission before deciding on next steps.

### **Mental Patients**

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Prior of Brampton on 2 November (HL2863 and HL2866), and in the light of the fact that data about the detention of different groups of mental health patients under different segregated regimes, and the number of police call-outs to mental patient wards to deal with incidents involving different groups of mental health patients, are not collected centrally, whether they have any plans to change the way in which they collect data about patients in mental health wards. [[HL3373](#)]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Department of Health and Care Quality Commission (CQC) currently use a range of processes to monitor the quality of mental health services, including inspections, surveys, notification of the CQC by providers of certain events and analysis of national data collections. As part of this process the Health and Social Care Information Centre reviews the content and frequency of data collection through the Mental Health and Learning Disability Minimums Data Set.

### **Merseyside Police: Horses**

*Asked by Lord Fearn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government who took the decision to disband the mounted section connected to Merseyside Police. [[HL3249](#)]



**Lord Bates:** The deployment and use of police animals are operational decisions for chief constables which are rightly made by local forces.

## Natural Disasters

*Asked by Lord Crisp*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. [HL3202]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The UK adopted the Sendai Framework in March 2015. The UK has a range of robust mechanisms in place for dealing with disasters and reducing disaster risk. The National Focal Point for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Civil Contingencies Secretariat in the Cabinet Office, recently attended the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, the regional body responsible for tracking progress against the Sendai targets. Implementation of the Sendai Framework is at an early stage, but work is ongoing within the UK to further improve domestic disaster risk reduction, and sharing best practice and building capability overseas – including through peer review, highlighted in the Sendai Framework as a means to strengthen disaster risk governance. The UK volunteered to be the subject of the first international peer review in 2012, and UK experts have subsequently taken part in peer reviews in Bulgaria and Finland.

*Asked by Lord Crisp*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support low- and middle-income countries to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. [HL3203]

**Baroness Verma:** We remain committed to supporting the most vulnerable countries and communities to better withstand and recover from the impact of disasters. However, we are still assessing the full implications of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 for DFID programmes.

The Sendai Framework is one of many guides which we can draw on to help shape our approach to safeguarding development gains from the impact of disasters. DFID is already supporting developing countries to help them reduce risk and build resilience, through its support to multilaterals and through country programmes.

*Asked by Lord Crisp*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the potential contribution of British scientists and institutions to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. [HL3204]

**Baroness Verma:** Effective disaster risk reduction management is critical to sustainable development.

Science has a key role to play in helping us to better understand disaster risks and developing more robust

DRR approaches. It can help us to better predict and respond to a range of natural hazards such as floods and storms, droughts, extreme temperatures, health epidemics and pandemics.

The new framework will help encourage greater engagement from and with the scientific community in order to reduce disaster risk and build resilience. British scientists already play a significant role in helping the UK prepare for and respond to disasters. While we expect British scientists and institutions to play an important role, we are still assessing the full implications of the Sendai Framework.

## NHS Improvement

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what legislative changes they propose in order to bring together Monitor and the NHS Trust Development Authority within NHS Improvement. [HL3308]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** We are bringing together Monitor, the Trust Development Authority (TDA), and patient safety and improvement functions from across the health system, under one single leadership and operating model – known as NHS Improvement.

A number of changes to secondary legislation, covering directions and regulations to the TDA, will be required to support this work. Work is ongoing to bring forward a set of proposals which will be laid before the House in the new year.

## North Korea: International Criminal Court

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the call by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in North Korea for the Kim regime in North Korea to be referred to the International Criminal Court, and whether they intend to discuss that recommendation with each of the other members of the UN Security Council. [HL3168]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We remain concerned by the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). We have recently worked with the EU and Japan to co-author a UN resolution on the human rights situation in the DPRK which calls for accountability. We are now working to achieve strong support for this resolution.

We hold regular meetings with other UN Security Council member states to identify ways in which we can improve the DPRK's human rights record. Our most recent meeting was at the UN in New York during October. We will continue to engage with key partners and allies to ensure the need for accountability remains at the heart of the international community's work to improve the human rights situation in the DPRK.

## North Korea: Migrant Workers

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of North Korea about the comments by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in North Korea that each year more than 50,000 North Koreans are sent abroad to work in conditions that amount to slavery. [HL3167]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We fully support the work of the Special Rapporteur on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). On 29 October, we delivered a statement in the UN which welcomed his efforts to improve the lives of ordinary North Koreans while also urging the DPRK authorities to grant him immediate and unhindered access to their country. We will continue to deliver these messages.

The Special Rapporteur's comments on forced labour are deeply concerning and, if accurate, appear to provide further evidence of the DPRK's lack of respect for international norms. It is important that any country hosting North Korean workers respect their rights. We continue to press the DPRK to make tangible progress on improving its appalling human rights record, most recently in meetings in October between senior Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials and DPRK counterparts in London and Pyongyang.

## Northern Ireland Government

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Dunlop on 27 October (HL2879) concerning the 1998 Belfast Agreement, whether any change to the name of a town or city in Northern Ireland requires the majority support of both communities. [HL3293]

**Lord Dunlop:** I refer the Noble Lord to my previous answer of 29 October 2015 (HL2879). The Government remains fully committed to supporting the institutions and principles established under the 1998 Belfast Agreement.

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Dunlop on 27 October (HL2714) concerning activity under the 1998 Belfast Agreement, whether any representatives of the government of the Republic of Ireland were present at the most recent talks under Section 1 of the Belfast Agreement. [HL3294]

**Lord Dunlop:** I refer the Noble Lord to my previous answers on this subject. The involvement of the Irish Government is in accordance with the established three-stranded approach to Northern Ireland affairs and the 1998 Belfast Agreement.

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what process is in place to monitor the actions of the government of the Republic of Ireland relating to the 1998 Belfast Agreement. [HL3335]

**Lord Dunlop:** The Government remains in regular contact with the Irish Government relating to the Belfast Agreement in accordance with the established three-stranded approach.

## Orders and Regulations

*Asked by Lord Stone of Blackheath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many statutory instruments were made in the first five months of (1) the 2010–15 Parliament, and (2) this Parliament. [HL3085]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** For the period 18 May 2010 to 18 October 2010, 290 statutory instruments were made or laid in draft. For the period 18 May 2015 to 18 October 2015, 268 statutory instruments were made or laid in draft.

*Asked by Lord Grocott*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they define (1) a fatal, and (2) a non-fatal, motion, or amendment to a motion, relating to a statutory instrument. [HL3120]

**Baroness Stowell of Beeston:** The Companion to the Standing Orders distinguishes between amendments to approval motions whose effect is to withhold the agreement of the House to an affirmative instrument, and amendments or motions that do not prevent approval of the instrument (Companion to the Standing Orders, Para. 10.14). The terms "fatal" and "non-fatal" do not appear.

The amendments in the name of Baroness Meacher and Baroness Hollis of Heigham passed by the House on 26 October withheld the House's agreement to the Tax Credits (Income Thresholds and Determination of Rates) Regulations 2015.

## Pension Funds

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made in encouraging small pension funds in the United Kingdom to amalgamate or co-operate in order to be able to compete with larger international pension funds in the purchase of suitable assets. [HL3241]

**Baroness Altmann:** Automatic enrolment is driving scale in pension provision and the clear trend is towards larger schemes which are better able to take advantage of the economies of scale including better access to a wider range of investment vehicles.

The Government fully supports the concrete steps the pensions industry has taken to cooperate on investment strategies – for example, the Pensions Infrastructure



Platform (PIP) launched in February last year, and the London Collective Investment Vehicle (CIV) currently under development by a number of local authorities' pension schemes in London.

Moreover, the Government will also work with the Local Government Pension Scheme Administering Authorities more widely to ensure that they pool investments to reduce costs significantly, while maintaining overall investment performance.

Trustees and managers are ultimately responsible for making investment decisions in the best interests of scheme members, and the Government recognises the challenges of the current economic environment for scheme funding. The Pensions Regulator sets out on an annual basis its key messages on current market conditions and how trustees and employers can agree appropriate funding plans that protect members' benefits without undermining the sustainable growth of the employer.

Ministers continue to meet regularly with key stakeholders from the pensions industry to understand better the range of challenges facing schemes and employers and will consider whether there are further steps the Government could take.

### Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to tackle, through the education curriculum, the increasing level of hate crimes. [HL3219]

**Lord Nash:** All schools are required to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faith and beliefs. Our guidance published in November 2014 says that British values include accepting that different faiths or beliefs should be tolerated and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour. This guidance is attached and can be found online at: [www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/380595/SMSC\\_Guidance\\_Maintained\\_Schools.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/380595/SMSC_Guidance_Maintained_Schools.pdf)

All schools are required to promote community cohesion and teach a broad and balanced curriculum. The curriculum provides many opportunities to foster tolerance and understanding. As part of the History curriculum, pupils can learn about different cultures, and about how different groups have contributed to the development of Britain. The citizenship programme of study sets out a requirement for pupils to be taught about 'the diverse national, regional, religious, and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom and the need for mutual respect and understanding'. PSHE can teach young people about the rights and responsibilities of living in a diverse community and how to respect others.

All forms of bullying are unacceptable and all schools are required to have in place a behaviour policy with measures to tackle bullying. Schools are held to account by Ofsted and inspectors will look at records and analysis of bullying, discriminatory and prejudicial behaviour, either directly or indirectly, including racist, disability and homophobic bullying, use of derogatory language and racist incidents.

We have made it clear to schools that where bullying outside school is reported to school staff, it should be investigated and acted on. If the behaviour could be criminal or poses a serious threat to a member of the public, the police should always be informed.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

DfE\_Promoting\_British\_Values\_Advice  
[DfE\_Promoting\_British\_Values\_Advice.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-02/HL3219>

### Police Community Support Officers

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many police community support officers there were in each police force in England and Wales in each year since 2010. [HL2938]

**Lord Bates:** The attached table contains statistics on the number of full-time equivalent police community support officers in each police force area in England and Wales as at 31 March 2010 to 31 March 2015.

*Number of full-time equivalent<sup>1</sup> police community support officers by police force area, England and Wales, as at 31 March 2010 to 31 March 2015<sup>2</sup>*

	31-Mar-10	31-Mar-11	31-Mar-12	31-Mar-13	31-Mar-14	31-Mar-15
Avon & Somerset	430	416	365	356	334	331
Bedfordshire	116	125	112	94	96	105
Cambridgeshire	209	200	193	174	141	148
Cheshire	237	221	218	208	190	225
Cleveland	193	178	167	161	150	123
Cumbria	111	104	102	76	83	86

	<i>31-Mar-10</i>	<i>31-Mar-11</i>	<i>31-Mar-12</i>	<i>31-Mar-13</i>	<i>31-Mar-14</i>	<i>31-Mar-15</i>
Derbyshire	181	177	171	183	160	163
Devon & Cornwall	363	353	357	421	382	346
Dorset	164	164	153	140	154	163
Durham	175	174	173	171	152	157
Dyfed-Powys	83	80	97	143	150	147
Essex	445	404	380	331	298	262
Gloucestershire	148	139	132	138	118	128
Greater Manchester	842	837	818	793	789	804
Gwent	143	142	191	234	206	185
Hampshire	347	344	340	341	323	302
Hertfordshire	262	252	257	238	190	210
Humberside	317	309	290	298	294	273
Kent	387	364	333	297	345	352
Lancashire	428	386	411	368	301	331
Leicestershire	233	232	236	222	235	234
Lincolnshire	149	144	152	151	145	138
London, City of	52	44	38	39	12	11
Merseyside	468	440	426	378	316	353
Metropolitan Police	4,645	4,009	2,760	2,684	2,087	1,787
Norfolk	275	264	254	250	247	197
Northamptonshire	164	166	161	127	134	122
Northumbria	438	433	424	391	234	211
North Wales	157	159	219	262	267	243
North Yorkshire	198	182	186	173	185	196
Nottinghamshire	268	273	264	300	332	318
South Wales	335	304	308	430	477	411
South Yorkshire	328	311	290	335	334	314
Staffordshire	237	228	209	213	215	208
Suffolk	173	162	164	163	181	167
Surrey	224	229	228	210	153	123
Sussex	377	351	335	358	349	325
Thames Valley	500	506	508	483	485	459
Warwickshire	138	136	109	113	95	86
West Mercia	279	273	271	248	237	209
West Midlands	811	758	711	681	676	620
West Yorkshire	763	713	728	689	679	625
Wiltshire	126	133	152	140	132	129
England and Wales	16,918	15,820	14,393	14,205	13,066	12,331

1. This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been presented to the nearest whole number but are actually provided unrounded.

2. These figures are published in the 'Police Workforce, England and Wales' statistical releases: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-workforce-england-and-wales>.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

FTE police community support officers [Number of FTE police community support officers.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-10-22/HL2938>

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the future of the Police Community Support Officer role. [HL3442]

**Lord Bates:** Decisions as to how neighbourhood policing teams are resourced and deployed are operational matters for the relevant Chief Constable, in association with their Police and Crime Commissioner. We recognise the important role Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) play in keeping communities safe and have given PCSOs additional discretionary powers through the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

### Police: Biometrics

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 2 November (HL2849) on the review of retention of custody images by police forces, what are the specific operational and legal issues raised in the evidence-gathering stage, how they plan to address each issue, and what is the timescale for the completion of each of those actions. [HL3286]

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 2 November (HL2849) on the review of retention of custody images by police forces, with which specific stakeholders they have discussed that issue and whether each has submitted evidence. [HL3287]

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 2 November (HL2849) on the review of retention of custody images by police forces, whether they have carried out legal and risk assessments; if so, whether they will publish those assessments; and if not, why not. [HL3288]

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 2 November (HL2849) on the review of retention of custody images by police forces, when the review will be completed, and when the guidance will be published. [HL3289]

**Lord Bates:** The review is ongoing, and is anticipated to report before the Christmas recess. Specific stakeholders consulted as part of the review include the Biometrics Commissioner, the Information

Commissioner, the Surveillance Camera Commissioner, the National DNA Database Ethics Group, the National Police Chiefs Council, the College of Policing and local police forces. The report can be expected to address the operational and legal issues and risks, and set out plans for implementation.

### Police: Finance

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government on what date they first discovered that the funding formula for police forces in England and Wales was based on incorrect data. [HL3440]

**Lord Bates:** The Minister of State for Policing, Crime, Criminal Justice and Victims made a statement to the House on Monday 9 November on this issue. Ministers were informed of this issue on Friday 6 November.

### Population

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are their plans to deal with the increase in the United Kingdom population to 70 million within 12 years and 74.3 million by 2030, as projected by the Office for National Statistics, and what estimate they have made of the cost of those plans. [HL3292]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The recent 2015 Office for National Statistics projections predict the United Kingdom population to reach 70 million in 2027. This is consistent with their previous 2013 projections which also predicted the UK population would reach 70 million in 2027. The new projections forecast the population to increase to 71 million by 2030, as did the previous projections.

Population growth does not necessarily cause an equivalent increase in demand for all public services, because at different points in their lives people will use different services. For instance, population increases caused by people living longer than previously, might increase demand for health services but probably would not increase demand for classroom places.

However, as these increases are largely consistent with the previous population projections, they are well covered by existing plans and planning processes. Public services are provided local authorities and central departments. Local Government and Departmental budgets are set in advance through multi-year Spending Reviews. This allows the Government to make decisions on all areas of public spending in the context of projected demand and available resources while ensuring the public finances remain sustainable in the long term. Departments are responsible for deciding how this money is then allocated, subject to strict Treasury rules on the proper management of public funds. This allows money to flow to where it is most needed, given demographic pressures and other considerations.

The independent Office for Budget Responsibility produce 50-year forecasts of the sustainability of the public finances in the biannual Fiscal Sustainability Report. For instance, the most recent report highlighted pressures from growth in health spending, state pension costs, and the costs of long-term social care. In response to these pressures, the Government introduced reforms that will save £500 billion over the next 50 years.

### Prisoners' Release

*Asked by Lord Bradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) how many decisions to grant release on temporary licence were made, and (2) what type of licence was granted in each prison establishment, in each month since January 2013. [HL3128]

*Asked by Lord Bradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) how many people were granted release on temporary licence, and (2) what type of licence was granted in each prison establishment, in each month since January 2013. [HL3129]

*Asked by Lord Bradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many prisoners were granted leave on childcare resettlement licence in each month since January 2013. [HL3172]

*Asked by Lord Bradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people aged (1) 50–59, and (2) 60 and over, were granted release on temporary licence in each month since January 2013. [HL3173]

**Lord Faulks:** The Ministry of Justice collates data on incidences of release on temporary licence (ROTL) rather than on decisions to grant ROTL. A decision to grant ROTL can relate to a single incidence of release, or to more than one incidence of release where, for example, an offender is regularly working in the community on day release. Annual statistics on the numbers of individuals granted ROTL is published on the gov.uk website.

The attached tables provide the following information:

Table 1: The number of individuals released on temporary licence per quarter between January 2013 and June 2015 by prison;

Table 2: Incidences of release on temporary licence per month between January 2013 and June 2015 by prison and by type of licence;

Table 3: The number of individuals aged 50 to 59, and 60 and over released on temporary licence per quarter between January 2013 and June 2015.

The Ministry of Justice collates data relating to the number of individuals released on temporary licence on a quarterly basis: it would only be possible to provide monthly data at disproportionate cost.

Following changes to ROTL in 2013, there has been a 39% reduction in recorded instances of ROTL failure. This is the lowest failure rate since 2002.

ROTL can be an important tool to help rehabilitate prisoners. ROTL is not automatic, but is only granted following rigorous assessment and with public protection as a primary consideration. The Government supports prisoners using temporary release to take work, training and educational opportunities that cannot be provided in prison, as well as for maintaining ties with their families.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

incidences of ROTL per month - 1/2013 - 7/2015 [HL3128 - HL3129 - HL3172 - HL3173 - Table 2 - incidences of ROTL per month Jan 2013 - June 2015 by prison and typeL.xls]

individuals 50+ ROTL per quarter - 1/2013 - 7/2015 [HL3128 - HL3129 - HL3172 - HL3173 - Table 3 - individuals aged 50 + having ROTL per quarter Jan 2013 to June 2015.xls]

individuals on ROTL per quarter - 1/2013 - 7/2015 [HL3128 - HL3129 - HL3172 - HL3173 - Table 1 - individuals on ROTL per quarter Jan 2013 to June 2015 by prison.xls]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-10-29/HL3128>

### Prisoners: Repatriation

*Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government with which countries the UK is currently negotiating prisoner transfer agreements. [HL3326]

**Lord Faulks:** Revealing negotiations regarding prisoner transfer agreements can be counterproductive given their sensitivity. My Ministerial colleagues and I are actively engaging with a number of countries and remain determined to secure compulsory agreements wherever possible. Currently the UK has over 100 prisoner transfer agreements with other countries and territories.

### Private Rented Housing: Fees and Charges

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to prevent excessive letting fees being charged to private-sector tenants. [I] [HL3501]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government has acted to protect tenants against unfair and excessive letting agency fees by requiring agents to publish a full breakdown of all charges prominently in their offices and on their website. A fine of up to £5,000 can be levied against agents who fail to comply.

Transparency is the key to keeping fees low, giving tenants the necessary information to make informed decisions and compare prices and, therefore, creating effective competition that should force agents to keep fees fair.

The Government has also made it a legal requirement, since 1 October 2014, for letting and managing agents in England to belong to one of the three Government approved redress schemes, offering a clear route for landlords and tenants to pursue complaints and, therefore, driving up standards.

We will continue to monitor the impact of these new requirements.

### Railways: Land

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions are taking place between the Department for Transport and HM Treasury about the disposal of land owned by (1) Network Rail, and (2) London and Continental Railways. [HL3355]

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what process they are using to assess which parts of Network Rail and London and Continental Railways' land estate are suitable for disposal, and what conditions will be set to ensure that noise and vibration issues are minimised. [HL3356]

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, where they are working to enable housing developments on Network Rail's and London and Continental Railways' land estate, what conditions will be set to ensure that noise and vibration issues are minimised. [HL3357]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Summer Budget stated "the government will introduce a new approach to station redevelopment and commercial land sales on the rail network, building on the experience of regenerating land around Kings Cross Station and Stratford in East London – the government will establish a dedicated body to focus on pursuing opportunities to realise value from public land and property assets in the rail network to both maximise the benefit to local communities and reduce the burden of public debt". Discussions are taking place to develop an approach that maximises value for the taxpayer and supports the safe and efficient operation of the rail network.

The disposal of Network Rail's assets must be in accordance with its network licence, which is regulated by the Office of Rail and Road. London and Continental Railways' asset disposals are approved by the company's board and the Department for Transport.

Sale contracts for land will not impose conditions on the seller in relation to noise and vibration. Proximity to the railway and related issues such as noise and vibration are generally considered as part of the planning process, which is regulated by the relevant planning authority in accordance with environmental legislation.

### Refugees: Iraq

*Asked by Lord Green of Deddington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 22 October (HL2920), how many Iraqis have been granted refugee status in the United Kingdom in each year since 2010. [HL3176]

**Lord Bates:** The numbers of Iraqi nationals (main applicants and dependants) granted asylum or another form of protection in the UK, in each year since 2010 were as follows:

*Number of Iraqi nationals granted asylum or another form of protection in the UK (for main applicants and dependants), based on initial decisions<sup>1</sup>*

Year	Total grants <sup>2</sup>
2010	169
2011	113
2012	95
2013	109
2014	208

(1) Initial decisions do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same period and exclude the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.

(2) Total grants include grants of Asylum, Humanitarian Protection, Discretionary Leave, grants under family and private life rules, Leave Outside the Rules and UASC leave

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Number of Iraqi nationals [Number of Iraqi nationals granted asylum or another form of protection.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-02/HL3176>

### Right to Buy Scheme: Housing Associations

*Asked by Lord Patel of Bradford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in implementing the proposed voluntary agreement with housing associations regarding the extended right to buy, how they will safeguard the land interests of charities that have been acquired by charitable donation. [HL3186]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** 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 includes 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).



*Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 28 October (HL2728), whether they will set out the broad circumstances in which a housing association or Community Land Trust could exercise discretion in deciding whether to sell a property to a tenant. [HL3238]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government is currently engaging with the National Housing Federation and the housing association sector on implementing the Right to Buy Agreement. Further details will be announced in due course.

## Roads: Safety

*Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effectiveness of road safety awareness educational programmes in reducing accidents. [HL3346]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Road safety education includes a range of interventions including educational courses and publicity campaigns.

The Department funds the THINK! road safety publicity campaign. We evaluate the campaign to ensure it is effective, that we continually improve performance; and that we ultimately deliver value for money for the taxpayer.

Prior to each campaign we set communication objectives and key performance indicators. We measure progress against these by running surveys with our target audience before and immediately after the campaign. We have seen positive shifts in key performance indicators for the majority of our campaigns. All of our recent campaign evaluation reports are published on gov.uk <sup>[1]</sup>.

In the long run, positive changes in key performance indicators on campaigns such as speeding, drink driving and seatbelts have correlated with fewer drivers exceeding the speed limit, fewer accidents involving drink driving and higher seatbelt wearing rates; and ultimately to fewer road casualties.

Publicity campaigns are part of the solution to reduce road casualties and work best when used alongside enforcement and engineering interventions. Due to the multiple factors affecting casualties (weather, road conditions, traffic levels, the economy etc.) it is difficult to demonstrate a causal relationship with a specific intervention. However, in 2012 the department commissioned an independent agency to evaluate the impact drink drive campaigns have had on casualties. They used econometric modelling to estimate that over a 30 year period, drink drive communication campaigns have saved almost 2,000 lives and prevented over 10,000 serious injuries <sup>[2]</sup>.

In 2013, the Transport Research Laboratory published <sup>[3]</sup> a review and synthesis of evidence on the effectiveness

of pre-driver education and training for those under 17 years of age which was undertaken for the Coalition Government. The findings showed that very few interventions had been robustly evaluated and that the evidence base around pre-driver interventions was weak. The Government recently commissioned an evidence base review, to build on existing work, to help us to understand the effectiveness of a range of pre- and post-test behavioural and technological interventions for young drivers. The Government is currently also funding an evaluation of the effectiveness of speed awareness courses.

<sup>[1]</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/think-communication-activity>

<sup>[2]</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drink-drive-30-years-of-communication>

<sup>[3]</sup>

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/249282/novice-driver-research-findings.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/249282/novice-driver-research-findings.pdf)

## Salt

*Asked by The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to emerging evidence relating to the appropriate level of dietary sodium intake; what meetings Ministers have had with scientists and others about that issue; and what representations they have received regarding dietary sodium intake. [HL3213]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The evidence base relating to dietary sodium intake was extensively reviewed in the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition's (SACN) report 'Salt and Health', published in 2003. In reviewing the evidence, SACN noted that the greatest benefits were likely to be achieved by taking a population approach to reducing salt intakes rather than through individual targeted advice. SACN continues to monitor average salt intakes through a programme of dietary survey work.

New voluntary salt reduction targets have been developed for 76 specific food groups that contribute most to people's salt intakes and major retailers, manufacturers and caterers are working to meet these targets by December 2017.

SACN has also reviewed the evidence around the impact of low sodium intakes. It found no basis for changing the existing recommendation for a target reduction in average salt intake to 6 grammes per day for the adult population, equivalent to an average reduction of 2.4 grammes per day of sodium.

SACN's 'Salt and Health' report is attached and can be found at:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/sacn-salt-and-health-report](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sacn-salt-and-health-report)

Baroness Masham of Ilton has recently asked three questions about dietary sodium intake. Further representations have been received from the Salt Association. Ministers have not met with scientists and others about this issue.



The Answer includes the following attached material:

Salt and Health Report [SACN Salt and Health report 2003.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-02/HL3213>

## Saudi Arabia: Foreign Relations

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the current state of relations between the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia. [HL3273]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK and Saudi Arabia have a strong and broad relationship. We work closely on mutual security interests and also in areas as diverse as education, energy, defence, trade, culture and the challenges facing the Middle East. As the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), said during a press conference in Riyadh on 28 October, "the UK and Saudi Arabia have a long and deeply established relationship. We have worked together over many many years including difficult times as well as easier times".

## Schools: Musical Instruments

*Asked by Lord Berkeley of Knighton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to improve the availability of musical instruments and instrumental teachers in schools. [HL3201]

**Lord Nash:** Music education hubs are responsible for making sure that every child aged 5 to 18 in their local area has the opportunity to learn a musical instrument through whole-class ensemble teaching and that clear progression routes in music are available and affordable to all young people. Music education hubs must also provide an instrument loan service to support pupils from families with low incomes.

According to data published by Arts Council England (ACE), 583,783 pupils learnt to play an instrument at school through whole-class ensemble teaching in the academic year 2013/14, an increase of 52,361 from 2012/13.

## Schools: Playing Fields

*Asked by Lord Lexden*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the sale of the playing fields of over 100 schools since 2010 on the physical fitness of young people. [HL3185]

**Lord Nash:** The Government does not approve the sale of playing fields but assesses applications from schools and local authorities to dispose of them. A disposal can include a lease of the playing fields to a third-party

commercial organisation with the fields, following investment and improvement, continuing to be used by the school.

It is neither the government nor the Department for Education that instigate the disposal of playing fields. It is the local authorities, academies or schools that seek consent to convert these often surplus or un-used fields to enable them to invest in school sport or education. However, there is strict control in place which requires an assessment of the facilities available to pupils. The government will only give permission to dispose of school playing fields if it is clearly demonstrated that they are surplus to requirements and the sports and curriculum needs of the school and its neighbouring schools will continue to be met.

Since any approved disposal would not impact on the provision of the sports curriculum at the school/s, no follow up studies on the sale of playing fields has been undertaken.

## 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 29 October (HL2815) concerning Severn Crossings tolls, why the cost of collecting tolls is not made available by the concessionaire, and whether they will now require them to make that information available. [HL3291]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** There is no contractual requirement for the Severn Crossings concessionaire to provide this cost. The Government has no plans to require that information to be made available.

## Sexual Offences

*Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours*

To ask Her Majesty's Government on what basis the accumulation of evidence obtained during the polygraph test of a given sex offender meets the threshold test of the repeat of criminal actions warranting the furtherance of a custodial sentence. [HL3239]

**Lord Faulks:** The purpose of the polygraph is to check the compliance of high risk sexual offenders with their licence conditions and to monitor the risk they present to the public. It is also used to improve the way in which the offender is managed during release on licence.

An offender may be recalled if they fail to comply with the polygraph examination, attempt to 'trick' the test or if they disclose that they have failed to comply with their licence conditions.

The legislation for imposing the polygraph test on sexual offenders is enshrined in the Offender Management Act 2007. Section 30 of the Act specifically prohibits evidence of any matter mentioned in the polygraph being used in any proceedings against a released person for an offence in a criminal court.

## Smuggling: Northern Ireland

*Asked by Baroness Harris of Richmond*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the extent of cross-border smuggling between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, and how many prosecutions for such smuggling have been recorded in the past five years. [HL3177]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The government is committed to tackling the fraudulent evasion of duty. HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) records statistics for excise offences in Northern Ireland by regime; hydrocarbon oil, tobacco and alcohol. It does not separate out those involving smuggling between the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom.

By their very nature these offences can include cross border aspects and HMRC works closely with the Revenue Commissioners in the Republic of Ireland to disrupt criminal activity connected with these goods. This includes regular exchange of intelligence, joint operational activity and the gathering of evidence for use in criminal prosecutions.

## Social Mobility

*Asked by Baroness Manzoor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what definitions of social mobility are used by the new Social Mobility Commission, and whether they refer to changes in income. [HL3231]

**Lord Freud:** Provisions to reform the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission as the Social Mobility Commission are currently under consideration by Parliament as part of the Welfare Reform and Work Bill. Until these receive Royal Assent, the Commission will continue to operate under its existing statutory framework. Operating arrangements for the reformed Commission will be set in due course, subject to Royal Assent.

## Social Security Benefits

*Asked by Baroness Manzoor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) whether the proposed new, lower benefit cap has a gendered effect, and (2) whether any such effect would be mitigated by excluding certain child benefits from that cap. [HL3233]

**Lord Freud:** Her Majesty's Government set out its assessment of the impacts of the policies in the Welfare Reform and Work Bill on 20th July, a copy of which is attached.

Like other welfare benefits, child related benefits are taken into account when applying the cap. Removing them from the cap would effectively mean that there would be no upper limit on the amount of benefit that out of work households could receive.

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the impact on (1) the total number of households whose benefits would be capped under the new limits proposed in the Welfare Reform and Work Bill, (2) the number of children in households affected by the cap, and (3) the cost to the public purse, if (a) child benefit, and (b) child tax credits, were not included in the benefits cap. [HL3268]

**Lord Freud:** The Government set out its assessment of the impacts of the policies in the Welfare Reform and Work Bill on 20th July. These are available on the Parliament website.

## South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to set up a public inquiry into the actions of the South East Coast Ambulance NHS Trust in delaying its response to patients with life-threatening conditions who contacted the 111 service. [HL3303]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** We are advised that Monitor, the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts, is taking action with South East Coast Ambulance Service Foundation Trust regarding concerns about the project and the regulator is working with the Trust now to identify the negative impact this project could have had on patients. It is Monitor's function to undertake such investigations independently of the Department. Monitor and Departmental officials regularly discuss such issues on a routine basis.

As part of regulatory action, Monitor advises it has asked the Trust to carry out a detailed independent review of the impact the project had on patients. Monitor has asked the Trust to do this with the help of an external expert, who the regulator will select. The full details of what the review will look at and how long it will take are being worked on by the trust and Monitor, including consideration of publication of the review findings.

Monitor sets the governance and operational standards, or 'bar', that all NHS foundation trusts must meet to be eligible for the NHS provider licence that it issues. The regulator monitors the continuing performance of licensed providers to make sure the required standards are being maintained and if it sees signs that an NHS foundation trust may slip below the bar, Monitor can step in to help the trust avoid more serious problems and, if necessary, take formal steps to make sure problems are fixed.

Monitor advised it has also added a condition to the Trust's licence so that, if sufficient progress is not made, further action could be taken. This includes changing the leadership team at the trust, if necessary.

In addition, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) advises the Trust is scheduled for a comprehensive inspection in 2016.

NHS England has also undertaken an external investigation of the project and the report of the investigation does not identify any deaths occurring as a result of this project. The report was published by NHS England on 5 November 2015 and is attached.

As such, the Government therefore has no plans at this stage to set up a public inquiry.

The Government is committed to driving up the quality of investigations in the National Health Service in order to reduce the need for expensive and lengthy public inquiries in the future. In July the Secretary of State announced the Government's decision to establish a new independent patient safety investigation service to be launched in April 2016. The new body will offer support and guidance to health and care provider organisations on investigations into serious patient safety incidents, and carry out certain investigations itself.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

South East Coast Ambulance 111 Calls Report  
[ID3780318\_151105 NHSE External Investigation re SECAmb  
111 Call Management Partition Red 3 Green 5.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-04/HL3303>

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of deaths that have occurred as a result of the actions of the South East Coast Ambulance NHS Trust in delaying its response to patients with life-threatening conditions who contacted the 111 service. [HL3304]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** We are advised that Monitor, the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts, is taking action with South East Coast Ambulance Service Foundation Trust regarding concerns about the project and the regulator is working with the Trust now to identify the negative impact this project could have had on patients. It is Monitor's function to undertake such investigations independently of the Department. Monitor and Departmental officials regularly discuss such issues on a routine basis.

As part of regulatory action, Monitor advises it has asked the Trust to carry out a detailed independent review of the impact the project had on patients. Monitor has asked the Trust to do this with the help of an external expert, who the regulator will select. The full details of what the review will look at and how long it will take are being worked on by the trust and Monitor, including consideration of publication of the review findings.

Monitor sets the governance and operational standards, or 'bar', that all NHS foundation trusts must meet to be eligible for the NHS provider licence that it issues. The regulator monitors the continuing performance of licensed providers to make sure the required standards are being maintained and if it sees signs that an NHS foundation trust may slip below the bar, Monitor can step in to help

the trust avoid more serious problems and, if necessary, take formal steps to make sure problems are fixed.

Monitor advised it has also added a condition to the Trust's licence so that, if sufficient progress is not made, further action could be taken. This includes changing the leadership team at the trust, if necessary.

In addition, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) advises the Trust is scheduled for a comprehensive inspection in 2016.

NHS England has also undertaken an external investigation of the project and the report of the investigation does not identify any deaths occurring as a result of this project. The report was published by NHS England on 5 November 2015 and is attached.

As such, the Government therefore has no plans at this stage to set up a public inquiry.

The Government is committed to driving up the quality of investigations in the National Health Service in order to reduce the need for expensive and lengthy public inquiries in the future. In July the Secretary of State announced the Government's decision to establish a new independent patient safety investigation service to be launched in April 2016. The new body will offer support and guidance to health and care provider organisations on investigations into serious patient safety incidents, and carry out certain investigations itself.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

South East Coast Ambulance 111 Calls [ID3780318\_151105  
NHSE External Investigation re SECAmb 111 Call Management  
Partition Red 3 Green 5.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-04/HL3304>

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they will ensure that the Board of the South East Coast Ambulance NHS Trust is held to account for its decision to delay its response to patients with life-threatening conditions who contacted the 111 service. [HL3305]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** We are advised that Monitor, the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts, is taking action with South East Coast Ambulance Service Foundation Trust regarding concerns about the project and the regulator is working with the Trust now to identify the negative impact this project could have had on patients. It is Monitor's function to undertake such investigations independently of the Department. Monitor and Departmental officials regularly discuss such issues on a routine basis.

As part of regulatory action, Monitor advises it has asked the Trust to carry out a detailed independent review of the impact the project had on patients. Monitor has asked the Trust to do this with the help of an external expert, who the regulator will select. The full details of what the review will look at and how long it will take are

being worked on by the trust and Monitor, including consideration of publication of the review findings.

Monitor sets the governance and operational standards, or 'bar', that all NHS foundation trusts must meet to be eligible for the NHS provider licence that it issues. The regulator monitors the continuing performance of licensed providers to make sure the required standards are being maintained and if it sees signs that an NHS foundation trust may slip below the bar, Monitor can step in to help the trust avoid more serious problems and, if necessary, take formal steps to make sure problems are fixed.

Monitor advised it has also added a condition to the Trust's licence so that, if sufficient progress is not made, further action could be taken. This includes changing the leadership team at the trust, if necessary.

In addition, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) advises the Trust is scheduled for a comprehensive inspection in 2016.

NHS England has also undertaken an external investigation of the project and the report of the investigation does not identify any deaths occurring as a result of this project. The report was published by NHS England on 5 November 2015 and is attached.

As such, the Government therefore has no plans at this stage to set up a public inquiry.

The Government is committed to driving up the quality of investigations in the National Health Service in order to reduce the need for expensive and lengthy public inquiries in the future. In July the Secretary of State announced the Government's decision to establish a new independent patient safety investigation service to be launched in April 2016. The new body will offer support and guidance to health and care provider organisations on investigations into serious patient safety incidents, and carry out certain investigations itself.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

South East Coast Ambulance 111 Calls [ID3780318\_151105  
NHSE External Investigation re SECAmb 111 Call Management  
Partition Red 3 Green 5.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-04/HL3305>

## South Sudan: Administration of Justice

*Asked by The Earl of Sandwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support the implementation of transitional justice in South Sudan following the recent publication of the African Union Commission of Inquiry report on South Sudan. [HL3377]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We welcome the publication of the Commission of Inquiry report and are actively encouraging the African Union to establish the Hybrid Court as soon as possible. In October, the UN Security Council, with UK support, amended the mandate of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) to be able

to provide technical assistance to set up both the Hybrid Court and also the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing.

## Spina Bifida

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the lifetime direct medical costs associated with spina bifida, compared to births without spina bifida. [HL3188]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Department has not made an assessment of the lifetime direct medical costs associated with spina bifida, compared to births without spina bifida.

We are however aware of research from 2011 in the European Journal of Pediatrics which shows the costs to be significant. A copy is attached and can be found at:

[http://www.researchgate.net/publication/51148532\\_Economic\\_burden\\_of\\_neural\\_tube\\_defects\\_and\\_impact\\_of\\_prevention\\_with\\_folic\\_acid\\_A\\_literature\\_review](http://www.researchgate.net/publication/51148532_Economic_burden_of_neural_tube_defects_and_impact_of_prevention_with_folic_acid_A_literature_review)

The Answer includes the following attached material:

European Journal of Pediatrics [European Journal of Pediatrics.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-02/HL3188>

## Stem Cells

*Asked by Lord Avebury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made in implementing the recommendations of the 2014 report of the UK Stem Cell Strategy Oversight Committee on the future of unrelated donor stem cell transplantation in the United Kingdom. [HL3222]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government continues to take forward work to deliver the recommendations in the 2014 report. We remain committed to improving stem cell transplantation services and doing all we can to help those in need of a transplant to find a suitable donor.

Since 2011, the Department has provided its delivery partners, NHS Blood and Transplant and the Anthony Nolan, a total of £16 million in additional, new funding to improve stem cell transplantation services in the United Kingdom. A further £3 million investment was announced in March 2015.

This funding has led to a tangible improvement in the availability of stem cells in the UK and the achievements include:

- More UK patients received a stem cell transplant in 2014 than ever before;
- Over 60% of black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) patients are now able to find a well matched donor compared to only 40% in 2010;



- A single unified bone marrow donor registry has been created streamlining the provision of stem cells and reducing the time to provide cells from adult donors;
- The proportion of patients receiving cord blood from UK donors has significantly increased; and
- An increase in UK patients receiving a transplant from 802 in 2010/11 to 1,060 in 2013/14. The increased use of UK-sourced stem cells has meant that more donors than ever are available to donate leading to a significant cost saving by reducing the need to import stem cells.

### STEM Subjects: Graduates

*Asked by Lord Wills*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics graduates who were not in education or employment one year after graduation, in each of the last five years. [HL3017]

**Baroness Evans of Bowes Park:** The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) collects and publishes statistics on the destinations of leavers from UK Higher Education Institutions six months after graduation. The information requested is provided in the table.

UK Domiciled full-time first degree leavers from Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Subjects (STEM)<sup>[1]</sup> not in employment or further study 6 months after graduation<sup>[2][3][4]</sup>

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12 <sup>[5]</sup>	2012/13	2013/14
Percentage not in employment or further study	8.9%	8.7%	8.4%	7.2%	6.2%
Base Population	81,290	85,595	87,910	95,390	101,465

[1] STEM subjects are defined by HESA as Subject Groups A to K under the JACS3 classification. Further information can be located at this link <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/component/content/article?id=1787>.

[2] Figures are taken from Supplementary Table SE1 of HESA's Performance Indicators (<https://hesa.ac.uk/pis/emp>)

[3] Statistics are expressed as a percentage of UK domiciled graduates who were working, studying or seeking work.

[4] In this table 0, 1, 2 are rounded to 0. All other numbers are rounded up or down to the nearest 5.

[5] Due to changes on the DLHE questionnaire in 2011/12 and hence changes to the derivation of the activity categories, the employment indicator for 2011/12 onwards is not strictly comparable with the indicator prior to 2011/12.

### Strategic Defence and Security Review

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect the Strategic Defence and Security Review to be (1) completed, and (2) published. [HL3272]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** Work on the Strategic Defence and Security Review is progressing well and we

expect it to be completed and published by the end of the year.

### Syria: Reconstruction

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they support the rebuilding of the town of Kobane in Syria; and if so by what means they envisage this being brought about, and whether they will ask the government of Turkey to allow full access for materials and experts. [HL3267]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK has been at the forefront of the response to the crisis in Syria and the region and has pledged over £1.1 billion to date, our largest ever response to a single humanitarian crisis.

The majority of UK assistance to Syria is humanitarian. UK aid, delivered by UN and NGO partners, is guided by humanitarian principles and therefore prioritises the most vulnerable people across Syria based on their needs.

We continue to encourage the Government of Turkey to facilitate delivery of cross-border humanitarian assistance and reconstruction materials into Syria. We also advocate for the full reopening of border crossings, and we continue to call on all sides of the conflict to respect International Law and protect civilians.

With respect to Kobane specifically, as people return, key priorities are to ensure that habitable areas and farmland are de-mined to make them safe for return as well as ensuring that residents are educated in mine risk awareness.

### Tunisia: Terrorism

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they last reviewed the security situation in Tunisia in respect of Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice. [HL3275]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We keep the security situation in Tunisia under constant review, and have been working closely with the Tunisian authorities to improve their capacity to deter and respond to the threats they face.

### Turkey: Detainees

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Turkey about the release of mayors, party officials, lawyers and journalists who have been arrested but not convicted; and what responses they have received. [HL3265]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK continues to raise human rights issues at the highest levels, including the detention of journalists in Turkey in recent months. We strongly encourage Turkey to continue to work towards the full protection of fundamental rights,

especially in the areas of minority rights and freedom of expression.

### Turkey: Election Observers

*Asked by Lord Kilclooney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they participated in the election observer presences at the recent elections in Turkey; and whether OSCE or Council of Europe observer delegations were also present at those elections. [HL3331]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government deployed 2 Long Term Observers to join 18 other Long Term Observers in the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Limited Election Observation Mission for the early parliamentary elections in Turkey on 1 November 2015.

Delegations from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE also observed the elections in Turkey on 1 November.

### Turkey: Kurds

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have asked, or will ask, the government of Turkey to hold an independent inquiry into the closures and curfews imposed on the districts of Cizre and Sur by the security forces in September; whether they plan to ask the government to ensure that full compensation is paid for civilians killed or wounded, and that responsibility be established for deaths and injuries; and if not, why not. [HL3266]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We welcome the visit on 15-16 October of Turkey's national human rights body to Cizre and Sirnak to conduct analysis and research on the recent events there. We continue to monitor the human rights situation in Turkey closely and raise concerns regularly with the Turkish authorities. At the same time, we recognise Turkey has a right to act proportionately in response to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) violence. PKK attacks must stop and peace talks resume soon, in the interests of Turkey and the wider region. The UK stands ready to help in any way it can.

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to remind the government of Turkey of its undertakings contained in the Dolmabahçe Declaration of 27 February. [HL3365]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We welcomed previous steps taken by the Turkish government to take forward the Kurdish peace process, including through discussions with Abdullah Öcalan and his representatives. We understand that the Government of Turkey did not commit itself to specific undertakings following the talks

at the Dolmabahçe Palace in February. We have been very clear that the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) violence must end and that the peace process should be resumed, in the interests of Turkey and the wider region. The UK stands ready to help in any way it can.

### UK Trade with EU

*Asked by Lord Hoyle*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the United Kingdom's three largest (1) exports to, and (2) imports from, the European Union. [HL3100]

**Lord Maude of Horsham:** The three largest UK exports to, and imports from, the European Union in 2014 are set out in the table below. These data are on a balance of payments basis.

Three largest UK exports to the European Union in 2014 Value (£ billion) Finished manufactures (SITC 7+8) 63 Semi-manufactures (SITC 5+6) 43 Fuels (SITC 3) 27 Three largest UK imports from the European Union in 2014 Value (£ billion) Finished manufactures (SITC 7+8) 114 Semi-manufactures (SITC 5+6) 66 Food, beverages and tobacco (SITC 0+1) 27 Source: ONS UK Trade August 2015 release Note: the assessment of the top three was made across goods and services, but services categories do not rank in the top three

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the deficit in trade with the EU in 2014 in (1) goods, and (2) overall in goods and services; and how that deficit is financed. [HL3451]

**Lord Maude of Horsham:** The UK's trade in goods deficit with the EU was £78.9bn in 2014. The overall trade in goods and services deficit with the EU was £61.7bn.

The UK's total trade deficit is financed by a net inflow of investment in the financial account, for which data is not available on a geographical basis. The UK's financial account surplus was £89.4bn in 2014.

Source: ONS Pink Book 2015

### Unemployment

*Asked by Baroness Manzoor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are their definitions of worklessness and workless family, and how those definitions were decided. [HL3232]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Attachment from ONS [HL3232.pdf Attachment.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-03/HL3232>

## Unmanned Air Vehicles

*Asked by Lord Fearn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what control there is over the flight of drones in the United Kingdom. [HL3248]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Article 166 of the UK Air Navigation order (ANO) 2009 requires operators of RPAS to maintain direct, unaided visual contact with the aircraft sufficient to monitor its flight path in relation to other aircraft, persons, vehicles, vessels and structures for the purposes of avoiding collisions. It also states that an operator may only fly the aircraft if they are reasonably satisfied that the flight can safely be made.

In addition, Article 138 of the ANO 2009, which also applies to RPAS, states that "a person must not recklessly or negligently cause or permit an aircraft to endanger any person or property." This includes persons within another aircraft, and of course the aircraft that those persons are within. The government expects users to understand and comply with this type of regulation which has been made in place for many years, albeit covering the flight of the more traditional model aircraft.

Safety and Security must always be the overriding priority and both commercial and leisure operators must operate drones responsibly and within the rules. I am able to confirm that with regards to the policing and monitoring of such vehicles the Police has provided initial guidance to constabularies across the UK.

Operators of RPAS that collect personal data must comply with the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) unless a relevant exemption applies. The requirements of the DPA are regulated by the independent Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

## USA: Electronic Surveillance

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have discussed with the government of the United States the collection of UK citizens' data through the PRISM programme, and if so, with what result. [HL3333]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** It is the long-standing policy of successive Governments not to comment in detail on matters of intelligence. This includes discussions with allies and liaison agencies.

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the extent to which UK citizens' data have been collected by the government of the United States through the PRISM programme, and whether they have taken steps to prevent such data being collected in the future. [HL3334]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** It is the long-standing policy of successive Governments not to comment in

detail on matters of intelligence. This includes discussions with allies and liaison agencies.

## Visas: Overseas Students

*Asked by Lord Teverson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of halving the maximum visa refusal rate on the Highly Trusted Sponsor status given to higher education institutions in the UK. [HL3406]

*Asked by Lord Teverson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are considering making further reductions in the maximum university visa refusal rate in relation to Highly Trusted Sponsor status. [HL3407]

**Lord Bates:** Highly Trusted Sponsor status was replaced with Tier 4 Sponsor status in April 2015.

The maximum permitted visa refusal rate for Tier 4 sponsors was reduced from 20% to 10% in November 2014 to make sure that the colleges and universities who directly benefit from student migration help prevent abuse, and to ensure that institutions are only offering places to genuine students with an appropriate level of English.

Since the new rate was introduced, visa applications from students wishing to study at the UK's world-class universities have continued to rise. Latest figures show that visa applications from university students are now 17 per cent higher than they were in 2010, and visa applications to Russell Group universities are 33 per cent higher than in 2010.

We will continue to keep the visa refusal rate under review but we have no imminent plans to change the maximum permitted rate.

## Welfare Tax Credits

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the median amount of (1) child benefit, and (2) child tax credit, received by working families with children whose family earnings are at least £23,000 in Greater London, or £20,000 outside Greater London. [HL3269]

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of working families earning at least £23,000 in Greater London, or at least £20,000 outside Greater London, receive (1) child benefit, and (2) child tax credit. [HL3270]

*Asked by **Baroness Lister of Burtersett***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of tax credit recipients in paid work have incomes above the income tax threshold. [HL3271]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The government is committed to achieving a higher wage, lower tax, lower welfare economy. That means more emphasis on support to working families on low incomes through reducing tax and increasing wages, than on topping up low wages through tax credits.

The Chancellor is listening to concerns raised by colleagues and will announce in his Autumn Statement how he plans to achieve the same goal of reforming tax credits and saving the money we need to secure our economy, while at the same time helping in the transition.

HM Revenue & Customs publish statistics about individuals and households claiming tax credits and child benefits, which are available on the gov.uk website.

### **West Bank**

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Israel concerning the case for ensuring accountability for violence both by Israeli settlers and by the Israel Defence Forces as a means to restore calm in the West Bank. [HL3198]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We regularly raise the issue of settler violence and the need for accountability with the Israeli authorities. Our Ambassador in Tel Aviv

most recently raised our concerns over the use of force, including lethal force, on 4 November with Prime Minister Netanyahu's Envoy on the Peace Process, Isaac Molho, stressing the need for proportionality and proper accountability. Our Ambassador also raised this issue with the Israeli Commander of Government Activities in the Territories, General Mordechai, on 26 October, and the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director General on 28 October.

### **West Bank: Arson**

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made in bringing to justice those responsible for the arson attack on the Dawabsheh family in Duma. [HL3197]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We understand that the Israeli authorities believe they know the group that was involved, but unfortunately, at the moment, they do not have the evidence needed to bring individual suspects to trial. On 3 November, officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv met the Israeli Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the Deputy Attorney General and received assurances that the investigation into the arson attack on the Dawabsheh family is continuing. Our Embassy will continue to request updates from the Ministry of Justice on this case and other cases of settler violence.



## Index to Statements and Answers

<b>Written Statements.....</b>	<b>3</b>	Cybercrime .....	14
Devolution .....	3	Defamation: Northern Ireland.....	14
European Councils.....	3	Demonstrations: Students .....	14
Hazardous and Noxious Substances (Opt-in Position).....	5	Egypt: Human Rights .....	14
Justice and Home Affairs Council.....	5	Electoral Register: Young People.....	14
Machinery of Government .....	6	Electronic Commerce: VAT .....	15
Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe .....	6	Electronic Surveillance: USA.....	15
Syria: Conflict, Stability and Security Fund.....	6	Employment: Young People.....	15
<b>Written Answers.....</b>	<b>8</b>	Empty Property: Greater London .....	16
Academies .....	8	English Votes for English Laws .....	16
Academies: Equality.....	8	Enterprise Zones: Northern Ireland .....	16
Academies: Finance.....	8	Eritrea: Human Rights .....	16
Airbus SAS.....	8	EU Budget: Contributions .....	16
Armed Forces: Credit Unions.....	8	EU Immigration.....	16
Asylum: Finance.....	8	EU Reform.....	17
Azerbaijan: Election Observers .....	9	European External Action Service.....	17
Balkans: Immigration .....	9	Fluoride: Drinking Water .....	17
Bosnia and Herzegovina: Immigration.....	9	Folic Acid .....	17
Bovine Tuberculosis .....	9	Football.....	18
Broadband .....	10	Forensic Science: Languages.....	18
Broadband: Small Businesses.....	10	Free Movement of People.....	18
Burma: Human Rights .....	10	Government Departments: Procurement .....	18
Burma: Rohingya.....	10	Government Departments: Telephone Services .....	18
Cancer: Diagnosis.....	11	Grammar Schools: Admissions .....	18
Care Quality Commission: Fees and Charges .....	11	House of Lords Composition.....	19
Castes: Discrimination.....	12	House of Lords: Government Defeats .....	19
Cetaceans: Faroe Islands .....	12	Housing Benefit: Social Rented Housing .....	19
Charities: Finance.....	12	Housing: Floods.....	19
Cole Commission on Exports .....	12	Human Rights .....	20
Common Agricultural Policy .....	12	Human Rights Act 1998 .....	20
Congenital Abnormalities.....	12	Human Trafficking: Mediterranean Sea .....	20
Council Tax Reduction Schemes.....	13	Immigration: Appeals .....	20
Council Tax: Unpaid Taxes.....	13	India: British Nationals Abroad.....	20
Crime: Older People .....	13	International Assistance.....	21
		Iraq: Iran .....	21
		Israel: Palestinians .....	22

## Index to Statements and Answers

Legal Aid Scheme: Children .....	22	Smuggling: Northern Ireland .....	34
Legal Profession: Equality .....	23	Social Mobility .....	34
Legislation: Wales .....	23	Social Security Benefits.....	34
Local Government Pension Scheme Advisory Board: Public Appointments .....	23	South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust.....	34
Local Government: Devolution .....	24	South Sudan: Administration of Justice .....	36
Maldives: Politics and Government .....	24	Spina Bifida .....	36
Maternity Leave: Discrimination.....	24	Stem Cells.....	36
Mental Patients .....	24	STEM Subjects: Graduates.....	37
Merseyside Police: Horses .....	24	Strategic Defence and Security Review.....	37
Natural Disasters .....	25	Syria: Reconstruction .....	37
NHS Improvement.....	25	Tunisia: Terrorism .....	37
North Korea: International Criminal Court .....	25	Turkey: Detainees.....	37
North Korea: Migrant Workers .....	26	Turkey: Election Observers .....	38
Northern Ireland Government .....	26	Turkey: Kurds.....	38
Orders and Regulations .....	26	UK Trade with EU.....	38
Pension Funds.....	26	Unemployment .....	38
Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education .....	27	Unmanned Air Vehicles .....	39
Police Community Support Officers .....	27	USA: Electronic Surveillance.....	39
Police: Biometrics .....	29	Visas: Overseas Students.....	39
Police: Finance .....	29	Welfare Tax Credits.....	39
Population.....	29	West Bank.....	40
Prisoners' Release .....	30	West Bank: Arson.....	40
Prisoners: Repatriation .....	30		
Private Rented Housing: Fees and Charges.....	30		
Railways: Land.....	31		
Refugees: Iraq.....	31		
Right to Buy Scheme: Housing Associations.....	31		
Roads: Safety.....	32		
Salt.....	32		
Saudi Arabia: Foreign Relations .....	33		
Schools: Musical Instruments.....	33		
Schools: Playing Fields .....	33		
Severn River Crossing.....	33		
Sexual Offences.....	33		