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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
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WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

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[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/>

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

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

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Written Statements

Monday, 18 January 2016

Ukraine: Update

[[HLWS463](#)]

Earl Howe: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Michael Fallon) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I have today laid before Parliament a Ministry of Defence Departmental Minute describing a further gifting package which the UK intends to make to the Government of Ukraine.

As I stated in my Written Ministerial Statement of 19 November (Official Report: column 21WS), the Ukraine

Armed Forces (UAF) face a chronic shortage of basic equipment.

This gift meets a specific Ukrainian request for assistance in alleviating medical casualties, often severely wounded. The UAF urgently need individual first aid kits and have continued to request them from allies. We have previously gifted first aid kits on several occasions in 2015.

The Departmental Minute describes a gifting package to the Ukrainian Armed Forces which is vitally needed and which will provide immediate benefit. The gift comprises 3,500 individual first aid kits (IFAKs). The total value of the gift is £478,800. Transport will be by military aircraft transfer, costing some £35,000.

Subject to completion of the Departmental Minute process, delivery is expected to be undertaken in April in sufficient time for the UK's training courses for 2016-17.

Written Answers

Monday, 18 January 2016

Apprentices: Taxation

Asked by **Lord Taylor of Warwick**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the likely impact of the apprenticeship levy on wage growth over the next five years. [HL4567]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The OBR forecasts that wages will grow over the next few years, though at a slightly lower rate than would have been the case had the apprenticeship levy not been introduced.

However, we know that apprenticeships have long-run productivity and wage benefits for apprentices and the wider economy, which are not included in the OBR's modelling. On average, an apprenticeship increases an individual's earnings by 11-16% within three to five years.^[1]

The medium-term benefits of apprenticeships can therefore outweigh short-term wage pressures. We thus consider the net impact of the apprenticeships levy on the economy to be positive.

[1] <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/further-education-measuring-the-net-present-value-in-england>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Value of FE in England

[Measuring_the_Net_Present_Value_of_Further_Education_in_England.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-12-14/HL4567>

Charities: Freedom of Information

Asked by **Lord Lingfield**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the light of the review of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, charities not in receipt of grants from public funds will be subject to freedom of information requests. [HL4895]

Asked by **Lord Lingfield**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the light of the review of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, charities with a turnover of less than £250,000 per annum will be subject to freedom of information requests. [HL4896]

Asked by **Lord Lingfield**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the light of the review of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, charities in receipt of less than £25,000 per annum in grants from public funds will be subject to freedom of information requests. [HL4897]

Lord Bridges of Headley: The Government will announce its intentions about the development of the Freedom of Information Act once it has received and considered the Independent Commission on Freedom of Information's recommendations.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Annex [PQ HL - Lord Lingfield - Annex.pdf HL4895, HL4896, HL4897.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-01-11/HL4895>

Forced Marriage

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to collect data on the number of underage girls who marry overseas and subsequently return to the UK. [HL4871]

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government on how many cases the Forced Marriage Unit provided advice or support in (1) 2014, and (2) 2015. [HL4872]

Lord Bates: The UK is a world-leader in the fight to stamp out the brutal practice of forced marriage, with our Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) leading efforts to combat it both at home and abroad.

In 2014, the FMU gave advice or support related to a possible forced marriage in 1,267 cases. Of those cases, 11% involved victims below 16 years (where the age was known), and 77% involved an overseas element (meaning the victim was at risk of, or had been taken, overseas). To provide a further breakdown of this information would incur a disproportionate cost.

FMU data is published on an annual basis, and figures for 2015 are due for publication shortly.

Government Departments: Historic Buildings

Asked by **Lord Wallace of Saltaire**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the proposed economic rent charges will be applied to historic government buildings in Whitehall; and if so, on what basis the economic rent for buildings of historic significance will be calculated. [HL4910]

Lord Bridges of Headley: The Government Property Unit is working with departments to agree a detailed timeline for the transfer of assets and on the detail of implementation, including the finance and charging regime.

Health Services: Police Custody

Asked by Lord Adebowale

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in transferring healthcare in police custody to the NHS from April 2015; why that transfer has been delayed; what plans they have to ensure that work done by the police and NHS England to date is not lost; and how they will ensure that the same level of physical and mental healthcare is available to those in custody as to those not in custody. [HL4826]

Lord Bates: My rt hon Friend the Home Secretary has decided that a reallocation from the overall police settlement in respect of custody healthcare costs would not be appropriate at this time. Funding responsibility for police custody healthcare services will therefore remain with Police and Crime Commissioners who will have flexibility to prioritise resource towards police custody healthcare, based on local needs. We expect that in doing so, they will wish to continue to develop the close partnerships which have already been established with local NHS England commissioners as part of the work on police custody healthcare arrangements in ensuring the most appropriate local commissioning, and healthcare arrangements.

We will continue to support such partnerships to build upon the work done to date and, particularly, to work with them to explore the scope for new models for better integrating the commissioning of the range of physical and mental health initiatives and interventions available.

Asked by Baroness Finlay of Llandaff

To ask Her Majesty's Government when and by which ministerial department the decision was taken to cancel the transfer of police custody healthcare services to the NHS; when that decision was announced; and what were the reasons for that change of policy. [HL4835]

Lord Bates: My rt hon Friend the Home Secretary has decided that a reallocation from the overall police settlement in respect of custody healthcare costs would not be appropriate at this time. This decision was communicated to Police and Crime Commissioners on 17 December 2015 in correspondence on the provisional police funding settlement. Police and Crime Commissioners will therefore retain responsibility for commissioning such services, and have flexibility to prioritise resource towards police custody healthcare, based on local needs.

In most areas police forces and NHS Commissioners have already developed close effective partnerships in respect of custody healthcare provision and we expect that they will continue to build on these.

Honours

Asked by Lord Lexden

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to prevent future Honours Lists being prematurely disclosed. [HL4853]

Lord Bridges of Headley: The Cabinet Office will continue to reiterate clear instructions for handling embargoed material.

Islam

Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 11 January (HL4752 and HL4753), whether they regard the preaching and teaching of Wahhabism in mosques and Muslim education bodies in Britain, and its funding from overseas, as creating a risk of extremism threatening national security. [HL4957]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: As noted in the recent National Security Strategy, extremism divides communities and weakens the social fabric of our country, and extremist ideas are often used to try to justify terrorism.

Anyone promoting the use of violence to promote any ideology, or using any ideology to incite violence and terrorism will have the full force of our laws brought against them. Countering extremist ideologies that create division in our country is the fundamental aim behind the new Counter Extremism Strategy.

Nuclear Submarines

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Earl Howe on 21 December 2015 (HL4575), whether they plan to hold the debate in Parliament on the principle of Continuous at Sea Deterrence and their plans for the Successor submarine before or after the Scottish general election. [HL4882]

Earl Howe: Her Majesty's Government has confirmed it will hold a debate in Parliament on the principle of Continuous at Sea Deterrence and our plans for Successor. A decision on when it will be held will be taken in due course.

Oil: Exploration

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government what pre-application due diligence checks are made on companies which apply for petroleum exploration licences, or are associated with such applications, before those applications are accepted or granted; what

checks are made on the previous records of the companies in the UK and other countries as part of such due diligence; and what criteria are applied in decisions about whether a company is accepted as suitable to bid for such licences. [HL4889]

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many companies applied for petroleum exploration licences in the recent round; how many of those did not succeed; and of those, how many were rejected as a result of due diligence checks. [HL4890]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: In the most recent (14th) Landward Licensing Round all applicants were required to demonstrate their financial viability and the financial capacity to carry out their respective proposed Work Programmes, and that they met residence requirements. The proposed operator in each case was also required to demonstrate the organisational capability and technical and environmental competence to operate to the necessary standards. Consideration was also given to each proposed operator's past record (in the UK and elsewhere) of compliance with environmental legislative standards or requirements, any criminal or civil action taken against them for environmental reasons, convictions for breaches of environmental legislation and pending criminal or civil action for environmental breaches. Detailed guidance explaining requirements for applicants can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/oil-and-gas-licensing-rounds>

In the 14th Round, applications were invited on 28 July 2014, to be submitted by 28 October 2014. 95 applications from 71 companies were received. The Oil and Gas Authority has now offered 92 new licences and the extension of one existing licence to groups that included 43 companies. Of the companies to whom no offer was made, 12 had failed to satisfy the necessary financial criteria and five proposed operators had failed to demonstrate the necessary level of environmental awareness.

Police: Ethnic Groups

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to increase diversity in police forces, in particular to close the gap between the percentage of applicants and percentage of appointments from black and minority ethnic groups. [HL4924]

Lord Bates: It is vital that the police reflect the communities they serve and I am determined to improve BME representation in all 43 forces in England and Wales.

Decisions on when and how to recruit individuals are for the chief officer of a police force. It is important that they use equalities legislation, including positive action provisions, to make better progress in terms of recruitment of under-represented groups.

The Government's reforms have already made improvements, for example we set up the College of Policing which has embarked on a major programme of work, BME Progression 2018, looking at recruitment, retention and progression of black and minority ethnic officers, including the development of an evidence base of successful approaches used by forces.

As part of this programme the College recently published Positive Action Practical Advice, which advises forces on the use of lawful positive action to support the recruitment, retention and progression of officers from under-represented groups, and it has published case studies from forces showing what can be done.

The College of Policing is currently undertaking a review of initial police recruitment, including the SEARCH assessment centre for police recruits, to better understand disproportionality that can occur between white candidates and those from black and minority ethnic backgrounds. The review is due to report by the 31 March 2016.

Under this Government, innovative schemes such as Direct Entry and Police Now are increasing the number of BME recruits to the police, showing that you can achieve better representation while attracting the best and the brightest into policing.

Of the nine direct entry superintendents who began their superintendent training on November 2014 four (44%) are women and two (22%) are from an ethnic minority background. This is significantly more representative than the current make up of the superintendent rank which comprises 17% women and 4% ethnic minority.

Police Now, introduced in the Metropolitan Police, has appointed 69 people to start their training, up from an anticipated 50 owing to the high calibre of applicants. Of these, 43% are women and 9% are from a BME background, compared to the national BME proportion of 5.5%.

With the joint leadership of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime and the Commissioner, the Metropolitan Police also introduced its London residency criteria for recruits in August 2014. Recent Metropolitan police figures show that in the three months from June to August 2015, 26% of new Metropolitan police recruits came from a black or minority background, more than double the 12% recruited in the same quarter of 2014, and the 12% of Metropolitan police officers currently from a black and minority ethnic background.

Tornado Aircraft

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of Tornado aircraft fully modified and available for operations in relation to the total air fleet. [HL4970]

Earl Howe: As of 13 January 2016, 48 Tornado aircraft are held in the Forward Available Fleet. This includes

aircraft that are held at readiness for contingent operations alongside those deployed on operations

I am withholding the exact number of Tornado aircraft that are available for operations on the grounds of safeguarding national security.

Universities: Northern Ireland

Asked by Lord Laird

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are responsible for any aspects of the finance and operation of the two universities in Northern Ireland, and if not, who is. [[HL4893](#)]

Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: Higher Education policy is devolved. The Department for Employment and

Learning of the Northern Ireland Executive is the department responsible for Higher Education Institutions in Northern Ireland. This includes responsibility for providing funding to their HEIs for teaching and for recurrent research (also known as Quality Related research funding). In addition, the UK Government provides funding through the Department for Business Innovation and Skills' Science & Research Budget for Research Councils, which are reserved bodies, and to the National Academies. The Research Councils provide funding for specific projects and programmes of research on a competitive basis open to universities across the United Kingdom, including those in Northern Ireland. Similarly, academics from universities across the UK can bid for funding from the National Academies.

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