

**Vol. 778
No. 1**



**Monday
28 November 2016**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

Written Statements 1

Written Answers.....5

[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 Evans of Bowes Park | 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, Department for Transport |
| Baroness Anelay of St Johns | Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office |
| Lord Ashton of Hyde | Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Whip |
| Lord Bates | Minister of State, Department for International Development |
| Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth | Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government, Wales Office |
| Lord Bridges of Headley | Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Exiting the European Union |
| Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen | Whip |
| Earl of Courtown | Deputy Chief Whip |
| Lord Dunlop | Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Scotland Office and Northern Ireland Office |
| Lord Freud | Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions |
| Lord Gardiner of Kimble | Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs |
| Baroness Goldie | Whip |
| Lord Henley | Whip |
| Lord Keen of Elie | Advocate-General for Scotland and Ministry of Justice Spokesperson |
| Lord Nash | Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education |
| Baroness Mobarik | Whip |
| Baroness Neville-Rolfe | Minister of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy |
| Lord Price | Minister of State, Department for International Trade |
| Lord Prior of Brampton | Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health |
| Baroness Shields | Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office and Department for Culture Media and Sport |
| Lord Taylor of Holbeach | Chief Whip |
| Baroness Williams of Trafford | Minister of State, Home Office |
| Lord Young of Cookham | Whip |
| 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

Monday, 28 November 2016

Courts and Tribunals

[HLWS287]

Lord Keen of Elie: My right honourable friend the Minister of State for Justice, Sir Oliver Heald QC, made the following Written Statement on 25 November.

"The Government published its vision for a reformed court and justice system, on 15 September 2016 – to modernise and upgrade our justice system so that it works even better for everyone – for judges and legal professionals, businesses and individuals, families, and witnesses and the vulnerable victims of crime.

The Government is committed to investing more than £700 million to modernise courts and tribunals, and over £270 million more in the criminal justice system.

Alongside this reform it remains important to make sure that our courts and tribunals service is properly and sustainably funded now and into the future, so that access to justice is protected.

In 2015/16, the net cost of the courts and tribunals service to the taxpayer was £1.2 billion. This is unsustainably high and we think that it is right to reconsider the balance of funding between the taxpayer and those who use the courts and tribunals and can afford to make a larger contribution.

The Government's general principle, as reflected in *Managing Public Money*, is that where users are being charged for a service they should usually be charged at a level to recover the true cost to the Government of providing that service.

In line with this principle we believe it is right that those who use our courts and tribunals should make a greater financial contribution, to make sure that the system is properly funded to protect access to justice and to reduce the unsustainably high cost to the taxpayer.

As a result we have introduced a number of fee reforms in recent years, including to the fees charged for proceedings in the civil courts, family courts and in some tribunals.

In the challenging financial circumstances faced by this country, we consider it is reasonable to ask users of Tribunals to contribute to the running costs while ensuring that access to justice is protected.

Those who use our immigration and asylum system are not excepted from the need to make a financial contribution.

Consequently in 2011, the Government introduced fees for the first time in the Immigration and Asylum Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal. These fees would be paid, where they could afford to do so, by those who make an application to appeal an immigration or asylum decision of the Home Secretary. At that stage those fees were set well below full cost recovery levels.

Consistent with our general principle we revisited those fees earlier in the year and launched a public consultation on 21 April 2016 proposing to raise fees in the Immigration and Asylum Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal for those who pay to a level to recover the full cost of proceedings.

We also consulted on introducing fees for the first time for appeals in the Immigration and Asylum Chamber of the Upper Tribunal and for permission to appeal applications in both the First-tier Tribunal and the Upper Tribunal.

In addition, we consulted on a proposal to add an exemption from fees based on the Home Office destitution waiver policy.

We responded to the consultation announcing our intention to proceed with the proposed fee measures. The higher fees in the First-tier Tribunal then came into effect.

The fee increases introduced in the Immigration and Asylum Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal are affordable for those who have to pay, taking into account the fee exemptions and waivers that apply, as well as the Lord Chancellor's exceptional power to remit fees.

However, we have listened to the representations that we received on the current fee levels and have decided to take stock and review the immigration and asylum fees, to balance the interests of all tribunal users and the taxpayer and to look at them again alongside other tribunal fees and in the wider context of funding for the system overall.

From today all applicants will be charged fees at previous levels and we will reimburse, in all cases where the new fees have been paid, the difference between that fee and the previous fee.

We will bring forward secondary legislation to formalise the position as soon as possible. That legislation will come into force shortly, but in the meantime the changes will be effected through the use of the Lord Chancellor's discretionary power to remit or reduce fees.

Alongside the fee changes introduced we extended the fee exemptions offered in the First-tier Tribunal, to include:

- those in receipt of a Home Office destitution waiver in respect of their initial application;
- parents of, and those with parental responsibility for, children receiving support from local authorities;
- children in local authority care; and
- those appealing a decision to revoke their humanitarian protection or refugee status.

The Government believes that these exemptions are proportionate measures that protect some of the most vulnerable users of the Tribunal. For this reason the extended system of fee exemptions will remain in place.

We also took the opportunity when introducing the fee changes to expand and clarify the guidance around the application of the Lord Chancellor's power to remit or reduce fees in exceptional circumstances. This revised guidance is not affected.

The role of fees in the Upper Tribunal will also form part of the review. The focus of our work is now on carrying out that review. We will bring forward any new plans for Tribunal fees, including in the Immigration and Asylum Chambers of the First-tier and Upper Tribunals, for consultation in due course.

The Government's belief is unchanged that it is right that those who use our courts and tribunals should pay more, where they can realistically afford to do so, to ensure that the system is properly funded to protect access to justice and to relieve the burden on the taxpayer."

Double Taxation Conventions (Colombia and Lesotho)

[HLWS282]

Lord Young of Cookham: My honourable friend the Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Jane Ellison) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Double Taxation Conventions with the Republic of Colombia and the Kingdom of Lesotho were signed on 2 November and 3 November 2016 respectively.

The text of each Convention has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' pages of the GOV.UK website. The text of each will be scheduled to a draft Order in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

First World War Centenary Cathedral Repairs Fund

[HLWS285]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: My Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Karen Bradley) has made the following Statement:

I am today publishing the list of successful bidders to the First World War Centenary Cathedral Repairs Fund.

Cathedrals are powerful symbols of Britain's shared history and are important not only for their architecture, history and religious learning but also as a place for local communities to come together. This fund is helping to ensure that they are in a good state of repair and preserved for future generations.

Decisions on funding allocations are taken by an expert panel, which considers the grant applications against the published criteria for the scheme and decides which cathedrals should receive funding. The panel is chaired by Sir Paul Ruddock and includes senior figures from English Heritage, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Church of England and the Catholic Church, as well as church architects, architectural historians and grant giving experts.

I am pleased to confirm that the panel has decided to allocate funding of almost £5.5million to 24 cathedrals. These are as follows:

Results of the meeting of the Expert Panel, 17 October 2016

| <i>Cathedral</i> | <i>Denomination</i> | <i>Project</i> | <i>AWARD</i> |
|---------------------|---------------------|--|--------------|
| Arundel RC | RC | West front glazing and masonry | £20,000 |
| Blackburn | CofE | West tower roofs repairs and transept repointing | £200,000 |
| Bradford | CofE | Repairs to the bell tower | £25,000 |
| Chelmsford | CofE | Song School roof repairs | £300,000 |
| Chichester | CofE | Quire roof repairs | £250,000 |
| Ely | CofE | South Nave Aisle roof and high-level repairs | £500,000 |
| Exeter | CofE | Asbestos removal | £70,000 |
| Gloucester | CofE | Drainage repairs | £50,000 |
| Lincoln | CofE | Lead pinnacles repairs | £38,000 |
| Liverpool | CofE | Concrete roof repairs | £200,000 |
| Liverpool Met | RC | Lantern repair research & access | £200,000 |
| Manchester | CofE | Tower emergency repairs | £500,000 |
| Nottingham | RC | Safety upgrade to lighting | £75,000 |
| Peterborough | CofE | High level fire safety glazing to tower and access work to clerestory and roof voids | £400,000 |
| Plymouth | RC | Heating system | £100,000 |
| Salford | RC | North porch access, masonry repairs and rainwater drainage system. | £180,000 |
| Shrewsbury | RC | East porch and stained glass repairs and associated work | £250,000 |
| Southwark | CofE | Quire roof and high-level masonry | £500,000 |
| Southwell | CofE | North quire aisle and NE transept roof | £295,000 |
| St Edmundsbury | CofE | Nave clerestory and cloister and library roof repairs | £350,000 |
| St Pauls | CofE | Roof repairs and rainwater goods | £80,000 |
| Truro | CofE | South aisle and baptistry roof | £500,000 |
| Wells | CofE | Nave roof repairs | £300,000 |
| Worcester | CofE | St George's Chapel damp investigation and remediation | £40,000 |
| Total £5,423,000.00 | | | |

Government Gateway

[HLWS283]

Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: My Rt Hon. Friend the Prime Minister has made the following statement to the House of Commons:

The written statement confirms that responsibility for the Government Gateway will transfer from the Department for Work and Pensions to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. This change will be effective immediately.

Roads Funding

[HLWS284]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: My Right Honourable friend, the Secretary of State for Transport (Chris Grayling), has made the following Ministerial Statement.

Following the Autumn Statement on 23 November, I am today setting out further details of road investment.

This new funding of £1.3 billion over this Parliament will help support infrastructure projects on roads, with £1.1 billion for the local road network and £220 million to relieve congestion on the strategic road network.

For the majority of the £1.1 billion there are three goals, and those seeking funding for improvements must fulfil at least one of those goals:

1. To ease congestion and provide upgrades on important national, regional or local routes;
2. To unlock economic and job creation opportunities; or
3. To enable the delivery of vital new housing developments to meet the needs of a generation of would-be home owners.

This is an essential part of ensuring we have a country which works for everyone.

To ensure that work can start quickly to help continue improvements to the country's roads, £70 million of funding from the Pothole Action Fund will be allocated by formula to local highway authorities in 2017/18. This funding is on top of the £6 billion the Government is already allocating to councils in England up to 2021 to help improve the condition of the local road network.

I am also announcing funding for further development of business cases for six schemes from the large local major projects fund in addition to the six announced in the Autumn Statement, as well as approval to start construction of the Lincoln Eastern bypass.

The six schemes included in the Autumn Statement were:

- Suffolk Energy Gateway new road;
- A1079/A164 Jocks Lodge Junction;
- Shrewsbury North West Relief Road;
- Tees Valley East-West connections;
- Sheffield Mass Transit Scheme;
- Warrington Waterfront Western link.

A further six schemes will receive funding to develop business cases:

- Sheffield City Region Innovation Corridor;
- Manchester Metrolink airport extension to Terminal 2;
- Melton Mowbray Eastern Distributor Road;
- New Tees Crossing;
- A500 Dualling (Cheshire);
- South Coventry Link Road.

This means that development and feasibility work can proceed to the next stage. It does not mean every scheme is certain to go ahead and it remains a competitive process. However, many of these will be among the next set of projects that we build in this country.

Following the confirmation of the National Roads Fund, we are publishing reports on five strategic studies, into major improvements on our national road network. On the back of these, government is committing to taking forward major improvements at three points on the national network:

- Upgrading the A66 to dual carriageway, creating the first new all-dual Trans-Pennine link since 1971;
- Improving the M60 around Manchester – the second busiest road in the country;
- Building a new Oxford-Cambridge expressway, to link up three of England's fastest growing cities.

Two further studies, into further upgrading of the A1 in the East of England and building a trans-Pennine tunnel, are also reporting. Further economic analysis is to follow, with particular reference to emerging housing plans, before taking decisions on next steps. A sixth study, on the M25 South West Quadrant, will report in 2017.

In addition to bringing forward major projects, we have also announced a £220m package of smaller improvements, which will be quick to deliver and will tackle congestion in the here-and-now. This includes improvements to the A69, further enhancing Trans-Pennine connectivity.

I am also announcing approval for the £95 million Lincoln Eastern Bypass with a contribution from the Department for Transport of £50 million. This scheme will reduce congestion in the city centre and encourage planned housing growth in the area. Construction will start in the New Year.

In order to ensure that our road network is safer for all road users, £175 million of the additional funding for local roads will be used to upgrade some of England's most dangerous roads, where the risk of fatal and serious collisions is highest. The Road Safety Foundation's analysis of the safety performance of the country's major road network highlights where investment should be targeted. Therefore, my Department will be inviting proposals from local authorities responsible for the 50 highest risk roads.

This demonstrates that the Government is serious about investing in the infrastructure the country needs to drive economic growth both locally and nationally and to

ensure that all road users have a well maintained and safe network which is fit for the future.

Further information will be placed in the House Library setting out more detail and the breakdown of funding that the Department for Transport is allocating to local highway authorities for 2017/18.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Roads Funding Document [161128 - Roads Funding Document.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2016-11-28/HLWS284/>

Social Security Benefit and Pension Up-rating 2017-18

[HLWS286]

Lord Freud: My honourable Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Welfare Delivery (Caroline Nokes MP) has made the following Written Statement.

Today I am announcing the proposed social security benefit and pension rates for 2017-18. I have attached the table of rates to this statement and I will place a copy of the proposed benefit and pension rates 2017-18 in the House library. The annual up-rating of benefits will take place for state pensions and most other benefits in the first full week of the tax year. In 2017, this will be the week beginning 10 April. A corresponding provision will be made in Northern Ireland.

The annual up-rating process takes into account a variety of measures:

- The basic and new State Pension will be increased by the Government's 'triple lock' manifesto commitment, meaning that they will be up-rated in line with the highest of prices, earnings or 2.5%.
- The Pension Credit Standard Minimum Guarantee will be up-rated in line with the annual rise in earnings, as reflected in Average Weekly Earnings (AWE).
- Benefits linked to the additional costs of disability, and for carers, are increased by the annual rise in prices, as reflected in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). A number of other elements – including Non-Dependant Deductions (NDDs) – will also be up-rated in line with prices. The majority of working-age benefits have been frozen at their 2015-16 levels for four years under the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016.

The list of proposed benefit and pension rates also includes a change to the Carer's Allowance Earnings Rule, which will be increased for 2017-18 from £110 to £116 a week.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Proposed benefit and pension rates 2017-18 [Proposed benefit and pension rates 2017-18.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2016-11-28/HLWS286/>

Written Answers

Monday, 28 November 2016

Amalgamated Plantations: India

Asked by **The Earl of Listowel**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the World Bank report on unsafe working conditions and the use of child labour on plantations run by Amalgamated Plantations Private Limited, whether they intend to investigate the extent to which tea from those plantations is being sold in the UK or otherwise distributed by UK companies. [HL3246]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government believes that businesses and consumers have a key role to play in eradicating all forms of labour exploitation, including modern slavery, from global supply chains.

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 requires all commercial organisations with an annual turnover of £36m or more, operating in the UK, to set out what steps they have taken to ensure that there is no modern slavery in their business or supply chains. The Government is unable to comment on individual companies.

Belfast Agreement

Asked by **Lord Laird**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Dunlop on 15 November (HL2983), whether parity of esteem applies only to individuals, and not to communities. [HL3304]

Lord Dunlop: As I have previously explained to the Noble Lord, this Government understands the concept of parity of esteem, as set out in the 1998 Belfast Agreement, as relating to and placing a general obligation on the UK Government to treat people of different traditions or communities in Northern Ireland fairly and with equal respect. The Belfast Agreement makes no distinction between communities and individuals.

Child Sexual Abuse Independent Panel Inquiry

Asked by **Lord Foulkes of Cumnock**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the contractual entitlement of Dame Lowell Goddard for the provision of accommodation in London in return for chairing the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse; what property was acquired or leased for her; and what is the continuing cost of any contract or lease entered into. [HL3200]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Details of Dame Lowell Goddard's entitlements while she was the Chair of the Independent Inquiry are given in her terms of appointment which are published on the Inquiry's website

at: <https://www.iicsa.org.uk/key-documents/94/view/chair%27s-terms-of-appointment.pdf>

The Home Office did not acquire or lease any property for Dame Lowell.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

IICSA - Chair - 27s terms of appointment [chair's-terms-of-appointment.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-15/HL3200>

China: Overseas Aid

Asked by **Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the light of the report by the Independent Commission for Aid Impact When aid relationships change: DfID's approach to managing exit and transition in its development partnerships, how much UK development assistance was spent in China in each year since 2011; and what is the explanation for the funding in each area of activity. [HL3325]

Lord Bates: The UK closed its China bilateral country aid programme in March 2011. Since 2011 DFID has retained a team in Beijing to work with China on a global development partnership. The partnership focuses on China's development impact in developing countries in Asia and Africa, and global issues, such as international public health. As China is not the primary beneficiary of this assistance the China Global Partnership Programme is not classified as aid to China.

UK bilateral aid spending benefitting China is set out in the National Statistics publication Statistics on International Development (SIDS). The table below shows the latest published data. The UK Government spends Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) in China to maximise UK-China trade and promote shared prosperity. This includes the cross-Whitehall Prosperity Fund which provided UK expertise and financing to 400 projects from 2011 to 2016 and the Newton Fund which funds UK-China research and innovation on global issues.

| | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--|--------|--------|----------|----------|---------|
| Total Bilateral Aid | 40,461 | 27,187 | -17,971* | -33,601* | 44,641 |
| Imputed UK Share of Core Multilateral Funding to China | 31,032 | 22,453 | 21,639 | 9,753 | No data |

UK Bilateral and Imputed Multilateral ODA to China £,000 (SIDS 2016)

* repayments on loans made by the Commonwealth Development Corporation count as negatives for net ODA.

Civil Servants: Languages

Asked by Baroness Coussins

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are planning to conduct a language skills audit across the whole civil service; and if so, whether they will publish the results. [HL3198]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: There are no plans to carry out a language skills audit of the civil service.

Cycling: Greater London

Asked by Lord Borwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made an assessment of the number of cyclists regularly using lanes of London's roads intended for other traffic where an alternative route via a cycle lane or cycle superhighway is available. [HL3350]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: No. This is a matter for the Mayor of London and for individual London boroughs.

Electric Vehicles

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 17 November (HL 3036), what measures they plan to take to encourage the provision of public charge points for electric vehicles in residential areas where there is a predominance of flats or terraced houses and parking provision is confined to public roads. [HL3330]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: In October 2016 the Office for Low Emission Vehicles announced a £2.5m grant scheme to support the installation of chargepoints on public streets in residential areas where motorists do not have off-street parking. Applications will open to local authorities in the coming weeks.

This scheme will complement the existing Electric Vehicle Homecharge Scheme, which gives eligible plug-in vehicle drivers up to £500 off the costs of installation of a dedicated domestic chargepoint in a driveway or garage. This grant is available to electric vehicle owners who live in flats, as long as there is dedicated parking space.

Embassies: Demonstrations

Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 9 November (HL2740), whether they consider that the remarks by the Foreign Secretary in the House of Commons on 11 October set a precedent; and whether they have considered possible adverse consequences for British Embassy staff if foreign governments encourage

demonstrations outside UK embassies overseas. [HL3232]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Boris Johnson)'s words reflected overwhelming concern at Russia's actions in Syria which are contributing to the violence in that country. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office takes the security of all staff overseas very seriously, in line with duty of care obligations, and regularly reviews security at missions overseas including when there are demonstrations outside of our premises.

Energy: Competition

Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many customers have switched their energy provider in the last five years. [HL3475]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: Data is published by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on switching. The data is collected by Ofgem and republished by BEIS in Table 2.7.1 of which can be found online (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/quarterly-domestic-energy-switching-statistics>). Multiple switches made by the same customer in each year are counted as separate switches.

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Number of electricity switches</i> | <i>Number of gas switches</i> |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2011 | 4,206,000 | 3,270,000 |
| 2012 | 3,342,000 | 2,280,000 |
| 2013 | 3,425,000 | 2,190,000 |
| 2014 | 3,058,000 | 2,281,000 |
| 2015 | 3,396,000 | 2,709,000 |

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Quarterly domestic energy switching statistics [table_271.xls]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-23/HL3475>

Immigration

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the five principles for building a post-Brexit immigration policy set out by the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants. [HL3085]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The government will provide strong and proven leadership as Britain begins its negotiations to leave the European Union and forge a new role for ourselves in the world.

We will work hard to get the right deal: one that is unique to Britain and not an 'off the shelf' solution - and

make Britain a country that truly works not just for a privileged few, but for everybody. This must mean controls on the numbers of people who come to Britain from Europe - but also a positive outcome for those who wish to trade in goods and services.

We are not going to provide a running commentary on every twist and turn of these negotiations. You don't start a negotiation by telling the people you are negotiating with exactly what you plan to do. That approach won't help us get the right deal for Britain.

Interpol: Russia

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have evidence of abuse of Interpol procedures by Russia; and if so, what action they plan to take, if any. [HL3140]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Interpol has an independent review body, the Commission for the Control of Files, which seeks to ensure that the processing of personal information by Interpol is in compliance with Interpol's regulations. This minimises scope for abuse of Interpol procedures, and we are not aware of successful abuse of Interpol procedures that are outside of the organisation's framework by any member country.

Migration: Statistics

Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government, with respect to estimated net migration figures for 2014 and 2015, what number are estimated to be (1) EU domiciled students, (2) non-EU domiciled students, (3) non-student EU domiciled, and (4) non-student, non-EU domiciled. [HL3253]

Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what number of non-EU domiciled students obtained work visas at the end of their studies in (1) 2014, and (2) 2015. [HL3254]

Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the text of the questions used in the International Passenger Survey. [HL3255]

Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government on what basis confidence intervals for responses to the International Passenger Survey are calculated. [HL3256]

Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any study of possible sampling bias has been conducted in relation to the International Passenger Survey. [HL3257]

Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to improve the accuracy of net migration figures for 2016 and in future years. [HL3258]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Immigrants who have come to the UK to work have brought significant benefits to Britain – we are a tolerant, welcoming nation encouraging the brightest and best to come to our shores. That will always be the case.

But it's clear that there is no consent in Britain for uncontrolled migration from Europe.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

UKSA Response to HL3257 - HL3256 - HL3255 - HL3258
[Baroness Wolf (HL3253-HL3258) v13 (2).pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-15/HL3253>

Muslim Brotherhood Review

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to publish evidence given to the Muslim Brotherhood Review; and if so, when, and whether they will state which items are omitted. [HL3285]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: The Government does not intend to publish evidence given to its internal Review of the Muslim Brotherhood. A Written Ministerial Statement outlining the Review's main findings was issued on 17 December 2015.

NHS: Proof of Identity

Asked by Lord Scriven

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they support British citizens having to show identification to obtain NHS care and treatment. [HL3434]

Lord Prior of Brampton: We welcome trusts piloting schemes whereby they ask National Health Service patients for two forms of identification to demonstrate an individual's residency status. This is good practice and helps establish, in a non-discriminatory way, who may be eligible for free NHS care and who may not. We will monitor the impact that identification checks have, including the effect on costs identified and recovered from people not eligible for free NHS care.

Parades Commission

Asked by Lord Laird

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Dunlop on 31 October (HL2454), whether the Parades Commission for

Northern Ireland has the ability to make reference to human rights instruments such as the European Convention on Human Rights when making decisions. [HL3355]

Lord Dunlop: As a public authority, the Parades Commission has general obligations under public law; the discharge of those obligations is an operational matter for the Parades Commission, acting independently of Government.

The Parades Commission determinations make regular reference to the European Convention on Human Rights. Details of all determinations are published on the Commission's website at www.paradescommission.org.

Pedicabs

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made to ensure the safety of passengers who use rickshaws as a means of travel. [HL3436]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Pedicabs (or rickshaws) in England outside London are regulated by the local licensing authority. Pedicabs in London are currently unregulated. We are working towards introducing legislation which will enable Transport for London to regulate them.

Peers: Correspondence

Asked by Lord Balfre

To ask Her Majesty's Government what policy the Home Office applies in respect of responding to letters from Members of the House of Lords. [HL2924]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office follows Cabinet Office guidance on handling correspondence from Members of Parliament, Members of the House of Lords, MEPs and members of devolved bodies. This guidance can be found on the Gov.uk website entitled "handling government correspondence guidance".

Railways: Northallerton

Asked by Lord Jopling

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the expected journey times of passengers between London and Northallerton for (1) the existing train service, and (2) the proposed HS2 service using average proposed transfer times for changing trains. [HL3287]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Comparing fastest journey times, the existing train service between London and Northallerton is 2 hours 24 minutes, and under HS2 would be 1 hour 53 minutes assuming an average 10 minute interchange at York.

Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme

Asked by Baroness Featherstone

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether green gas from marginal grassland will be included in, or excluded from, the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive scheme; and what is the rationale for that decision. [HL3399]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) is targeted at, but not limited to, homes off the gas grid. The technologies supported by the scheme include biomass boilers, air source and ground source heat pumps and solar thermal. Green gas from marginal grassland would be used to fuel biogas combustion. Biogas combustion is not supported under the domestic RHI because the scheme is targeted at single domestic properties where the use of biogas combustion would be less suitable.

Right to Buy Scheme: Housing Associations

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect Right to Buy to be available to housing association tenants. [I] [HL3302]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: We remain committed to the Voluntary Right to Buy for housing association tenants. The Government is continuing to work closely with the National Housing Federation and the housing association sector on the implementation of the main scheme and will announce more details in due course.

Scaffolding: Timber

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government what, if any, estimate they have made of the amount of virgin timber and plywood sheeting used for the cosmetic cladding of scaffolding; and what legal requirements regulate the use of such wood in this way. [HL3269]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: Government has not made any estimate of the quantities of materials used for the cosmetic cladding of scaffolds.

There are no legislative requirements with regards to the cosmetic use for cladding scaffolding. Where plywood sheeting is used for other purposes, health & safety, planning and highways legislation may be applicable.

Voluntary Work: Young People

Asked by Lord Stunell

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take to safeguard the future funding of small scale deliverers of the National Citizen Service when establishing its Royal Charter. [HL3300]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The National Citizen Service (NCS) Bill and accompanying Royal Charter are designed to give the NCS Trust a new legal framework. Under the charter, the NCS Trust will have the freedom to determine its own contracting arrangements with delivery partners to achieve its objectives. Government will hold the NCS Trust to account for the outcomes it delivers.

Yemen: Humanitarian Aid

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of reports by the World Food Programme and other aid agencies that millions of Yemenis are dependent on aid and half the population faces starvation, what plans they

have to support the removal of the Saudi Arabian blockade of Yemen. [[HL3219](#)]

Lord Bates: There is no blockade in Yemen, although measures are in place to prevent the flow of arms into Yemen in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2216. The Government continues to lobby all parties to facilitate rapid, safe and unhindered commercial and humanitarian access.

DFID is funding the UN Verification and Inspection Mechanism (UNVIM) to speed up the clearance process for shipments of essential food and fuel to Yemen. We are also funding the World Food Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to deliver food and treat severe malnutrition. In 2015/16, UK aid provided food aid, cash and vouchers to over 700,000 Yemenis.

Index to Statements and Answers

Written Statements.....1

| | |
|--|---|
| Courts and Tribunals | 1 |
| Double Taxation Conventions (Colombia and Lesotho)..... | 2 |
| First World War Centenary Cathedral Repairs Fund..... | 2 |
| Government Gateway | 3 |
| Roads Funding..... | 3 |
| Social Security Benefit and Pension Up-rating 2017-18..... | 4 |

Written Answers.....5

| | |
|--|---|
| Amalgamated Plantations: India..... | 5 |
| Belfast Agreement | 5 |
| Child Sexual Abuse Independent Panel Inquiry ... | 5 |
| China: Overseas Aid..... | 5 |
| Civil Servants: Languages | 6 |
| Cycling: Greater London..... | 6 |
| Electric Vehicles..... | 6 |
| Embassies: Demonstrations..... | 6 |
| Energy: Competition | 6 |
| Immigration | 6 |
| Interpol: Russia..... | 7 |
| Migration: Statistics..... | 7 |
| Muslim Brotherhood Review | 7 |
| NHS: Proof of Identity | 7 |
| Parades Commission | 7 |
| Pedicabs..... | 8 |
| Peers: Correspondence | 8 |
| Railways: Northallerton..... | 8 |
| Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme | 8 |
| Right to Buy Scheme: Housing Associations..... | 8 |
| Scaffolding: Timber..... | 8 |
| Voluntary Work: Young People..... | 8 |
| Yemen: Humanitarian Aid | 9 |