

Vol. 770
No. 40



Thursday
12 May 2016

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

Written Statements	1
Written Answers.....	7

[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/>.

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

© Parliamentary Copyright House of Lords 2016

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

Written Statements

Thursday, 12 May 2016

Art Collection

[HLWS698]

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

Ownership of the most significant works within the Ministry of Defence Art Collection (MODAC) is to be transferred to other public institutions in order to ensure their continued protection and public display.

The MODAC currently comprises more than 2,000 individual items. It includes some fine art and a notable collection of chronometers but also includes numerous lower value items. Key items of public interest are located in public galleries and museums, with the remainder in MOD premises and other Government or public buildings.

Ownership of works with intrinsic artistic or heritage value is to be transferred to other public bodies, including the National Maritime Museum, the National Museum of the Royal Navy, the Army Museum, the Imperial War Museum and the Government Art Collection. Residual items will remain within MOD custody.

MODAC items are accounted for as publicly owned non-operational heritage assets and the collection has therefore not been valued formally, in line with Government policy. Transfer on an unvalued basis has been approved by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

Commonwealth Recruitment

[HLWS699]

Earl Howe: My hon. Friend the Minister of State for the Armed Forces (Penny Mordaunt) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

There is a long tradition of Commonwealth citizens serving in the British Armed Forces, and we continue to value their service which provides an important contribution in defending the UK at home and abroad.

The current Commonwealth recruitment rules which require five years UK residency have therefore been reviewed, and the residency requirements will be waived to allow for 200 Commonwealth citizens per annum to be recruited to fill a limited number of roles in the Regular Armed Forces which require specialist skills. The numbers of individuals that can be recruited and the list of roles that can be filled under these arrangements have been agreed in consultation with the Home Office. These will be subject to regular review.

The requirement for individuals to have Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) to join the Reserves has not been changed. However, if an individual with specialist skills already residing in the UK is identified, applications for

exceptional circumstances can be cleared on an individual basis with the Home Office.

This will not affect personnel from the Republic of Ireland, Malta, the Republic of Cyprus, or those in the Brigade of Gurkhas. This will also not affect Gurkha or Commonwealth serving personnel with more than four years Regular service applying to join the Reserves provided they are granted ILR on discharge.

This policy will be kept under review.

ECOFIN

[HLWS707]

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

An informal meeting of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Amsterdam on 22-23 April 2016. EU Finance Ministers discussed the following items:

EU Budget

Following an introduction from Commission Vice-President Kristalina Georgieva, Ministers discussed challenges for the EU budget, caused by unforeseen events.

Strengthening the banking union

Views were exchanged between Ministers and Central Bank Governors on the regulatory treatment of banks' sovereign debt on the basis of a Presidency note and a draft report from the High Level Working Group.

Panama Papers

The European Commission gave a policy reaction outlining measures being taken to tackle tax avoidance. The UK, along with France, Germany, Italy and Spain, launched an initiative on the automatic exchange of beneficial ownership information in April and wrote a G5 letter to EU Member States asking them to join the initiative. As a result of UK leadership all EU Finance Ministers have now agreed to enter into the project which will see tax authorities and law enforcements agencies automatically share information on who really owns and controls companies.

Sustainable Finance

On the basis of a Presidency paper, Ministers and Central Bank Governors discussed ways in which the transition to a sustainable economy could be financed and ways in which transparency could be improved.

Stability and Growth Pact

Ministers discussed a number of options to make the Stability and Growth Pact simpler and more transparent including whether more work should be done exploring the use of the expenditure benchmark and the medium term orientation of the fiscal framework.

VAT Fraud

In the final session, the Commission and Presidency led a discussion in relation to VAT fraud following the

publication of the VAT Action Plan on 7 April. In particular, Finance Ministers looked at steps that could be taken to improve cooperation between Member States' tax, customs and judicial authorities.

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

[HLWS706]

Lord Freud: My Right Honourable Friend The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Stephen Crabb MP) has made the following Written Statement.

The Informal Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council met on 19-20 April in Amsterdam. Emily Shirtcliff, Deputy Director in the BIS Labour Market Directorate, represented the United Kingdom.

The first day involved a plenary session on labour mobility. The focus of most Member State interventions was on the revision of the Posting of Workers Directive. The United Kingdom intervened to make clear that it did not yet have a formal position and was looking carefully at the Commission's proposal.

The second day started with workshops on the European Commission's consultation on its proposed Pillar of Social Rights and concluded with a plenary session on the Platform for Undeclared Work. At the workshop the United Kingdom welcomed the clarity that the Pillar of Social Rights was for the euro area, but also for other countries to join if they wanted to.

On the Platform for Undeclared Work the United Kingdom welcomed the progress made so far and looked forward to the Platform's first meeting.

EU Foreign Affairs Council

[HLWS708]

Lord Price: The EU Foreign Affairs Council (Trade) will take place in Brussels on 13 May 2016. Lord Price will represent the UK.

In relation to WTO Post Nairobi work, the Council will discuss latest developments regarding DDA and new issues, and the EU-strategy towards MC11 on the basis of a paper by the Commission.

The Council will discuss the state of play in the TTIP negotiations and next steps.

The Council will also discuss the trade-related aspects of the recent Communication on steel.

On the EU Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) the Council will reflect on the achieved result and discuss the next steps towards signature.

Legislation: 2015-2016 Session

[HLWS697]

Baroness Stowell of Beeston (The Lord Privy Seal): Following the conclusion of business in the House today,

I expect Parliament to be prorogued prior to the State Opening of the next session on 18 May. Subject to proceedings, 23 Government Bills will have received Royal Assent in the 2015-2016 session:

Armed Forces Bill

Bank of England and Financial Services Bill

Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Bill

Childcare Bill

Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill

Education and Adoption Bill

Energy Bill

Enterprise Bill

European Union (Approvals) Bill

European Union (Finance) Bill

European Union Referendum Bill

Finance Bill

Housing and Planning Bill

Immigration Bill

National Insurance Contributions (Rate Ceilings) Bill

Northern Ireland (Stormont Agreement and Implementation Plan) Bill

Northern Ireland (Welfare Reform) Bill

Psychoactive Substances Bill

Scotland Bill

Supply and Appropriation (Anticipation and Adjustments) Bill

Supply and Appropriation (Main Estimates) Bill

Trade Union Bill

Welfare Reform and Work Bill

The following Private Members' Bills will have received Royal Assent in the 2015-2016 session:

Access to Medical Treatments (Innovation) Bill

Criminal Cases Review Commission (Information) Bill

Driving Instructors (Registration) Bill

House of Commons (Members' Fund) (No.2) Bill

NHS (Charitable Trusts Etc) Bill

Riot Compensation Bill

The following Bills will carry over to the next session:

Finance (No.2) Bill

High Speed Rail (London-West Midlands) Bill

Investigatory Powers Bill

Policing and Crime Bill

Motoring Services Strategy

[HLWS696]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Department for Transport's three motoring services agencies (the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA); the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) and the Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA)) are key to ensuring the United Kingdom's road network plays its part in promoting the future prosperity of our nation. I am today publishing a strategy for the agencies, which sets out the direction they will take over the remainder of this Parliament.

The strategy sets out our vision for the agencies' future: how we can better support those learning to drive to ensure they are properly prepared to take their practical test, what we can do to ensure haulage and bus and coach operators can access all our services efficiently and flexibly to suit their needs, and how we can best support the UK automotive industry.

The agencies' services, making sure drivers are properly trained and licensed and the vehicles they use are safe and meet environmental standards, touches nearly all aspects of our society. Most people, at some time, will be affected by the agencies' work – whether they are choosing an instructor as they begin to learn to drive, sitting on a bus, buying a new motorcycle, choosing a wheelchair accessible vehicle or moving house – the motoring services agencies will be involved at some stage. We need to ensure that the services the agencies deliver are fit for motoring today and are responsive to new developments in technology in order for them to continue to meet our needs in the future.

Recognising this country's enviable road safety record, and the importance of the highway network to the economy, we reiterate the need for driver training that prepares people for a lifetime of safe road use. We will examine the potential benefits of different models for delivery of the practical driving test. We will strengthen the agencies' relationships with commercial users of their services, whose needs can be very different from those of individual members of the public. We will examine how various transport industry sectors can be given greater responsibility in operating or testing vehicles. The agencies are almost entirely funded by user fees; so we will take a more methodical approach to reviewing those fees, to ensure that they are transparent and closely aligned to the costs of the services they cover.

A copy of the strategy will be placed in the House Library and will also be available on GOV.UK.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Motoring Services Strategy [160512 motoring services strategy.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2016-05-12/HLWS696/>

National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights

[HLWS700]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: In September 2013, the UK became the first country to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights through the publication of a National Action Plan 'Good Business', which was presented by the then Foreign and Business Secretaries. At that time, the Coalition Government committed to producing an update.

This update reflects developments, including at the international level, since our plan was first published. It also summarises the many activities and initiatives that have been taken forward by UK business and civil society.

The updated NAP reflects the range of action related to Business and Human Rights that takes place across government. It brings together in one place government action and private sector initiatives, as well as setting out the access to remedy, both judicial and non-judicial, which exists within the UK. By publishing this update, the UK demonstrates its continued commitment to Business and Human Rights and to the implementation of the universally agreed UN Guiding Principles, which we consider the best method for promoting good business practice and protecting potential victims from human rights abuses.

This update was produced following consultation with a broad range of stakeholders from business and civil society. Whilst jointly owned by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, this update was contributed to by a number of government departments.

National Crime Agency Remuneration Body

[HLWS703]

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

The report of the National Crime Agency (NCA) Remuneration Review Body for 2016 has been published today. In line with my letter setting the Body's remit, it has made recommendations on pay and allowances for NCA officers designated with operational powers. I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Review Body for their careful consideration of the evidence.

The Review Body received evidence from the NCA, the Home Office, Her Majesty's Treasury and the relevant trade unions and has recommended an across the board increase of one per cent for NCA officers and a one per cent increase in London weighting. I accept their recommendations in full.

The report also sets the agenda for further reform of the NCA's pay structure and we will continue to support the NCA to develop the workforce needed to tackle serious and organised crime in the 21st century.

Copies of the NCA Remuneration Review Body's report are available in the Parliamentary Vote Office and at GOV.UK.

National Security Arrangements: Carlile Report

[HLWS705]

Lord Dunlop: My right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Theresa Villiers) has made the following written Ministerial statement. This is a summary of the main findings from the report by Lord Carlile, the Independent Reviewer of National Security Arrangements in Northern Ireland, covering the period from 1 January 2015 to 31 January 2016. Lord Carlile concludes:

"Throughout the year I have been briefed extensively on the state of threat in Northern Ireland. The context in which national security activities are performed in Northern Ireland remains challenging. As in the previous year there have been successes against dissident republicans [DRs], with a number of high profile trials pending. Police and security pressure has resulted in significant attrition but attacks still occur. Cooperation with the Irish authorities is good. This has quickened the pace of activity against DRs.

I regard 2015 as a year of continuing success in thwarting and detecting terrorism; whilst there is no sign of reduced ambition in the minds of terrorists, the ability of these terrorists to carry out attacks has suppressed over the years by successful attrition and arrests. This is undoubtedly the result of excellent joint activity by MI5 and PSNI. Given that the total exclusion of paramilitary activity is unlikely to be achieved in the measurable future, MI5, the PSNI and others involved have maintained good progress.

In preparing this report I have considered the current threat level, and what I have learned of events of a terrorist nature during the year. There were 16 national security attacks during 2015, with no serious injuries. Dissident republican groupings are resilient and capable; a number of attacks in 2015 were unsuccessful by narrow margins. Current and released prisoners continue to present a challenge. I was reminded of the diverse and enduring nature of the threat.

Dissident republicans remain interested in and involved in criminality, organised crime and money laundering. They also retain a political purpose, some with more determination than others.

Loyalist paramilitaries also have political imperatives, though the motivation of many is the making of money through extortion and other organised crime.

During 2015, I have met a range of stakeholders. I have engaged with PSNI and MI5 and examined the relationship between them and the Police Ombudsman of Northern Ireland [PONI] and the Northern Ireland Policing Board [NIPB]. I also met some of the NI political parties. I am grateful to NIO Ministers for their

close interest in the matters discussed here. Meetings with Ministers have occurred. Ministers are always well briefed and exceptionally well informed on all material issues.

During 2015 I met with the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB), and also Alyson Kilpatrick, the Independent Human Rights Advisor to the NIPB. The NIPB can feel assured that the Human Rights Advisor is well able to discharge her duties in respect of national security.

I met the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Executive's Minister of Justice, David Ford MLA. Both have been extremely frank and helpful. I do not underestimate the formidable nature of the Ombudsman's job, especially in relation to older cases. Furthermore, I would like to express my admiration and thanks to David Ford. He has played a significant part in the normalisation of the justice system and the rule of law in NI.

I am satisfied that the periodic briefings provided to me have been full and not selective, and that I have a good understanding of relevant matters. Interlocutors across the security piece, including vocal opponents and critics, have been willing to brief me.

I held a detailed meeting with the Committee on the Administration of Justice [CAJ]. They provided me with a robustly critical narrative of the current security situation. I found their views helpful, though more anxious than the true security situation justifies in my opinion. The CAJ expressed the view that deprivation caused by austerity is leading to recruitment into paramilitary groups. These views found resonance with some interlocutors.

This year once again I have reviewed the arrangements for Covert Human Intelligence Sources [CHIS]. Overall the use of CHIS is effective. CHIS operations are run with a clear investigative strategy. Participation of CHIS in crime is subject to strict control and protocols. There are frequent meetings between PSNI and MI5 at a senior level to discuss CHIS policy and operations, and in accordance with the St. Andrews principles, PSNI manage the majority of national security CHIS. There is a systematic review procedure for CHIS.

Across all my conversations in the past year I have found confusion and concern about how historic issues are to be dealt with and addressed. Much optimism is being placed in the proposed Historical Investigations Unit [HIU]. I am sure the Secretary of State and NI Executive Ministers will ensure proportionate funding, and the level of documentary and other evidential disclosure necessary for the fulfilment of its proper objectives.

I have considered a number of issues in relation to terrorism prosecutions. I continue to have concerns about the length of sentences in NI for terrorism related offences, and that delays in cases coming to trial are resulting in defendants being released on bail. I acknowledge the reform of committal proceedings contained in the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2015. I

discussed more active case management and plea bargaining as means to save court time.

Despite the active and concerned involvement of senior judges throughout the criminal justice system there remain concerns about the disclosure system in which public interest immunity and related disclosure issues are not dealt with by the trial judge, as they are in GB.

I remain of the view that the residual serious and lethal threat of terrorism justifies the continuation of the non-jury trial arrangements provided under the Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007.

I have enquired again about the use of intercept evidence. I remain satisfied that there is solid scrutiny and review of interception, in an environment in which communications technology is developing quickly.

Continued vigilance and the maintenance of counter-terrorism resourcing are essential. However, once again I have drawn comfort from the successful joint operations between MI5 and the PSNI, and their high level of co-operation with their counterparts in the Republic of Ireland. Normality is a genuine and mostly realisable ambition, rather than merely an aspiration.

Attrition caused by arrests and charges both in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland has been good in 2015; but a number of challenges in combatting the threat remain.

I have measured performance in 2015 against the five key principles identified in relation to national security in Annex E to the St Andrews Agreement of October 2006. My conclusions in relation to Annex E are set out in the attached Table.”

<i>Text of Annex E</i>	<i>Conclusions</i>
Further to reinforce this comprehensive set of safeguards, the Government confirms that it accepts and will ensure that effect is given to the five key principles which the Chief Constable has identified as crucial to the effective operation of the new arrangements, viz:	
All Security Service intelligence relating to terrorism in Northern Ireland will be visible to the PSNI.	There is compliance. Arrangements are in place to deal with any suspected malfeasance by a PSNI or MI5 officer.
PSNI will be informed of all Security Service counter terrorist investigations and operations relating to Northern Ireland.	There is compliance.
Security Service intelligence will be disseminated within PSNI according to the current PSNI dissemination policy, and using police procedures.	There is compliance. Dissemination policy has developed since the new arrangements came into force.
The great majority of national security CHIS in Northern Ireland will continue to be run by PSNI officers under existing police handling protocols.	The majority of CHIS are run by the PSNI. Protocols have not stood still. A review of existing protocols and the development of up to date replacements should always be work in progress and clearly accountable.

Text of Annex E

Conclusions

There will be no diminution of the PSNI's responsibility to comply with the Human Rights Act or the Policing Board's ability to monitor said compliance.

The PSNI must continue to comply. The Policing Board, with the advice of their Human Rights Advisor as a key component, will continue the role of monitoring compliance.

Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation

[HLWS701]

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

At the Summer Budget the Chancellor announced that HM Treasury will establish the Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation (OFSI) before the end of the financial year to support the UK's foreign policy and national security goals and help maintain the integrity of and confidence in the UK financial services sector. The Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation was established on 31 March 2016 within HM Treasury. Its principle aims are to:

- increase awareness of and compliance with financial sanctions;
- ensure that sanctions breaches are rapidly detected and effectively addressed; and
- provide a professional service to the public and industry on financial sanctions issues.

The Treasury, through OFSI, will continue to be the UK's competent authority for the implementation of financial sanctions, and Treasury ministers will continue to be responsible for licencing decisions and designations under UK sanctions legislation.

UK Anti-corruption Plan

[HLWS704]

Lord Keen of Elie: My rt hon Friend the Minister of State for Security (John Hayes) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

Today my rt hon Friend the Government Anti-Corruption Champion (Sir Eric Pickles) and I wish to inform the House that the Government is publishing a Progress Update on the UK's first cross-government Anti-Corruption Plan, on the same day that the Prime Minister is hosting a global Anti-Corruption Summit in London - to galvanise international action against corruption.

On 18 December 2014, we published the UK Anti-Corruption Plan, which set out, for the first time, all of the UK's anti-corruption efforts under one cross-departmental plan, including how we are tackling the threat of corruption and taking action to reduce corruption risks across a range of sectors, both in the UK and overseas.

In the UK Anti-Corruption Plan, we committed to publishing a progress update on the actions, ensuring that this was a living document which evolved alongside the nature of the threat from corruption and our response. The Inter-Ministerial Group on Anti-Corruption, which we co-chair, has been overseeing delivery of the commitments and we have been working with colleagues across government and civil society to drive forward this agenda.

The progress update highlights the UK's performance in delivering its anti-corruption commitments (62 out of the 66 actions (94%) are complete or on track to be delivered), and sets out the positive progress that has been made: to build a better picture of how corruption is affecting our society and economy; to strengthen our legal and operational tools and activity; to enhance our law enforcement response; to deny use of our financial system for those who are trying to abuse it; and to step up our efforts internationally.

Whilst there is still more to be done, the positive developments outlined in the progress update, coupled with the international leadership being shown by the UK through the global Anti-Corruption Summit, demonstrates the UK's commitment to rooting out corruption in all its forms. Moreover, the new cross agency Taskforce to respond to any wrong-doing resulting from the "Mossack Fonseca" papers, sends a strong message that tackling corruption is a key priority for the UK and that we take decisive action wherever criminal activity arises.

A copy of the plan will be placed in the House Library and also made available on the government website: www.gov.uk.

Youth Justice

[HLWS702]

Lord Faulks: My right honourable friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Michael Gove) has made the following Written Statement.

"Following the troubling allegations raised by whistleblowers – and documented by the BBC's "Panorama" – about the treatment of young people in custody at Medway, I appointed an Independent Improvement Board to investigate the centre's governance and the safeguarding measures in place there.

I am today publishing the Board's report, which tells a powerful story – not just about what went wrong at Medway, but about broader problems in the Youth Justice System, and specifically in the children's secure estate. The Board's conclusions reinforce the interim findings from the separate, wider review that I have asked Charlie Taylor to prepare on the Youth Justice System, which will report this summer.

Given the findings of the Independent Improvement Board, the pending Charlie Taylor review and the announcement by G4S in February 2016 of its intention to sell its Children's Services business I have agreed with G4S that the new contract to operate Medway will not proceed.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) will take over the running of Medway in the short term – by the end of July – and will work closely with the Youth Justice Board on the enhanced monitoring arrangements that will be put in place. Beverley Bevan – an experienced prison governor with seven years' experience of working with young offenders – will be appointed as the Governor at that time.

The Independent Improvement Board made a series of recommendations which we accept in full and which will be implemented across all three Secure Training Centres (STCs). By implementing these recommendations, we will strengthen external scrutiny, safeguarding and monitoring arrangements and clarify the responsibilities of organisations and individuals involved in providing services at all STCs. Steps will be taken to ensure that whistleblowers – including young people who speak out – are supported and listened to.

However, the fundamental problem identified by the Independent Improvement Board was that those running Medway conceived of it as a place of coercion, where the culture and the incentives – as they were designed in the contracts – were centred around the corralling and control of children, rather than their full rehabilitation. Their focus should instead have been on education and care, on identifying root problems and giving children the opportunity to find their way back into society, and to make something of themselves.

Charlie Taylor's interim findings have made it clear that the places where young offenders spend time should not be junior prisons, but secure schools. I am announcing today that each of the Secure Training Centres will have a new governing body who will scrutinise and support those running each centre. This will be a first step towards giving these centres the type of oversight and support that we would see in an ordinary school.

When Charlie's final report is published, I hope we will be able to move swiftly to a model which ensures that the educational mission of these establishments is central to their existence.

Based on the findings of the Independent Improvement Board, I will appoint a similar Youth Custody Improvement Board to work across the youth secure estate, to help to make sure that children are safe and to improve standards of behaviour management in each Secure Training Centre and Young Offender Institution that holds children, including those currently run by NOMS. I will confirm the Board appointments in due course.

I am grateful to all the members of the Independent Improvement Board who delivered their important work at such impressive speed.

This report, and our response to the recommendations made by the Independent Improvement Board can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/medway-improvement-board-report-and-moj-response-to-its-recommendations. I will place a copy of these in the Libraries of both Houses."

Written Answers

Thursday, 12 May 2016

Agriculture: Subsidies

Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will extend the deadline for claims for basic farm payments for 2016 until 31 May or later. [\[HL8131\]](#)

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: It has not proved possible to respond to this question in the time available before Prorogation. Ministers will correspond directly with the Member.

Anaerobic Digestion

Asked by Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer

To ask Her Majesty's Government what barriers they have identified to the further growth of the waste-fed anaerobic digestion sector. [\[HL8103\]](#)

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Anaerobic Digestion Strategy and Action Plan which was published in 2011 included 56 actions to overcome barriers to anaerobic digestion (AD) using waste feedstocks. The Strategy has been delivered and the number of AD plants that treat waste has increased dramatically. AD is delivering renewable energy into both the heat and power sectors. Government-funded research has shown that smart use of renewable fertilisers can increase yields, maintain soil fertility and reduce bills with no negative impact on crop quality or safety. Government support has helped the AD sector to take off. It is now for industry itself to continue to develop sustainably, identify opportunities for growth and manage risks.

Arab States: Armed Forces

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their policy with regard to future deployment of troops in (1) Iraq, and (2) Libya. [\[HL8282\]](#)

Earl Howe: In Iraq, the Government is already making a substantial contribution, with over 250 personnel who have provided training to more than 13,000 members of the Iraqi Security Forces in infantry skills and countering improvised explosive devices. We keep the composition and scale of our contribution under close review, to reflect developments in the campaign.

We are discussing with international partners how to best support the new Libyan Government. This might include training Libyan forces to provide their own security, but no decisions have yet been made. There are no UK Government plans for the deployment of troops in a combat role to Libya. Any support the UK provides will be in response to a request made by the Libyan Government.

Asylum

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government how long it takes on average for the UK to take charge of asylum claims made under the Dublin III Regulations. [\[HL8155\]](#)

Lord Keen of Elie: Data on cases progressed under the Dublin III Regulation is recorded on the main immigration database.

However, this data is not held in a way that allows it to be reported on automatically and is therefore not currently available.

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government how long it takes on average for the UK to reach a decision on asylum claims made under the Dublin III Regulations. [\[HL8156\]](#)

Lord Keen of Elie: Whilst the Home Office does publish information on decision timeliness the way the data is recorded means that it would require manual interrogation of the main immigration database to calculate the average decision time for cases transferred under Dublin III. This data cannot be provided for reasons of disproportionate cost

Asylum: Syria

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they anticipate being in a position to reply to the representations made to Lord Bates and to Lord Keen of Elie about Syrian Christian families seeking asylum after the beheading of family members. [\[HL8013\]](#)

Lord Keen of Elie: I understand the Noble Lord is referring to correspondence dated 25 April from a member of the public on behalf of people they believe are at risk in Syria.

I can confirm that a response was sent on 9 May.

Bail

Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people were sentenced for failure to answer to bail in each of the last five years; and what was the average (1) fine, and (2) custodial sentence imposed, for such offences in each of the last five years. [\[HL7575\]](#)

Lord Faulks: The number of persons sentenced for failing to surrender to bail, with average fine and custodial length, in England and Wales, from 2010 to 2014 (the latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Court proceedings data for 2015 will be published in due course.

Persons sentenced at all courts, with average fine and custodial length, for the offence of failing to surrender to bail (1), England & Wales, 2010 to 2014 (2)(3)

<i>Outcome</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>
Sentenced	18,593	16,700	13,263	11,284	9,479
Average fine (£)	62.95	63.61	67.41	70.30	70.86
Average custodial sentence length (months) (4)	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8

(1) An offence under Section 6 Bail Act 1976

(2) The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

(3) Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

(4) Excludes life and indeterminate sentences.

Source: Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice.

Ref: PQ HL7575

Banks: Loans

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are monitoring the lending practices of "challenger banks" particularly with regard to their use of high loan-to-value ratios and low value-to-income ratios, and whether they forecast the risks to family finances of borrowing and to the economy of rising impairment to bank balance sheets. [HL8289]

Lord O'Neill of Gatley: This Government has fundamentally reformed the UK's system of financial regulation.

We established the Financial Policy Committee (FPC) to act as the UK's macroprudential authority, tasked with identifying, monitoring and addressing systemic risks to financial stability. This involves monitoring levels of leverage, debt or credit growth of all banks active in the UK, including so-called "challenger banks".

In June 2014, the FPC took action to limit mortgage lending at high loan-to-income ratios; this action provided insurance against a rise in the number of highly indebted households.

We also established the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) as the UK's micro-prudential regulator, responsible for promoting the safety and soundness of the individual firms it regulates, through minimising the risk they pose to financial stability.

The FPC's latest assessment of financial stability risks from UK credit growth can be found in the record of its March 2016 meeting, which is available on the Bank of England's website.

Belfast Agreement

Asked by Lord Laird

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether parity of esteem as established in the Belfast Agreement 1998 applies to people who live in the Republic of Ireland. [HL8202]

Asked by Lord Laird

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether parity of esteem as established in the Belfast Agreement 1998 applies to (1) people temporarily residing in Northern Ireland, and if so for how long such people have to live there for parity of esteem to apply; and (2) people who live outside Northern Ireland but work in the province. [HL8203]

Asked by Lord Laird

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the concept of parity of esteem in the Belfast Agreement 1998 means that people living in Northern Ireland are subject to more parity of esteem than anywhere else in the UK; and if not, why not. [HL8204]

Lord Dunlop: As I have explained in my previous replies to the noble Lord, the concept of 'parity of esteem' is expressed and defined in the 1998 Belfast Agreement in relation to people living in Northern Ireland. This Government sees parity of esteem as treating everybody in Northern Ireland fairly and with equal respect, just as it is committed to treating people fairly and with equal respect wherever they live in the United Kingdom.

Borders: Personal Records

Asked by Lord Jopling

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 4 May (HL7852), why they only conduct "targeted passport checks against selected cohorts of passengers leaving the UK for a range of law enforcement purposes", in the light of their response to the European Union Committee's report *Frontex: the EU external borders agency* (9th Report, Session 2007–08, HL Paper 60), which states their intention that by March 2014 the e-Borders system would have reached the key milestone of "the receipt and processing of data for 100 per cent of passengers and crew movements"; whether it is still their aim to reach that milestone; and if not, when their policy was changed. [HL8228]

Lord Keen of Elie: Routine embarkation controls by Border Force officers were abolished in 1994 and 1998, as the paper-based checks were deemed outdated and checks were not carried out on all modes of transport.

However, Border Force does undertake targeted passport checks against selected cohorts of passengers leaving the UK for a range of law enforcement purposes. Since April 2015 exit data has been collected by carriers and port operators from all scheduled international commercial services departing the UK from air and sea ports and from international rail stations, except those services not within scope. Departure data is collected by carriers and port operators and transmitted to Home Office systems, where work takes place to match it to arrival data, visa conditions and other information as appropriate.

British Home Stores: Pensions

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will review, or charge others to review, the performance of the trustees of the BHS pension schemes, and whether the current trustees are fit and proper to continue performing that role at BHS and other pension schemes. [HL8139]

Baroness Altmann: The investigation into the BHS pension schemes, including the role of the trustees, is a matter for the independent Pensions Regulator.

The actions of the trustees and competence of the trustees are among the issues that we would expect the Regulator to be considering as part of its investigations.

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they, the Pensions Regulator, or the Pension Protection Fund have in the last three years had discussions with BHS, Lady Green or Sir Philip Green concerning the deficit in the BHS pension fund and a scheme to reduce that deficit. [HL8265]

Baroness Altmann: The Pensions Regulator and the Pension Protection Fund are independent bodies and in carrying out their functions they may meet individuals involved with pension schemes.

Ministers have engaged with a range of sponsoring employers of Defined Benefit pensions schemes as a matter of routine, including Sir Philip Green, as part of their normal considerations of the pensions landscape but oversight of the scheme funding regime for Defined Benefit schemes is a matter for the Pensions Regulator. It would not be appropriate for Ministers to intervene in individual cases or to discuss with the Regulator, the Pension Protection Fund or the scheme sponsor how a particular scheme's pension deficit should be mitigated.

Business: UK Membership of EU

Asked by Lord Lansley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance and specific information they have provided, or plan to provide, to businesses about the impact of the UK leaving the EU on individual business sectors in order to support those businesses in communicating with their

staff, suppliers, and other stakeholders about the possible impact on them of the UK leaving the EU. [HL8252]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: It has not proved possible to respond to this question in the time available before Prorogation. Ministers will correspond directly with my noble Friend.

Credit

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the growth in private sector credit; the use of lending strategies by banks; payday lenders and peer-to-peer lenders; and risks to family finances and financial stability. [HL8288]

Lord O'Neill of Gatley: Private credit growth grew at 3.7% in the year to March, below the 2003-08 average of 11.5%. Industry sources such as Nesta estimate that peer-to-peer lending for consumers and business facilitated £2.4 billion of gross lending in 2015, 85% higher than in 2014. The volume of payday lending fell 35% in the first six months after the government transferred regulatory responsibility of the consumer credit market to the Financial Conduct Authority in April 2014.

The government created the independent Financial Policy Committee (FPC) to ensure we don't repeat the mistakes of the past, and they have judged that financial stability risks from domestic credit growth are not elevated. The FPC has already taken action on loan-to-income ratios and mortgage affordability to ensure against risks from indebted households, and interest payments as a proportion of household income have fallen to a record low of 4.7% in Q4 2015, compared to 10.6% in Q1 2008.

Credit Cards

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to investigate the growth in the number of banks offering unsecured credit cards with interest and principal payment grace periods of more than three years, in the light of the most recent report by MoneyFacts. [HL8267]

Lord O'Neill of Gatley: The Government has fundamentally reformed regulation of the consumer credit market, which includes the credit card sector. Consumer credit regulation transferred from the Office of Fair Trading to the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) on 1 April 2014.

The FCA is currently undertaking a thorough review of the credit card market through its 'credit card market study'. On 3 November 2015 the FCA published its interim report which found that the market was working reasonably well for most customers.

Cybercrime

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in working with Chief Police Officers to tackle cybercrime. [HL8260]

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to support research and development to provide continually up-to-date defence against cybercrime. [HL8263]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Home Office continues to work closely with police forces to ensure that we are best placed to tackle the threat posed by cyber crime.

Through the National Cyber Security Programme (NCSP), we invested over £90 million during the last Parliament to bolster the law enforcement response.

As the Chancellor announced in November, this Government has committed to spending £1.9 billion on cyber security over the next five years, including for tackling cyber crime.

The Home Office is also supporting the work led by Chief Constable Stephen Kavanagh, the National Policing Lead for Digital Investigation and Intelligence (DII), to build capabilities to combat the full range of digital crime types. In addition we are providing funding through the Police Transformation Fund to support police led programmes to provide a step-change in digital capability.

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of cybercrime attacks and their impact on the UK economy. [HL8261]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The most recently published crime statistics for England and Wales show that in the year ending December 2015 of the 617,618 fraud offences reported to the National Fraud Investigation Bureau, 14,347 (2.3%) were recorded under the Computer Misuse Act (i.e. cyber-dependent offences). This figure represented a 6% decrease compared to the year ending December 2014.

While overall crime has fallen by more than a quarter since 2010, it is also changing. An accurate national picture is critical to informing our response to cyber crime. That is why the Office for National Statistics have now published, for the first time, initial experimental estimates of the numbers of cyber crimes committed.

Based on a preliminary field trial, ONS estimate 5.1m fraud incidents and 2.5m incidents of computer misuse crime per year. Following the success of this trial, new questions relating to fraud and cybercrime were introduced onto half the survey sample from October 2015 and will be reported on a quarterly basis from later this year.

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to ensure that businesses and individuals are being adequately protected from the financial impact of cybercrime. [HL8262]

Lord Keen of Elie: Through the National Cyber Security Programme (NCSP), we invested over £90 million during the last Parliament to bolster the law enforcement response. As the Chancellor announced in November, this Government has committed to spending £1.9 billion on cyber security over the next five years, including activity to help businesses and individuals protect themselves from cyber crime. The Government is also creating the National Cyber Security Centre, which will open in October 2016, to simplify the current cyber security landscape. This year, we will also publish a second five-year National Cyber Security Strategy which will set out our approach to how we will continue to defend the UK from cyber crime.

Through the NCSP we are funding the Cyber Streetwise campaign (www.cyberstreetwise.com), which encourages the public and Small and Medium Enterprises to adopt more secure online behaviour. The latest phase of the campaign, launched in September 2015, is focussed on addressing the estimated 80% of cyber crime that could be prevented through the adoption of three simple online behaviours: use three random words to create a strong password; install security software on all devices; and always download the latest software and app updates as soon as they appear.

We are also clear that banks have a central role in the prevention of fraud and cyber crime. The Home Secretary announced our new Joint Fraud Taskforce on 10 February. The Taskforce is a collaboration of the banks, law enforcement and government, at the most senior levels. Its aim is to protect the public from financial fraud, including cyber-enabled fraud, to reduce the impact of fraud on victims and increase the disruption and prosecution of fraudsters.

Diplomatic Service: Arabic

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many British Ambassadors based in the Middle East and North Africa (1) speak Arabic, and (2) are able to conduct official business in Arabic. [HL8284]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: I refer the noble Lord to the answer I gave to the noble Viscount Waverley on 28 April 2016 (HL7839), namely that, in the Middle East and North Africa region approximately 95 per cent of our Heads of Mission speak Arabic or other local languages (e.g. French or Hebrew).

Doctors

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on the NHS of the predicted loss of 35 per cent of current clinical pharmacologist consultant posts through retirements in the next decade and the reduction in the number of training grade clinical pharmacologist posts, as set out in the report by the British Pharmacological Society, A Prescription for the NHS: Recognising the value of clinical pharmacology and therapeutics. [HL8246]

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the reasons behind the reduction in the number of consultant clinical pharmacologist posts within the NHS. [HL8247]

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on the UK's research capacity of the reduction in the number of consultant clinical pharmacologist posts within the NHS. [HL8248]

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on the design and running of early phase clinical trials and all phases of drugs development of the reduction in the number of consultant clinical pharmacologist posts being held in the NHS. [HL8249]

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on medicines policy and management of the reduction in the number of consultant clinical pharmacologist posts within the NHS. [HL8250]

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with Health Education England over any action required to stem the loss of consultant clinical pharmacologist posts in the NHS. [HL8251]

Lord Prior of Brampton: Figures published by the Health and Social Care Information Centre show that there has not been a reduction in the number of consultant clinical pharmacologists employed in the National Health Service in England.

As part of its workforce planning, Health Education England (HEE) take account of a range of factors including forecast rates of retirement. HEE has recently undertaken a review of the clinical pharmacology and therapeutics workforce, the findings of which will contribute to future workforce planning for this specialty in England.

It is for the respective Governments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to consider workforce planning for their health system.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Internet

Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether it is legal for the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency to advertise and provide access to the Government's referendum leaflet on its main website and whether any costs involved are additional to, or part of, the total spending on producing and distributing the leaflet. [HL8063]

Lord Bridges of Headley: Gov.uk provides a range of Government information, including links to the e referendum.gov.uk website which sets out information for the public in order to ensure they are able to make an informed decision on 23rd June.

It is legal for Government to do so and there are no additional costs associated with this. These links will be removed at the start of the restricted 28 day period.

Economic and Monetary Union

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether British banks or the public purse could be compelled to participate in a scheme to rescue a failing bank based in the Eurozone to make a new contribution of equity, accept haircuts on assets or be forced into debt for equity conversions. [HL8290]

Lord O'Neill of Gatley: The Government has ensured that the UK will never be required to pay for any future Eurozone bail outs.

The Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive (BRRD) requires Member States to put in place a bail-in tool, which will allow resolution authorities to write down liabilities in a failing bank and convert their debt instruments into equity. The BRRD represents an important step forward in ensuring that the EU effectively addresses the risks posed by the banking system.

Embassies: Home Country Nationals

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they ascertain the number of local staff at a foreign embassy who are liable to pay tax. [HL8030]

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government, other than voluntarily registering for self-assessment, what tools are available to ensure that tax is paid by locally employed staff working in foreign embassies. [HL8031]

Lord O'Neill of Gatley: Letters are issued annually on behalf of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to Diplomatic Missions in the UK (Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates) requesting staff lists providing details of all locally engaged staff and private servants.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has a specialist team (the Embassy team) in place to deal with enquiries from locally engaged staff employed at Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations in the UK as detailed in 'The London Diplomatic List'. In December 2015 HMRC wrote to all these bodies to ensure they held full and up-to-date contact information for the team.

Locally engaged employees and private servants are expected to contact the Embassy team to notify their employment as soon as they are engaged.

The Embassy team determines the employee's liability to Income Tax and National Insurance Contributions. The team also carries out risk assessment activity and where it identifies individuals who have not notified their employment to HMRC, it takes action to ensure they pay the tax that is due.

EU: Trade

Asked by Lord Inglewood

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of leaving the EU on businesses that trade with Europe, and how those businesses may communicate that impact. [HL8292]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: It has not proved possible to respond to this question in the time available before Prorogation. Ministers will correspond directly with my noble Friend.

European Parliament: Art Works

Asked by Lord Jopling

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Neville-Rolfe on 21 April (HL7637), whether they will now state what contingency plans they have drawn up, if any, to repatriate the British Art Collection from the European Parliament in the event that the UK votes to leave the EU. [HL7851]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: It has not proved possible to respond to this question in the time available before Prorogation. Ministers will correspond directly with the Member.

Asked by Baroness Rawlings

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Neville-Rolfe on 21 April (HL7637), whether the new settlement for the UK in the EU negotiated by the Prime Minister included a provision for the British Art Collection in the European Parliament to be repatriated in the event that the UK votes to leave the EU. [HL7927]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: It has not proved possible to respond to this question in the time available before Prorogation. Ministers will correspond directly with the Member.

Exercise

Asked by Lord Oates

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report of the Academy of Royal Medical Colleges in February 2015, Exercise: The miracle cure and the role of the doctor in promoting it, and how that assessment has informed their policy making. [HL8270]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The evidence and messages in the report of the Academy of Royal Medical Colleges align with the United Kingdom Chief Medical Officers' (CMOs) guidelines for physical activity and Public Health England's physical activity framework 'Everybody Active Every Day' both of which highlight the key role of health professionals in promoting physical activity.

The Government is committed to raising awareness of the UK CMOs guidelines and the benefits of physical activity amongst the public and health professionals. The CMO recently launched a new infographic specifically designed to help health professionals to discuss the benefits of physical activity with their patients. The Government also has in place a range of other programmes to support doctors in the promotion of physical activity. These include e-learning modules on physical activity and health, undergraduate training resources for medical, nursing and allied health professionals and Public Health England's Clinical Champions Programme. Physical activity is also embedded in NHS's risk reduction services such as NHS Health Checks and the NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme.

Faith Schools

Asked by Lord Ouseley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to tackle persistent staff segregation by gender at some independent faith schools, as recently identified by the Chief Inspector of Schools. [HL8159]

Lord Nash: Independent schools have to meet the standards set in regulations. If segregation results in disadvantage for pupils of one gender, either directly or through inappropriate modelling of gender roles through staff segregation visible to pupils, then it is likely that the standards have not been met and regulatory action by this Department will follow. If there is a possibility that staff segregation disadvantages staff of one gender and there may be a direct breach of the Equality Act 2010, we will not hesitate to make a referral to the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

Financial Services: Additional Tier 1 Instruments

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will consider giving the owners of Alternative Tier One instruments capital voting rights in banks which are approaching a contingent convertible conversion point. [HL8293]

Lord O'Neill of Gatley: The Government does not have plans to propose changes to Additional Tier 1 (AT1) instruments. These instruments have been designed without voting rights for investors because it is necessary for issuing banks to have the capital readily available in times of stress. Introduction of voting rights before a bank reaches a trigger point could undermine the ability to quickly convert these instruments and secure the capital necessary to prevent additional stress.

Financial Services: Fees and Charges

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to take steps to encourage fund managers to take research costs out of their management fees, rather than deducting those costs through additional fees. [HL8185]

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the level of fund management fees charged to consumers reflects a competitive market, in the light of the variable performance of such funds. [HL8186]

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to legislate to ensure that all fees charged to pensioners by fund managers are made publicly available monthly, including transaction and research costs and all other costs that investors bear. [HL8187]

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they track the performance of the fund management industry; and if so, whether they have identified any examples where managers have been able to reduce costs and passed those reductions on to investors. [HL8188]

Lord O'Neill of Gatley: The Government is committed to the principle that people who have worked hard and saved should have access to appropriate and accessible investment options and understand the charges that they face. We appreciate the efforts that industry have made to fulfil this aim.

Since last April, the Government has ensured that trustees of defined contribution pension schemes report charges levied on members in schemes used for auto enrolment.

We are also engaging with international work on transparency, such as the legislation agreed at European Union level through the Packaged Retail and Insurance Based Investment Products (PRIIPs) and Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID). MiFID II will introduce new measures to increase transparency of research costs for clients of portfolio managers. Under these new measures, portfolio managers may only pay for research through their own funds or from a specific research payment account funded by its clients and subject to specific controls, including a research budget.

The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) is also currently conducting a market study into asset management, which covers the issue of whether the level of fund management fees charged to consumers reflects a competitive market. We await the FCA's assessment of competition in this sector. The FCA expect to publish an interim report in summer 2016 and a final report in early 2017.

Floods: European Union Solidarity Fund

Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made in their application to the EU Solidarity Fund for flood relief, and when they anticipate the first payments from that fund will be made. [HL8174]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government submitted an initial UK application to the European Union Solidarity Fund on Friday 26 February. We are in the process of refining our cost estimates and figures, and I will update Parliament once the application is finalised.

Fly-tipping

Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the levels of fly-tipping on private land across the UK in each of the last five years. [HL8278]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Fly-tipping is unacceptable whether it occurs on public or private land, it spoils our enjoyment of the countryside, can harm human health and wildlife, and damage farming and rural tourism. It also undermines legitimate waste businesses where unscrupulous operators undercut those that operate within the law and is a drain on both local authorities and landowners that clear it up. Tackling this scourge and other forms of illegal waste activity is a priority for the Government.

The exact extent of fly-tipping on private land is unknown as landowners are not required to report this to Defra. However landowner estimates, provided to the Defra chaired National Fly-Tipping Prevention Group, suggest that fly-tipping on private land may cost between £50 million and £150 million per annum in clean up and disposal costs alone.

Some private landowner organisations do report fly-tipping on their land to Defra on a voluntary basis. Between April 2009 and April 2016 these organisation reported some 5,946 fly-tipping incidents on their land. We recognise that the data collected does not fully reflect the scale of the problem.

We recognise the inconvenience and costs that fly-tipping poses to landowners and we are working with a wide range of interested parties through the National Fly-Tipping Prevention Group to improve understanding and awareness of the problem as well as sharing best practice about tackling it.

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to improve the reporting of fly-tipping on private land, since the publication of Defra's 2010 report, Fly Tipping: Let's cut it out. [HL8287]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: It has not proved possible to respond to this question in the time available before Prorogation. Ministers will correspond directly with the Member.

Food Poverty

*Asked by **Baroness Thomas of Winchester***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to gather evidence on food insecurity in the UK. [HL8165]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: There is no single definition of food insecurity. The factors that impact on household food security are complex. There are multiple indicators such as quality, variety and desirability of diet as well as total intake, not all of which are measured consistently. It is, therefore, very difficult and potentially misleading to attempt to develop a single classification of food insecurity.

Defra publishes annual statistics to show the proportion of household income spent on food by (a) all households and (b) the lowest income 20% of households. Lower income families spend a greater proportion of household income on food (15.7% compared to 11.4% for the average household). This has remained stable over recent years: 16.5% in 2013, 16.6% in 2012, 16.6% in 2011, 15.8% in 2010 and 16.1% in 2009. The most recent statistics are in the Food Statistics Pocketbook 2015 on the GOV.UK website.

Year on year food prices have continued to fall with an annual rate of inflation of -2.7 per cent in the year to March 2016. General inflation is 0.3 per cent, unchanged from January.

GCSE

*Asked by **Lord Hunt of Kings Heath***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what analysis they have carried out of the performance of sponsored academy schools compared to similar local authority

maintained schools based on GCSE results in (1) 2013, (2) 2014, and (3) 2015. [HL8120]

Lord Nash: The Department published a supplementary analysis to the academies annual report in June 2013 which included analysis of the 2012 results for sponsored secondary academies compared to similar local authority maintained schools. The paper has been attached to this answer.

Our success in meeting our commitment to tackle failing schools by bringing in academy sponsors means that there is no longer a large enough pool of maintained secondary schools to allow a robust approach to identifying similar schools against which we can assess academy performance, such as the matching methodology used in our June 2013 analysis. A matching approach has been used in other analysis of primary schools such as that published in May 2016 by SchoolDash to conclude that sponsored academies "become noticeably better in a relatively short time following academy conversion."

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Attainment_by_pupils_in_academies_2012 [HL8120 attachment.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-05-03/HL8120>

Glyphosate

*Asked by **Lord Willoughby de Broke***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the light of the European Parliament's proposal to ban the herbicide glyphosate for garden use, they intend to vote for re-approval of glyphosate at the EU Council meeting on 18 May. [I] [HL8294]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: It has not proved possible to respond to this question in the time available before Prorogation. Ministers will correspond directly with the Member.

Han Choong Yeol

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that North Korean agents have killed the Korean-Chinese pastor Han Choong Yeol. [HL8235]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We are aware of the concerning reports surrounding the murder of Han Choong Yeol in the border region between China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. However, any investigation will be a matter for the Chinese authorities.

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will raise with the Chinese authorities reports that North Korean agents entered Chiangbai and murdered the Korean-Chinese pastor Han Choong Yeol. [HL8236]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: I refer the noble Lord to the answer given by the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), to the Hon. Member for East Londonderry (Mr Campbell), on 9 May 2016 (PQ 36385), copied below for ease of reference:

I have no plans to raise this case with the Chinese Government. We have a regular dialogue with the Chinese about the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), which covers the effective implementation of UN sanctions to prevent North Korea from developing nuclear weapons, and encouraging China to confront human rights violations by the North Korean regime, most notably the important principle of non-refoulement. I raised both points with Chinese Vice Minister Chen Fengxiang in December'.

Hedgehogs

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 25 April (HL7529), whether badger predation on hedgehogs is increasing or decreasing. [HL8206]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: There has been no assessment of whether badger predation on hedgehogs is increasing or decreasing. Badgers have, however, been identified as one of a range of factors that could potentially have an impact on hedgehog populations.

Hereditary Peers: By-elections

Asked by Lord Grocott

To ask the Chairman of Committees, further to the Written Answer by the Chairman of Committees on 28 April (HL7763), what was the total cost for the services provided by Electoral Reform Services (ERS) for the recent hereditary peer by-election following the death of Lord Avebury, and what, in particular, was the cost of ERS supervising and conducting the count on 19 April. [HL8153]

Lord Laming: The total cost to the House of Lords for the services provided by Electoral Reform Services (ERS) in respect of the recent Liberal Democrat hereditary peers' by-election was £300. This includes VAT at 20%.

As with other by-elections, there was one fee for all services provided. There was no separate fee for the cost of ERS supervising and conducting the count.

When the need for a by-election arises ERS are engaged to administer and supervise the by-election and provide assurance that it conforms to good electoral practice.

Immigration: EU Nationals

Asked by Viscount Waverley

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether it is their intention that, in the event of the UK leaving the EU, citizens of EU member states who had previously

settled in the UK would be entitled automatically to remain; and if not, what contingency plans they are making to defend any legal challenges or claims for compensation under the European Convention on Human Rights that might arise from individuals who are subject to removal. [HL8054]

Lord Keen of Elie: As set out in the Government's White Paper: 'The process for withdrawing from the European Union', published on 29 February, the withdrawal process is unprecedented. No country has ever used Article 50 – it is untested. There is a great deal of uncertainty about how it would work.

UK citizens get the right to live and work in the other 27 member states from our membership of the EU. If the UK voted to leave the EU, the Government would do all it could to secure a positive outcome for the country, but there would be no requirement under EU law for these rights to be maintained.

London Stock Exchange: Deutsche Börse

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that the London Stock Exchange estimates that its acquisition by Deutsche Bourse will lead to a reduction of £7 billion in the margin capital available to protect the financial system from the consequences of counterparty failure, and of whether such a reduction in collateral represents an unacceptable increase in systemic risk. [HL8264]

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the presence in the UK of a counterparty clearing house is necessary to the success of the UK as an international financial centre, and whether the presence of such a clearing house is protected by the new settlement for the UK in the EU. [HL8269]

Lord O'Neill of Gatley: Central Counterparties (CCPs) play a central role in modern financial markets. As the Prime Minister has made clear, the UK's new settlement with the EU ensures UK firms, including CCPs, will never face any discrimination for being outside the Eurozone.

I refer the noble Lord also to my written answer of 1 April (HL7153).

Managers: Pay

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills tracks the performance of FTSE 100 companies and is able to identify where any company has introduced a cost-cutting measure and correspondingly reduced executive pay, and if so, what percentage of those companies have done so. [HL8133]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: It has not proved possible to respond to this question in the time available before Prorogation. Ministers will correspond directly with the noble Lord.

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether it is their policy that FTSE 100 executive pay is a matter solely for shareholders or also for a wider group of affected stakeholders such as pension holders, customers, and the customers of similar companies. [HL8134]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: It has not proved possible to respond to this question in the time available before Prorogation. Ministers will correspond directly with the noble Lord.

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether it is their policy, in circumstances where more than 50 per cent of shareholder votes oppose executive pay awards, that the companies' boards should take note. [HL8135]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: It has not proved possible to respond to this question in the time available before Prorogation. Ministers will correspond directly with the noble Lord.

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to legislate to change non-binding shareholder votes in relation to executive pay in public companies to binding votes if they pass the 50 per cent threshold. [HL8136]

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they support annual executive pay votes by shareholders, and whether they intend to legislate to stop three-year votes on that issue. [HL8137]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: It has not proved possible to respond to this question in the time available before Prorogation. Ministers will correspond directly with the noble Lord.

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will introduce a duty on shareholders of a significant size to address executive pay and company performance and increase those shareholders' reporting requirements to pension trustees. [HL8138]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: It has not proved possible to respond to this question in the time available before Prorogation. Ministers will correspond directly with the noble Lord.

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to legislate to introduce voting thresholds that

empower shareholders in the operations of public companies in relation to executive pay. [HL8183]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: It has not proved possible to respond to this question in the time available before Prorogation. Ministers will correspond directly with the noble Lord.

Midwives

Asked by Lord Birt

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many midwives are currently employed in NHS maternity services, and how many additional midwives will be needed in 2017 to enable the effective operation of the service. [HL8239]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The latest statistics from the Health and Social Care Information Centre show that as at 31 January 2016, there were 21,581 full-time equivalent midwives employed in the National Health Service in England, 21,398 of these work in NHS maternity services.

NHS organisations are best placed to decide how many staff they employ tailoring services to meet the needs of their patients and local communities, to deliver safe care.

The Department has set up Health Education England to deliver a better health and healthcare workforce for England. It is responsible for ensuring a secure workforce supply that reflects the needs of local service users, providers and commissioners of healthcare.

Midwives: Training

Asked by Lord Birt

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many midwives in the UK will complete their training in 2016. [HL8240]

Lord Prior of Brampton: It is not possible to predict with certainty how many midwives currently studying in the United Kingdom will successfully complete their training in 2016. All students studying midwifery need to successfully complete their course and pass their exams in order to complete their training and graduate from their courses.

Health Education England forecast that the total number of midwives due to complete their training in 2016 is 1,902.

Milk: Origin Marking

Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to strengthen the labelling of milk products to show country of origin. [HL8175]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: In 2011, Defra facilitated a set of industry principles on country of origin labelling. These principles ensure that the vast majority of milk and dairy products sold at retail in Britain are clearly labelled

with their country of origin. We are continuing to work with the food industry to explore what more can be done to increase origin labelling, as well as in the EU to push for EU-wide mandatory origin labelling for milk and dairy products.

Minimum Wage

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will name those businesses that are known to have changed the terms and conditions of their low-paid workers in order to recover some of the costs of paying an increased minimum wage; and what steps they plan to take to discourage businesses from taking such steps. [HL8064]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The Government believes that it is essential for employers to ensure that their reward packages are competitive, in order to retain and develop the staff who are fundamental to their success. In a growing economy, the National Living Wage should represent an opportunity to invest in talented staff and improve productivity.

The Government does not plan to operate a formal scheme to name employers who change employees' terms and conditions. But we will continue to be clear that reducing wider remuneration packages and blaming the National Living Wage is short-sighted and not in the spirit of the introduction of the National Living Wage.

National Curriculum Tests

Asked by Baroness Afshar

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the long-term impact of the introduction of SAT exams on vulnerable children. [HL8190]

Lord Nash: SATs, now called national curriculum tests, were first introduced in 1991. In determining primary assessment policy, the Department considers the impact of testing on all children as a matter of course, which includes drawing on evidence from this country's past national tests.

As part of our Public Sector Equality Duty, we also consider the impact of Government policy on different groups of pupils, including – but not limited to – those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. Vulnerable children, such as those from disadvantaged backgrounds who qualify for free school meals, looked-after children who attract pupil premium plus funding, or those with special educational needs.

The Government believes that rigorous and appropriate assessment is in all pupils' interests. National curriculum tests help teachers to understand how pupils are doing in relation to national expectations and identify where additional support is needed. They also hold schools to account for how well they support their pupils, which the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and

Development concludes is particularly important for the least advantaged. The tests should not put undue pressure on any pupil and we trust teachers to approach them in a proportionate manner. Schools are also required to provide continuous and appropriate support for the wellbeing and resilience of all pupils.

For this year, we have introduced updated tests to align with the new National Curriculum which was introduced in 2014. In developing the curriculum we have been mindful of the possible impact on equalities and based on a wide range of evidence we have conducted a full equalities impact assessment. This paper has been attached to this answer.

The new tests will assess pupils' attainment against the National Curriculum. In developing these tests, the Department has considered carefully their impact upon all pupils and we will continue to do so as they are introduced in schools.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Reform_of_the_national_curriculum_England [HL8190 Attachment.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-05-04/HL8190>

North Korea: Freedom of Expression

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the North Korean authorities about the treatment of British journalists and the continued breach of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights pertaining to the free flow of information, and restrictions on freedom of speech in that country. [HL8280]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We made immediate representations to the North Korean authorities when we were informed of the detention of a BBC journalist in Pyongyang. Our Embassy in Pyongyang provided consular assistance prior to the journalist's departure. As part of our policy of critical engagement with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea we consistently raise human rights issues, such as freedom of speech and freedom of expression, directly with the regime and in international fora.

North Korea: Press Freedom

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the detention and expulsion of BBC journalists from North Korea. [HL8279]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The detention and expulsion of a BBC journalist in Pyongyang is of concern. This is yet another example of the North Korean regime's attempts to restrict and control the free flow of information and limit freedom of speech. We will

continue to raise human rights issues, such as freedom of speech and freedom of expression, directly with the regime and in international fora as part of our policy of critical engagement.

Olympic Games: Brazil

*Asked by **The Marquess of Lothian***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the current political crisis in Brazil on the country's stability and security ahead of the 2016 Olympic Games [[HL8286](#)]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The ongoing impeachment process in Brazil is a domestic issue for the people of Brazil and their elected representatives. We continue to follow developments closely. Preparations for the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games are being led by the State and City of Rio de Janeiro. Experts from the London 2012 team have been working closely with the Rio 2016 authorities and we are confident they will deliver a successful Games.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

*Asked by **Baroness Deech***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have given any consideration to suspending aid to the Palestinian Authority in the light of its decision to transfer over £85 million a year to the Palestine Liberation Organisation for the purpose of paying salaries to convicted terrorists imprisoned in Israel. [[HL8117](#)]

Baroness Verma: DFID is currently reviewing all its programmes following the publication of the updated Official Development Assistance strategy last year. DFID provides financial support to the Palestinian Authority (PA) to help deliver peace and support progress towards a two state solution. DFID funding helps build Palestinian institutions and promotes economic growth so that any future Palestinian state will be a prosperous and effective partner for peace. UK funding to the PA is for vetted civil servants only.

The PA has reaffirmed that prisoner payments are administered by the Palestinian Liberation Organisation. We continue to lobby that the payments to prisoner's families are more transparent and needs-based.

Pregnancy: Discrimination

*Asked by **The Marquess of Lothian***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of figures released by the Citizens' Advice Bureau indicating that pregnancy and maternity discrimination in the workplace is rising; and what action they plan to take as a result. [[HL8281](#)]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: It has not proved possible to respond to this question in the time available before

Prorogation. Ministers will correspond directly with my noble Friend.

Profumo Inquiry

*Asked by **Lord Hennessy of Nympsfield***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the 100-year embargo on declassification of the papers of the 1963 Denning inquiry into the Profumo affair has been reduced to a shorter retention period. [[HL8045](#)]

Lord Bridges of Headley: I refer the Noble Lord to the answer given by my predecessor to his previous question on 13 December 2013. The Government is working with the National Archives to transfer the Denning papers to Kew. We will make a further announcement in due course.

Public Bodies: Recruitment

*Asked by **Lord Stoddart of Swindon***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to encourage public bodies, including the BBC, to recruit and promote individuals based on merit alone, and to move away from any affirmative action policies that may be in use. [[HL8164](#)]

Lord Bridges of Headley: All public appointments to the boards of public bodies are made on merit and are regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments, the Rt Hon Peter Riddell. The boards of non-departmental public bodies should ensure that the body's rules for recruitment and management of staff provide for appointment and advancement on merit. These requirements also apply to the BBC.

Social Rented Housing

*Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the reduction of funds collected under the "pay to stay" proposals for household incomes of £30,000 outside London, and £40,000 inside London, and proposals to raise that to household incomes of £40,000 outside London and £50,000 inside London per annum. [I] [[HL8084](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: It is estimated that setting the income thresholds at £40,000 nationally and £50,000 in London would significantly reduce savings from the policy. The policy would apply to a far smaller number of people and the operation of a taper means that tenants in this income bracket would be paying a far smaller contribution towards their rent.

Standing Orders

*Asked by **Lord Trefgarne***

To ask the Leader of the House whether she is satisfied with the existing Standing Orders relating to

the consideration of primary legislation in its later stages, and if not, whether she will refer that matter to the Procedure Committee. [HL8272]

Baroness Stowell of Beeston: It has not proved possible to respond to this question in the time available before Prorogation. I will write directly to my Rt Hon. Friend.

Taxation: Malawi

Asked by Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made in the renegotiation of the 1955 tax treaty between the UK and Malawi, and when the new treaty is expected to be agreed and signed. [HL8253]

Asked by Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale

To ask Her Majesty's Government how the ongoing negotiations between the UK and Malawi towards an updated taxation treaty will take account of Malawi's development situation. [HL8254]

Asked by Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the renegotiated tax treaty between the UK and Malawi will improve opportunities for the government of Malawi to raise domestic revenue. [HL8255]

Asked by Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the renegotiated tax treaty between the UK and Malawi will be published once it is agreed and before it is signed. [HL8256]

Asked by Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the renegotiated tax treaty between the UK and Malawi will be subject to parliamentary scrutiny after it is agreed but before it is signed. [HL8257]

Lord O'Neill of Gatley: Discussions with Malawi over a new tax treaty began some years ago, and substantive agreement has been reached at official level. The Government of Malawi have stated that they hope to be in a position to sign the new treaty in the near future.

The current negotiations are a matter for the two governments. The UK's starting point in negotiations is based closely on the OECD Model Double Taxation Convention, which is also the basis for most other countries' tax treaties. Some developing countries prefer to follow the UN Model, the provisions of which differ in some areas to the OECD Model. The UK does adopt these provisions in its treaties where agreement is reached.

This is a matter for the Government of Malawi. However, they have stated that there is no evidence that the current 1955 agreement has motivated British investors to deprive the Government of Malawi of its revenues.

The terms of tax treaties are for the negotiators of both countries to agree. Only when both governments are content with the terms of the treaty will the treaty be signed. It would be inappropriate for draft treaties to be published in advance of signature to the treaty.

In the UK tax treaties are published and subject to parliamentary scrutiny before they become law and enter into force. A form of approval is usually followed in the corresponding country, thus giving a further level of assurance that the terms are acceptable to both Governments.

Tobacco: Smuggling

Asked by Lord Palmer

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many times the cross-department ministerial group to tackle illicit trade in tobacco has met since it was announced in the budget of March 2015; and whether they will set out the membership of that group, the issues that were discussed at each meeting and the intended outcomes. [I] [HL8291]

Lord O'Neill of Gatley: The cross-department ministerial group to tackle illicit tobacco will meet for the first time later this month. This follows a number of productive meetings between officials in HMRC and other departments to identify the challenges and opportunities in the UK and internationally and determine a clear agenda for ministerial action. Further details on the group will be issued in due course.

Trade Union Bill: Wales

Asked by Lord Hain

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Baroness Neville-Rolfe on 19 April (HL Deb, col 614), whether they will write to the Welsh Government Minister for Public Services setting out in full their argument that those sections of the Trade Union Bill applying only to devolved public services in Wales are nevertheless reserved matters, and if so, whether they will place a copy of that letter in the Library of the House. [HL8040]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: It has not proved possible to respond to this question in the time available before Prorogation. Ministers will correspond directly with the noble Lord.

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership: NHS

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to publish the draft Transatlantic Trade Investment Partnership agreement and any information they have on risks to the NHS posed by that draft treaty. [HL8258]

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the NHS is excluded from the current Transatlantic Trade Investment Partnership draft documents, and whether they will publish the legal advice they previously commissioned, in full or in summary, regarding the risk to the NHS of litigation by US private health companies. [HL8259]

Lord Price: It has not proved possible to respond to this question in the time available before Prorogation. Ministers will correspond directly with the noble Lord.

Tree Planting

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have gathered on the contribution that the 64 million new trees to be planted by the Woodland Trust in England would make to carbon reduction or capture. [HL8223]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Government has not gathered any information about the contribution these trees would make towards carbon reduction or capture. However, the Forestry Commission's Woodland Carbon Code Carbon Lookup Tables, suggest that 64 million trees planted as woodland could capture 20 million tonnes of carbon dioxide over the first 50 years of their life.

Turkey: Refugees

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made towards implementation of the provisions of the EU-Turkey Joint Action Plan to tackle the migrant crisis in line with EU principles. [HL8285]

Lord Keen of Elie: The UK is committed to ensuring the EU Turkey deal is implemented in an effective and sustainable way. We believe it is going to make a genuine difference to managing the flows of migrants; preventing people from putting themselves in the hands of smugglers and from dying while attempting the crossing. The UK is working with our European partners to ensure that most migrants can be returned quickly, fairly and securely to Turkey. We have offered 75 expert personnel including staff to help with the processing and administration of migrants in Greek reception centres. This will help to ensure that vulnerable people, including children, are identified and can access asylum systems as quickly as possible, while other migrants will be returned to Turkey in accordance with the EU-Turkey deal. The first cohort of staff are due to arrive in Greece next week. The UK also continues to deploy three vessels in the Aegean assisting in Search & Rescue missions, and a Royal Navy vessel operating as part of the NATO mission.

UK Membership of EU

Asked by Lord Tebbit

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Lord O'Neill of Gatley on 28 April (HL Deb, col 1244), what provision was made in the Treasury document published on 18 April on the economic efforts of a UK withdrawal from the EU for funding the health, education, welfare and other costs associated with the forecast increase in that document of three million in the population of the UK by 2030. [HL8157]

Lord O'Neill of Gatley: "HM Treasury analysis: the long-term economic impact of EU membership and the alternatives" shows that after 15 years, even with savings from reduced contributions to the EU, receipts would be £20 billion a year lower in the central estimate of the EEA, £36 billion a year lower for the negotiated bilateral agreement and £45 billion a year lower for the WTO alternative. £36 billion is more than a third of the NHS budget and the equivalent of 8p on the basic rate of income tax.

The HMT analysis does not forecast immigration but uses the latest figures from ONS as a modelling assumption. These numbers do not take account of future Government actions to reduce immigration, including the emergency brake on welfare agreed as part of the renegotiation.

The Government is committed to controlling migration by dealing with those who shouldn't be here, by deporting illegal immigrants and improving the skills of British workers, so we reduce the demand for skilled migrants.

The Prime Minister has re-negotiated the UK's position within the EU to close back-door routes into the UK and exert greater control over EU migration by tackling the draw of our welfare system.

But net migration remains too high and there is still more work to do.

Asked by Lord Lansley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of leaving the EU on businesses that export within the EU single market and on individual sectors. [HL8231]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: It has not proved possible to respond to this question in the time available before Prorogation. Ministers will correspond directly with my noble Friend.

Asked by Lord Stevens of Ludgate

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the Prime Minister's comments regarding the stability of peace in Europe if the UK leaves the EU, what contingency plans they have made. [HL8275]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: In his speech on 9 May, the Prime Minister, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), was clear that the UK will be

stronger, safer and better off by remaining a member of the EU. If the UK were to leave the EU, the withdrawal negotiation would need to address a wide range of difficult issues, including co-operation on foreign policy.

Asked by Lord Stevens of Ludgate

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the Prime Minister's comments regarding the stability of peace in Europe if the UK leaves the EU, what steps they have taken to strengthen the armed forces. [HL8276]

Earl Howe: The Government believes that the UK should remain in a reformed EU. As the Prime Minister has said, our EU membership helps keep the UK safer and stronger. We have the largest defence budget in the EU and the second largest in NATO. In addition, we have committed to spending 2 per cent of GDP on defence over the course of this Parliament, and the Ministry of Defence's budget will rise by 0.5 per cent above inflation every year to 2020-21. We are maintaining the size of the Army, and we are increasing the size of the Royal Navy, the RAF and the reserves.

UN Convention for Protection of Cultural Property in Event of Armed Conflict

Asked by The Earl of Clancarty

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will introduce legislation to ratify the 1954 Hague

Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols within the next Session. [HL8273]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: It has not proved possible to respond to this question in the time available before Prorogation. Ministers will correspond directly with the Member.

Wealth

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the claim by the Institute for Fiscal Studies that the proposal to stop collecting data on the wealthiest 1 per cent in the UK would lead to their wealth being underestimated. [HL7957]

Lord O'Neill of Gatley: The Government is not proposing to stop collecting data on the wealthiest 1 per cent in the UK.

HM Revenue and Customs consulted on a proposal to cease producing statistics on personal wealth based on Inheritance Tax returns. The consultation suggested that the Office for National Statistics' estimates of personal wealth, based on the household Wealth and Assets Survey, give a better indication of the overall distribution of wealth.

The Government has not yet published a formal response to the consultation, which has now closed.

Index to Statements and Answers

Written Statements.....	1	EU: Trade	12
Art Collection	1	European Parliament: Art Works.....	12
Commonwealth Recruitment.....	1	Exercise	12
ECOFIN.....	1	Faith Schools	12
Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council.....	2	Financial Services: Additional Tier 1 Instruments	13
EU Foreign Affairs Council	2	Financial Services: Fees and Charges.....	13
Legislation: 2015-2016 Session	2	Floods: European Union Solidarity Fund	13
Motoring Services Strategy	3	Fly-tipping	13
National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights.....	3	Food Poverty.....	14
National Crime Agency Remuneration Body.....	3	GCSE.....	14
National Security Arrangements: Carlile Report..	4	Glyphosate	14
Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation.....	5	Han Choong Yeol	14
UK Anti-corruption Plan	5	Hedgehogs	15
Youth Justice	6	Hereditary Peers: By-elections	15
Written Answers.....	7	Immigration: EU Nationals.....	15
Agriculture: Subsidies	7	London Stock Exchange: Deutsche Borse.....	15
Anaerobic Digestion.....	7	Managers: Pay	15
Arab States: Armed Forces.....	7	Midwives	16
Asylum	7	Midwives: Training	16
Asylum: Syria.....	7	Milk: Origin Marking	16
Bail	7	Minimum Wage.....	17
Banks: Loans	8	National Curriculum Tests.....	17
Belfast Agreement.....	8	North Korea: Freedom of Expression.....	17
Borders: Personal Records	8	North Korea: Press Freedom	17
British Home Stores: Pensions	9	Olympic Games: Brazil	18
Business: UK Membership of EU	9	Palestinians: Overseas Aid	18
Credit.....	9	Pregnancy: Discrimination	18
Credit Cards.....	9	Profumo Inquiry	18
Cybercrime	10	Public Bodies: Recruitment	18
Diplomatic Service: Arabic	10	Social Rented Housing	18
Doctors	11	Standing Orders	18
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Internet..	11	Taxation: Malawi.....	19
Economic and Monetary Union.....	11	Tobacco: Smuggling.....	19
Embassies: Home Country Nationals.....	11	Trade Union Bill: Wales.....	19

Index to Statements and Answers

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership:	
NHS	19
Tree Planting	20
Turkey: Refugees.....	20
UK Membership of EU	20
UN Convention for Protection of Cultural Property in Event of Armed Conflict	21
Wealth	21