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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
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HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

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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 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 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 Price	Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and Foreign and Commonwealth Office
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 and Home Office
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

Thursday, 5 May 2016

Financial Services Update

[HLWS690]

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

I can today confirm that I have laid a Treasury Minute informing the House of the sale of NRAM plc to Cerberus, and the replacement of NRAM plc on the government's balance sheet by a new company, NRAM (No. 1) Limited ("StayCo"), which will continue to wind down the remaining legacy assets of the former Northern Rock.

The Treasury Minute concerns the transfer to StayCo of assets and liabilities of NRAM plc that were not included in the sale to Cerberus. The government has also reissued, on a like-for-like basis, the guarantees for StayCo's directors, replacing the previous arrangements for NRAM plc. StayCo is also taking on NRAM plc's State aid commitments.

The government has received the final £520 million from Cerberus as part of the conclusion of this sale. The Treasury's contingent liabilities have also reduced by £1.6 billion as a result of the withdrawal of the Treasury's undertaking to NRAM plc.

I will update the House of any further changes to NRAM (No. 1) Limited as necessary.

Health Informal Council: 17-18 April 2016

[HLWS691]

Lord Prior of Brampton: My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Jane Ellison) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

An Informal Health Council meeting was held in Amsterdam on 17-18 April 2016 as part of the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs (EPSCO) Council formation. Jane Ellison MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health, represented the UK.

Innovation

There was a discussion on innovation and pharmaceuticals and topics raised by participants included Health Technology Assessment, pharmaceutical pricing, the Joint Procurement Agreement and different regulatory mechanisms, including priority designation for medicines (PRIME). The UK stressed its support for regulatory work that helped to get effective innovative products to patients sooner. The UK also stated that some joint working on information sharing on pricing and horizon scanning could be useful but underlined that all work

must be voluntary and fully respect Member State competence.

Healthy foodstuffs

There was a discussion on initiatives Member States are taking forward at a national level to encourage healthy eating. The UK said that national action was required on a variety of fronts, including partnership working with industry, and underlined the significant cost of type 2 diabetes and the need to focus on children. The UK stated that it could not just be for consumers to act, and stressed that consumers would want further information, for example, through mobile apps. The UK also stated the importance of physical activity and explained the recent sugar levy announcement.

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

The Dutch Presidency raised the issue of AMR as a top priority and stressed that a one-health approach covering human and animal health was vital. The UK underlined the cost of inaction, praised the Presidency's desire for an ambitious outcome at the UN General Assembly, and supported their one-health approach. The UK supported an ambitious agenda on AMR which would lead to concrete progress, provided that Member State competence was fully respected. The UK also flagged the importance of the current Independent AMR Review launched by the Prime Minister.

Pubs Regulations

[HLWS689]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: My Rt hon Friend the Minister of State for Small Business and Enterprise, (Anna Soubry) has today made the following statement.

The Government has worked hard to meet the challenging deadline laid down by the Small Business Enterprise and Employment Act 2015, and bring the Pubs Code into force by 26 May 2016.

Good progress has been made. The Government published draft regulations and a consultation in two parts on 29 October and 4 December 2015. The consultation closed on 18 January, and Government published a response document and laid regulations on 14 April 2016.

Since laying the Pubs Code regulations, we have identified a small number of technical drafting errors.

It is important to get the Pubs Code right for both tenants and pub owning businesses. Therefore the Government withdrew the regulations yesterday in order to deal with these errors. This means that the Pubs Code will not be in force by the 26 May as previously set out.

The Government will address the technical drafting issues with the regulations quickly and re-lay amended regulations as soon as possible, minimising the delay bringing the Code into force. The regulations are subject to the affirmative procedure, and so parliament will have an opportunity to debate the content and give the regulations full scrutiny.

Written Answers

Thursday, 5 May 2016

Access to Elected Office for Disabled People Fund

Asked by **Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have for the future of the pilot Access to Elected Office Fund. [HL7823]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Access to Elected Office Fund was a pilot established in 2012 to test this type of support for disabled candidates. We are now reviewing the findings of the assessment of the pilot and anticipate making an announcement in due course.

Animals: Tagging

Asked by **Baroness Whitaker**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have plans to issue guidance to vets on how to proceed with the micro-chipping of dogs or horses when the owner is of no fixed abode, such as in the case of Gypsies and Travellers. [HL7859]

Asked by **Baroness Whitaker**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, where a dog or horse is being micro-chipped and its owner is of no fixed abode, such as in the case of Gypsies and Travellers, whether they have considered allowing a mobile phone number or address of a friend or relation of the owner to be recorded rather than the owner's address. [HL7860]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Owners of horses and dogs without a fixed address should provide the address of a family member or close friend with whom they keep in contact. Defra have worked with the veterinary representative organisations on their guidance for vets on microchipping of dogs.

Comet Group: Insolvency

Asked by **Lord Myners**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish the report produced by the Insolvency Service on the collapse of the Comet Group, and whether they will take that report into account when conducting any review of the circumstances leading to the collapse of BHS. [HL8046]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The Insolvency Service investigated Comet under provisions of the Companies Act, which means it is not possible to publish the report.

The Insolvency Service continuously builds on the experience gained in all its investigations to inform its work.

Control of Horses Act 2015

Asked by **Baroness Whitaker**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what happens to horses seized under the Control of Horses Act 2015. [HL7840]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Under the Control of Horse Act 2015, if a horse that has been detained for a minimum 96 hours has not been claimed by the owner it may be sold, rehomed with charities or, where other options are not available, euthanised.

Criminal Cases Review Commission

Asked by **Lord Falconer of Thoroton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what budget has been allocated to the Criminal Cases Review Commission in each year since its creation. [HL7789]

Lord Faulks: The information requested regarding the budget that has been allocated to the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) since its creation, is highlighted in the table below. This information can also be located in the published CCRC annual report.

Prior to 2007/8 budgets were allocated by the Home Office, as the sponsor department.

For this reason, the MoJ only holds the information from the date that the sponsorship function transferred to MoJ. Since 2007/8, the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) has had the following net levels of funding:

Year	Total Funding £ Ms
2007/8	6.701
2008/9	6.661
2009/10	6.560
2010/11	6.324
2011/12	5.920
2012/13	5.277
2013/14	5.178
2014/15	5.178
2015/16	5.178

Asked by **Lord Falconer of Thoroton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applications the Criminal Cases Review Commission has received in each year since its creation. [HL7790]

Lord Faulks: The information requested regarding the number of applications the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) has received since its creation, is highlighted in the table below. This information can also be located in the published CCRC annual report.

Since its creation in 1997, the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) has had 20,367 applications. This figure excludes 279 applications that were transferred from the Home Office when the CCRC started operating in 1997. This is broken down as:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total Applications</i>
1997/8	1,103
1998/9	1,037
1999/0	777
2000/1	800
2001/2	834
2002/3	932
2003/4	885
2004/5	955
2005/6	1011
2006/7	1051
2007/8	984
2008/9	919
2009/10	932
2010/11	933
2011/12	1040
2012/13	1625
2013/14	1470
2014/15	1599
2015/16	1480

Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applications the Criminal Cases Review Commission has received since its creation that subsequently succeeded on appeal. [HL7791]

Lord Faulks: Since its creation in 1997 the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) had referred 619 cases, to the relevant court, by 31 March 2016. As at 31 March 2016 596 of the referrals had been heard by the court. 406 Appeals have been allowed, 178 have been dismissed and 12 have been abandoned.

This information can also be located in the published CCRC annual report.

Falkland Islands: Oil

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government who can give permission for oil exploration in the waters off the Falkland Islands. [HL7850]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: Oil exploration in the Falkland Islands is governed by the Falkland Islands Offshore Minerals Ordinance of 1994. Subject to this Ordinance, and with the consent of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr Hammond), the Rt Hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge, the British Government appointed Governor of the Falkland Islands may, on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen, grant to any person a licence for the purposes of exploration or production in the controlled waters, or in the sea-bed or subsoil thereof, of the Falkland Islands.

Family Courts: Legal Aid Scheme

Asked by Baroness Hussein-Ece

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many convicted sex offenders and those prosecuted for domestic violence offences have been given legal aid to pursue child access cases in the family courts in each of the last 10 years. [HL7923]

Lord Faulks: The information requested is not held centrally and could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost.

Foreign Investment in UK

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to prevent any fall in the amount of foreign direct investment if the UK were to vote to leave the EU. [HL7799]

Lord O'Neill of Gatley: The Government's position is that the UK will be stronger, safer and better off remaining in a reformed EU.

Recently published Government analysis - 'HM Treasury analysis: the long-term economic impact of EU membership and the alternatives' - described the evidence that EU membership has supported foreign direct investment into the UK.

It concludes that foreign direct investment flows into the UK would fall by between 10% and 26% if the UK left the EU, depending on the alternative arrangement.

ICT: Standards

Asked by Lord Hunt of Chesterton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have plans to introduce standards to minimise the risk of the malfunctioning of electronic financial transactions and data storage by financial and public organisations; and what information is available to the general public to enable them (1) to choose which organisations and services to use, and (2) to know whether or not to use electronic systems depending on those services. [HL7821]

Lord O'Neill of Gatley: On 18th March, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, Matthew

Hancock, announced that the new National Cyber Security Centre will work with the Bank of England to produce advice for the finance sector for managing cyber security effectively. This will build on tools such as the Cyber Essentials scheme, which sets out the technical controls organisations should have in place to demonstrate that they are following a basic level of ‘good practice’ in terms of their cyber security.

It is the responsibility of firms to ensure the resilience of their Information Technology (IT) systems. Through the Dear Chairman Exercise I and II, the Financial Authorities have assessed large UK deposit-takers’ technology resilience, and are working with firms to ensure that further improvements are made and customers are protected.

Immigration: Appeals

Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill

To ask Her Majesty’s Government why they propose to increase immigration and asylum chamber fees, and what assessment they have made of the likely impact of those increased fees on access to justice. [HL7970]

Lord Faulks: We’re protecting the most vulnerable from any fee increase, including those who receive asylum support and cases involving children being supported or housed by a local authority. But it is also right that the taxpayer does not subsidise those who choose to challenge a decision made by the Home Office before the Tribunal.

We have a duty to the public to reduce the deficit and ensure sustainable funding for Her Majesty’s Courts and Tribunal Service.

We have published a full impact assessment alongside the consultation document published on the Government website.

Islamic State: Yazidis

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether they have evidence that the Kurdistan Workers Party and the Peoples Protection Units have rescued some captive Yazidi women; what assessment they have made of whether the Kurdistan Regional Government Peshmerga have carried out any rescues, and if so, whether they have offered to assist them; and whether the same British technology that is able to identify ISIS commanders has been used to identify and to rescue women captives. [HL7948]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We are aware of media reports about organisations that are working to free those being held hostage by Daesh. We do not have any information regarding the rescue of Yezidi captives by either the Kurdistan Workers Party or the Peoples Protection Units. During offensive operations against Daesh, Yezidi hostages have been freed by the Peshmerga. We continue to work in support of Iraqi and Kurdish Regional government forces towards defeating

this terrible organisation. The UK has been at the forefront of these efforts and plays a leading role in a Global Coalition of 66 countries and international organisations to respond to Daesh’s inhumanity.

Lobbying

Asked by The Earl of Clancarty

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether grants administered by the Arts Council will be exempted from new Cabinet Office guidelines that no government grants may be used to lobby. [HL7808]

Lord Bridges of Headley: As the Minister for the Cabinet Office the Rt Hon Matthew Hancock made clear on 27 April, we are committed to protecting taxpayers’ money from being wasted on government lobbying government. We are pausing the implementation of this clause into grant agreements, pending a review of the representations made.

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, further to the answer by Lord Bridges of Headley on 19 April (HL Deb, col 543) on government grant agreements, whether an academic research institution which is also a charity and is in receipt of government funding from research councils will be covered by the proposed anti-lobbying clauses expected to be introduced in grant agreements from 1 May. [I] [HL7819]

Lord Bridges of Headley: As the Minister for the Cabinet Office the Rt Hon Matthew Hancock made clear on 27 April, we are committed to protecting taxpayers’ money from being wasted on government lobbying government. We are pausing the implementation of this clause into grant agreements, pending a review of the representations made.

London Stock Exchange: Deutsche Borse

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what assessment they have made of whether the proposed cross-margining between LCH Clearnet and Euronext, consequent on the takeover of the London Stock Exchange by Deutsche Bourse, will constitute a mechanism for transmitting financial risk; and whether they plan to take any action to limit the likelihood of any increased systemic risk that might result. [HL7809]

Lord O’Neill of Gatley: I refer the noble Lord to my written answers of 1 April (HL7342) and 26 April (HL7583, HL7584, HL7585, and HL7586)

Muttahida Quami Movement: Money Laundering

Asked by Lord Ahmed

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 21 March (HL7044),

whether (1) the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, (2) the Prime Minister's Office, or (3) any other government institution, have received any representations from the government of India about not pursuing the money-laundering case against MQM. [HL7262]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: I refer the noble Lord to the answer given by my noble Friend Lord Bates, of 21 March 2016 [HL7024]. I am informed that no records have been identified by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Cabinet Office, HM Treasury and No 10 of any such representations.

North Korea: Responsibility to Protect

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will apply the principles of the Responsibility to Protect to the situation in North Korea. [HL7868]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: Responsibility to Protect (R2P) is a governing principle of the British Government's work across the conflict spectrum, including in human rights and development. R2P imposes an obligation on all UN member states to protect their populations and for the international community to assist.

The British Government continues to maintain pressure on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to engage with the international community and take concrete steps to improve their appalling human rights record. We have urged the North Korean regime to allow the UN Special Rapporteur on DPRK Human Rights free and unfettered access to investigate the disturbing reports of human rights violations as documented in the UN Commission of Inquiry report.

The Government strongly supported the recent Human Rights Council Resolution on DPRK which created a Panel of Experts to investigate the issue of accountability for those accused of committing human rights violations. We will continue to support this process to ensure that those who are responsible for human rights abuses are held to account.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Human Rights Report 2015 designated the DPRK as a Human Rights Priority Country. Improving the human rights situation in the DPRK remains a key objective of our engagement with the North Korean government.

Pupils: Gender Recognition

Asked by Lord Maginnis of Drumglass

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any guidance or instruction from the Department of Education has prompted Brighton and Hove City Council to seek to establish the gender identity rather than the physical sex of four and five year-old children, and how many other education bodies have sent similar requests to parents. [HL7897]

Asked by Lord Maginnis of Drumglass

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish any relevant correspondence between the Department for Education and Brighton and Hove City Council following its January 2016 inquiry into the gender identity rather than the physical sex of secondary school children. [HL7898]

Asked by Lord Maginnis of Drumglass

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the actions of Brighton and Hove City Council regarding its inquiries into children's gender identity, rather than their physical sex, have been referred to the police in the light of any risk that such questioning might sexualise vulnerable young people. [HL7899]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Department for Education provides guidance on the Equality Act 2010 to schools which contains advice on the Public Sector Equality Duty and on the protected characteristic of gender reassignment.

The Department has not inquired into the gender identity of children in January 2016 and has no correspondence on the matter.

The addition of gender identity information on the pupil registration form was solely a decision of the Brighton and Hove City Council. They have the independence to make this decision.

The Department does not hold details of any additional information collected by local authorities outside of those required by the Department for our centrally specified, mandatory data collections.

The Department is not aware of any referral on this issue to the Police.

Royal Fleet Auxiliary

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the three planned solid support ships for the Royal Fleet Auxiliary will be built in UK shipyards in order to form part of the regular drumbeat of orders required to maintain the strategic capability of a viable UK shipbuilding industry being identified by Sir John Parker in his national shipbuilding strategy. [HL7803]

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the three planned solid support ships for the Royal Fleet Auxiliary will be built of British steel. [HL7804]

Earl Howe: Work to date suggests that the majority of the requirements of the Fleet Solid Support Ships are likely to be classified as non-warlike, allowing the ships to be procured through open competition, to UK and international bidders. Sensitive elements of the ships are expected to be procured through competitions that will be limited to UK only suppliers.

It is too early to say where the steel to be used in the construction of these ships will be sourced from.

Tunisia: Politics and Government

Asked by Lord Radice

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assistance they are giving to the government of Tunisia with a view to promoting democracy and rebuilding its economy, and in particular the creation of jobs for young people. [HL7997]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: In the financial year from April 2015 – March 2016, UK support to Tunisia doubled to around £7 million for programmes to support governance, economic reform (including job creation and entrepreneurship) and security sector capacity building. We expect this high level of support to continue in the coming year, reaching at least £8 million for projects including capacity building for democratic institutions

and anti-corruption bodies, and support for financial sector reform and entrepreneurship. We continue to encourage Tunisia to set out its plans for its economic development and reform, and have particularly underlined the importance of creating jobs for young people.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

Asked by Viscount Waverley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the UN Secretary General's remark during his visit to Algeria from 6 to 7 March that the Western Sahara is "occupied". [HL8106]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The UN and UK consider that the status of Western Sahara is undetermined. Since he made his remark, the office of the UN Secretary General has expressed regret at the misunderstanding over the use of this word.

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