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

# **HOUSE OF LORDS**

## **WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS**

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

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<i>Minister</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
<b>Baroness Evans of Bowes Park</b>	Leader of the House of Lords and Lord Privy Seal
<b>Earl Howe</b>	Minister of State, Ministry of Defence and Deputy Leader of the House of Lords
<b>Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Transport
<b>Baroness Anelay of St Johns</b>	Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
<b>Lord Ashton of Hyde</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Whip
<b>Lord Bates</b>	Minister of State, Department for International Development
<b>Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government, Wales Office
<b>Lord Bridges of Headley</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Exiting the European Union
<b>Baroness Buscombe</b>	Whip
<b>Earl of Courtown</b>	Deputy Chief Whip
<b>Lord Dunlop</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Scotland Office and Northern Ireland Office
<b>Lord Gardiner of Kimble</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
<b>Baroness Goldie</b>	Whip
<b>Lord Henley</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions
<b>Lord Keen of Elie</b>	Advocate-General for Scotland and Ministry of Justice Spokesperson
<b>Baroness Mobarik</b>	Whip
<b>Lord Nash</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education
<b>Baroness Neville-Rolfe</b>	Commercial Secretary to the Treasury
<b>Lord O'Shaughnessy</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health
<b>Lord Price</b>	Minister of State, Department for International Trade
<b>Lord Prior of Brampton</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
<b>Baroness Shields</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office and Department for Culture Media and Sport
<b>Lord Taylor of Holbeach</b>	Chief Whip
<b>Baroness Vere of Norbiton</b>	Whip
<b>Baroness Williams of Trafford</b>	Minister of State, Home Office
<b>Lord Young of Cookham</b>	Whip
<b>Viscount Younger of Leckie</b>	Whip

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# Written Statements

*Tuesday, 17 January 2017*

## Charter for Budget Responsibility: Autumn 2016 Update

[HLWS420]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** My right honourable friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Philip Hammond) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Today I have laid before Parliament an updated Charter for Budget Responsibility. The updated Charter sets out a new fiscal framework, changes to the operation of the welfare cap, and minor amendments to text on the operation of debt management.

The updated Charter laid today was published in draft on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016. The Charter was first published in draft as it includes modified guidance to the Office for Budget Responsibility. Under Section 6(4) of the Budget Responsibility and National Audit Act 2011, if the Treasury proposes to modify the guidance to the Office for Budget Responsibility included in the Charter, a draft of the modified guidance must be published at least 28 days before the modified Charter is laid before Parliament.

Since publishing the Charter in draft one operational amendment has been made, requiring the Debt Management Office to produce a debt management report annually rather than as part of the Budget Report. This change has been made to facilitate the move to a single fiscal event. The change does not modify guidance to the Office for Budget Responsibility.

A debate and vote in the House of Commons on the updated Charter has been scheduled for Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

## High Speed 2, Phase One: Government Response to the Lords Select Committee Report

[HLWS418]

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

I am today publishing the Department's response to the Special Report from the House of Lords Select Committee for the HS2 Phase One hybrid Bill that was published on 15 December 2017.

The Lords Select Committee was tasked with considering petitions from those specially and directly affected by the Bill and subsequent additional provisions to the Bill. Their First Special Report concludes the Committee deliberations which began in May 2016. The Lords Select Committee considered 822 petitions lodged against the HS2 Phase One hybrid Bill. Of these, the locus of 278 petitions was successfully challenged. Of the remaining 544 petitions the Select Committee heard 314

petitions in formal session, with the remainder withdrawing, or choosing not to appear before the Select Committee, mainly as a result of successful prior negotiation with HS2 Ltd.

The Select Committee's recent report summarises their hearings and contains modifications to the Bill powers, directions for action by the Promoter in a number of specific cases and more general recommendations on what actions the Promoter should take on a range of other issues.

In responding to the Select Committee we have confined our response to those areas of the report where the Select Committee has requested the Government take action or where we believe a further clarification would be beneficial.

Alongside the response to the Select Committee report, we are also publishing the Statement of Reasons Command Paper. The Statement of Reasons is required by Parliamentary Standing Order 83A in order to assist the House of Lords during the 3rd Reading of the HS2 Phase One hybrid Bill. This document summarises the work that has already been done to assess, control and mitigate the environmental impacts of HS2 Phase One, and explains why the Government continues to take the view that the HS2 Phase One project is worthy of Parliament's support.

Copies of the Response to the Select Committee can be found on the GOV.UK. website. Copies of the Statement of Reasons will be made available in the libraries of both Houses.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

CM 9396 [170117-Command Paper 9396.pdf]

CM 9398 [170117-Lords-HS2 Phase One Statement of Reasons Command Paper-Cm9398.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2017-01-17/HLWS418/>

## Homelessness Reduction Bill

[HLWS421]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Hon Friend the Minister for Local Government (Marcus Jones) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I am today updating the House on a commitment I made at Second Reading of the Homelessness Reduction Bill – the Member for Harrow East's Private Members' Bill – to fund the costs of the Bill in line with the new burdens doctrine.

I can confirm that the Government will provide £48m to local government to meet the new burdens costs associated with the Bill over the course of the Spending Review. It is estimated that offsetting savings to local authorities will mean there are no costs thereafter. This reflects the cost of the Bill in its current form. I will continue to monitor the Bill as it proceeds through the

House and will update the new burdens assessment as appropriate once the Bill is in its final form.

*Estimated new burdens costs of the Homelessness Reduction Bill*

Year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Net cost	£35.4m*	£12.1m*	£0

\* Rounding means these are summed to £48m

The Government has been working with local councils and the Local Government Association to test the methodology behind the estimated costs, as well as the core assumptions within it.

We will continue to work with local councils and the Local Government Association to develop the distribution model for the funding. This will reflect differing need in different authorities.

I also intend to consider the case for making available a small amount of further funding for local authorities in high-pressure areas to manage the transition to the new duties in the Bill.

This would be in addition to the level of funding provided to meet our commitment to fund new burdens.

### **International Whaling Commission: 66th Meeting**

[HLWS417]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** My Hon Friend the Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (George Eustice) has today made the following statement.

I was unable to attend last year's meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC66) on the 24-28 October 2016 in Slovenia but there was a strong UK delegation present.

This meeting marked the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the global moratorium on commercial whaling. I am happy to report that all UK objectives for this meeting were achieved and, as always, the UK worked tirelessly behind the scenes to influence and support crucial decisions intended to improve the conservation and welfare of cetaceans. The UK also ensured its long standing opposition to commercial whaling and whaling under Special Permit (scientific whaling) was made clear at every appropriate opportunity. As with previous meetings, there was the need for careful negotiation at times but overall the dialogue was constructive despite the fundamental differences in views.

I was pleased that a number of important Resolutions were adopted. In particular, IWC adopted a Resolution on the need for action to address the alarming decline in the critically endangered Vaquita. In line with the agreed position of EU Member States, the UK voted in support of the proposal. This was aligned with the UK's negotiating position and represents a good outcome. The Vaquita, a small cetacean found in Mexico, is under significant pressure from bycatch driven by the illegal trade in the Totoaba. With an estimated population size of

only 59 individuals, action is needed now and so I was encouraged that Parties were able to put aside their disagreements on whether the scope of the IWC extended to small cetaceans in order to make this important statement.

I was also encouraged to see decisions taken on further modernisation of the organisation through institutional and governance improvements agreed by consensus, and the expansion of research efforts into important threats to cetaceans such as contaminants passed by a vote. These are important steps forward. In line with the agreed position of EU Member States, the UK supported both of these proposals. This was aligned with the UK's negotiating position and represents a good outcome.

Reflecting on previous unsuccessful proposals for "small-type coastal whaling", Japan proposed a process for intersessional dialogue to address issues relating to fundamental differences of positions within the IWC. An informal process to discuss such issues was established. The UK will maintain a careful watching brief on this matter.

I was disappointed that Japan announced its intention to begin a new 12 year programme of whaling under Special Permit in the North Pacific. In collaboration with other EU Member States, the UK will ensure a strong coordinated statement is made in response to this announcement. The UK will continue to oppose the issuing of Special Permits on the basis that there is no justification for lethal scientific research on whales. I was, however, pleased that a Resolution was passed that should help strengthen the role of the IWC in considering Special Permits, albeit not by consensus. In line with the agreed position of EU Member States, the UK voted in support of the proposal. This was aligned with the UK's negotiating position and represents a good outcome.

A proposal brought forward by Japan, Cambodia and Ghana to create a fund to strengthen the capacity of Governments of Limited Means to participate in the IWC did not achieve consensus. Because consensus could not be reached with Parties, EU Member States were instructed to abstain from the vote. A number of other anti-whaling countries also abstained. The Resolution passed which is an acceptable outcome for the UK; although we will keep the development of the fund under close scrutiny to ensure appropriate safeguards and restrictions are in place.

Once again I am pleased to report that the UK, in line with the agreed position of EU Member States, voted in favour of establishing a South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary. Unfortunately the proposal failed to gain the three-quarters majority required for adoption. This will be re-tabled at the next meeting in 2018, which was announced as being hosted by Brazil.

Finally, I was pleased that the UK led work to progress the consideration of non-hunting threats to cetacean welfare was well received. A number of important recommendations were proposed to allow this important and groundbreaking work to continue. These were agreed by consensus meaning the UK can continue working

closely with NGOs and academia to move this to the next stage.

In conclusion, this was a successful meeting and the UK made clear its continued strong opposition to commercial and scientific whaling. We now turn our attention to building for the 2018 meeting in Brazil, and will be working very closely with civil society in order to continue developing and delivering tangible improvements to the conservation and welfare of cetaceans globally.

On 23 June, the EU referendum took place and the people of the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union. Until exit negotiations are concluded, the UK remains a full member of the European Union and all the rights and obligations of EU membership remain in force. Within IWC, until exit is concluded, the UK will continue to operate as part of the EU. Once we leave the EU, we will regain the ability to speak and vote independently at IWC and will be able to form broader coalitions to promote the conservation of whales and cetaceans.

### Office for Budget Responsibility: Fiscal Sustainability Report 2017

[HLWS419]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** My right honourable friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury (David Gauke) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) has today published its sixth Fiscal Sustainability Report (FSR), fulfilling its legal obligation to publish an analysis of the sustainability of the long-term public finances and an assessment of the public sector balance sheet at least once every two years. The report was laid before Parliament earlier today and copies are available in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office.

The FSR provides us with insight into how long-term economic and demographic trends, including our ageing population, are likely to impact the public finances over the next half century, without mitigating action. These long run projections are based on OBR assumptions of unchanged policy beyond the medium term horizon. They are therefore not the OBR's predictions of what will happen – but an illustrative projection of what may happen, if the government did not take action.

In producing these projections the OBR must make stylised assumptions, and as they note, many of these assumptions are subject to a high degree of uncertainty. The results are highly sensitive to these assumptions, and this is particularly the case over the 50 year horizon in the FSR. For example, the OBR project that debt to GDP by 2066-67 could be between 40% of GDP higher or 101% of GDP lower than the central projection, depending on which assumptions are used to underpin projected growth in healthcare spending.

Their findings must be interpreted in this context. However, the FSR's underlying conclusion is clear: fiscal sustainability will come under increasing pressure from

both demographic change and the need to improve efficiency and productivity over the next 50 years. It is important that action continues to be taken to address demographic pressures and improve efficiency, particularly in the health sector.

While the FSR's fundamental message is unchanged from previous reports, changes to the assumptions underpinning this year's projections drive higher projected spending than in previous reports. Higher projected spending, alongside higher initial borrowing and debt, feeds through, in turn, to higher projected borrowing and debt by the end of the projections.

In terms of specifics, the FSR projects that spending on the State Pension will rise from 5.0% of GDP in 2021-22 to 7.1% of GDP by 2066-67, putting significant pressure on taxpayers. To ensure that the State Pension remains sustainable and fair across generations, the government is carrying out its first review of State Pension age. The government will consider all the evidence – including an independent report by John Cridland - before formally responding by publishing its Review by 7 May 2017.

The FSR also projects that health spending will rise from 6.9% of GDP in 2021-22 to 12.6% of GDP in 2066-67, due to the inclusion of non-demographic cost pressures in the OBR's analysis for the first time. As the OBR note, there is significant uncertainty around this long-term projection, and it does not take into account the impact of any government action to address projected cost pressures in future Parliaments. We are taking steps over this Parliament to improve the efficiency of the NHS. This includes funding for the NHS's Five Year Forward View Plan, which sets out its vision for a sustainable long-term future for the NHS, and its proposals for reforms to help it meet future challenges. Decisions on funding in the longer-term will be for future governments to take.

Overall, the FSR demonstrates that the situation would be far graver without the significant progress made by this government since 2010. The deficit the government inherited in 2010 stood at 10% of GDP. We have now brought down the deficit by almost two-thirds of GDP and, by 2021-22, the OBR forecast that borrowing will have fallen to its lowest level in two decades. In 2018-19, the OBR forecast debt to fall as a share of GDP for the first time since 2000-01. The magnitude of the long-term fiscal sustainability challenge faced by the UK is similar to many other advanced economies, according to international institutions. Debt is projected to reach 141% of GDP in the US by 2046, and could reach over 180% of GDP in Germany by 2060. This compares to about 125% of GDP in the UK by 2046-47 and rising to about 200% of GDP by 2060-61 as projected in this year's FSR.

Nonetheless, despite significant progress made to repair the public finances since 2010, today's OBR projections suggest that, without further policy change, debt will reach over 234% of GDP by 2066-67 and continue on its upwards trajectory thereafter, driven by increased age-related spending.



Clearly, this would not be a responsible course of action. This provides the motivation for the fiscal framework that the government set out at Autumn Statement 2016. We must continue to reduce the deficit and get debt falling over the medium-term. And we must bring the public finances to balance at the earliest possible date in the next Parliament. The debate and vote on the new fiscal framework will take place next week, enshrining these commitments to fiscal responsibility into law.

As we look towards the next Parliament, ensuring that the public finances remain sustainable will continue to be one of this government's key priorities. In consideration of this fact, at Autumn Statement 2016, the Chancellor announced his intention to review public spending priorities and other commitments for the next Parliament in light of the evolving fiscal position at the next Spending Review. Fiscal discipline today will help us tackle any future economic shocks and reduce the burden of debt on future generations. Increasing life-expectancies and other economic trends will continue to pose challenges for the public finances. In response, we will continue to control public spending and grow the potential of the UK economy, including by targeting increased investment in infrastructure to increase the UK's long run productivity challenge.

The FSR is yet another important example of the credibility and transparency that the independent OBR brings to the public finances, as recognised recently by the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Evaluation.

### **Phalanx Availability Contract: Contingent Liability**

[HLWS422]

**Earl Howe:** The Minister for Defence Procurement (Harriett Baldwin) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The Secretary of State for Defence has retrospectively laid before Parliament a Ministry of Defence (MOD) Departmental Minute describing the Contingent Liability within the Phalanx Close In Weapons System Availability Contract with Babcock Marine.

The Departmental Minute describes the Contingent Liability that the MOD will hold as a result of placing the new Phalanx availability contract, which will provide continuous support to the Navy's Operational Fleet of ships. The maximum contingent liability against the MOD is therefore £268 million over the two year life of the contract.

It is usual to allow a period of fourteen sitting days prior to accepting a Contingent Liability, to provide Members of Parliament with an opportunity to raise any questions. I apologise but on this occasion it was not possible to do so.

However, a break in the contract with Babcock Marine would have resulted in potential severe operational impact to the support of Phalanx, particularly those on-board ships deployed on operations and requiring contractor

support to repair them. As such, and by exception, I approved the awarding of the new support contract with Babcock Marine from 22 December 2016; to come into effect from 31 December 2016. This ensures that support provided to Phalanx was not interrupted.

In accordance with the procedures established for cases of special urgency, the Department wrote to the Chairs of the Public Accounts Committee and the Defence Committee on 23 December 2016, in advance of incurring this liability, inviting them to respond with any objections. No such objections have been received.

I apologise that the Ministry of Defence did not allow fourteen sitting days for Members of Parliament to signify an objection. Contracts of this type do not normally fall within the Parliamentary notification requirement, and it only became apparent that this contract was different late in the process. I have asked Ministry of Defence officials to ensure that these exceptions are identified earlier in future.

The Treasury has approved the proposal. If, during the period of fourteen Parliamentary sitting days beginning on the date on which the Minute was laid before Parliament, a member signifies an objection by giving notice of a Parliamentary Question or by otherwise raising the matter in parliament, I undertake to examine the objection and respond to the member concerned.

### **Winter Flooding**

[HLWS416]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Hon Friend the Minister of State for Local Growth and the Northern Powerhouse (Andrew Percy) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I would first like to thank all of those who supported local communities in the wake of the flooding in December 2015 and early January 2016. It is important that we recognise the enormous amount of effort that has gone into supporting households, businesses and communities repair and recover from these floods.

In the days that followed those storms, the Government very quickly identified that the immediate priority was to respond to the urgent needs of those affected and we have paid out almost £300 million to help householders, communities and businesses to get back on their feet. Furthermore, we have supported repairs to vital transport links, including getting the A591 in Cumbria open ahead of schedule, as well as improving flood defences and providing match funding for charity appeals.

Alongside this early response, Ministers informed the House of our intention to apply to the European Union Solidarity Fund. We submitted our initial application on 26 February 2016. The application was made within the 12 week deadline and included a provisional estimate of the cost of direct damage incurred by the floods in December 2015 and early January 2016.

The European Union Solidarity Fund is limited in principle to non-insurable damage and does not

compensate for private losses, such as damage to private property. Long-term action – such as lasting reconstruction, economic redevelopment and prevention – are not eligible for support. In the case of a regional application, the Solidarity Fund retrospectively reimburses Member States for 2.5% of the direct costs associated with the damage incurred. As the assistance received is therefore dependent on the extent of the costs incurred, it has been important that we ensure the application represents our best estimate of the damage. Subsequent to the initial application, my department continued to work extensively with devolved administrations, local authorities and other government departments to refine and update our cost analysis and comply with the complex rules of the Fund. As a result of that work, the Government finalised the UK's application to the European Union Solidarity Fund in September 2016.

The Commission has now completed its assessment of our application and has proposed to the European Parliament and Council that the UK receives a notional €60 million in assistance (subject to approval by the two bodies). However, owing to the costs involved in making an application and the effect of clawback through the UK

rebate, the overall net benefit to the UK is only estimated to be €17 million (circa £15 million). This will be further offset by a payment of £14.5m that the UK is legally obliged to make to the EU in respect of the UK's 2007 application (by then Labour Government) for Solidarity Fund assistance following the serious floods that year. The Commission carried out an assurance review in 2010 and 2011 to verify that all of the expenditure incurred was eligible. The UK Government is obliged to repay funding where there was ineligible spending under the Labour administration. Consequently, this funding does not offer additional support, but is only eligible to reimburse a small portion of the extensive financial support that has already been given by the Government to the areas affected.

The UK Government continues to stand squarely behind those flooded, working with local authorities to ensure households and businesses receive all eligible support. Furthermore, we are focused not only on ensuring the recovery from these floods, but also on preventing future damage – we are exceeding our manifesto commitment by building 1,500 new flood defence schemes that will better protect 300,000 more homes.

## Written Answers

Tuesday, 17 January 2017

### Antiship Missiles

*Asked by Lord Campbell of Pittenweem*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the reasons for the early withdrawal from service of the Harpoon anti-ship missile from Royal Navy Type 23 Frigates and Type 45 Destroyers; what alternative is available; and when that alternative will be available. [HL4595]

**Earl Howe:** The Harpoon system currently carried by the Royal Navy will reach its out of service date in 2018.

As part of a process of continuously reviewing the capabilities required to deliver their tasking, the Royal Navy is working alongside other areas of the Ministry of Defence to consider options for a Harpoon replacement.

I am withholding further detail as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the Armed Forces.

### Asylum: Syria

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which local authorities in England and Wales have accepted Syrian asylum seekers; and how many have been accommodated in each area. [HL4583]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office publishes quarterly figures on the number of asylum seekers housed in dispersed accommodation by country of nationality and UK region in the Immigration Statistics release. These figures do not include those asylum seekers who do not receive Home Office support and who either accommodate themselves or stay with family and friends.

In addition for those refugees resettled in the UK under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme the Home Office publishes the number of people resettled, broken down by local authority, on a quarterly basis

### AWACS

*Asked by Lord Campbell of Pittenweem*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Royal Air Force E-3D aircraft are operational. [HL4503]

**Earl Howe:** Two E-3D Sentry aircraft are operational.

### Brexit

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen on 12 July (HL1134), and in the light of the resignation of the UK ambassador to the EU, Sir Ivan Rogers, what

steps they will take to ensure that all civil servants, including those employed in the diplomatic service, will work to carry out the decision to leave the EU. [HL4547]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** The Civil Service Code requires civil servants to support the government of the day in developing and implementing its policies. This applies to all Government policies, including carrying out the decision to leave the European Union. The same requirement is set out in the Code of Conduct for members of the Diplomatic Service.

### Broadband: Planning Permission

*Asked by Lord Lexden*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Ashton of Hyde on 29 November 2016 (HL3375), 6 December 2016 (HL3759) and 15 December 2016 (HL3986), whether the 2003 Code of Practice for Fixed Line Code Operators, as amended, applies to the erection of new telegraph poles for the delivery of broadband via both copper wire and fibre cabling; and whether it is permissible for a fixed-line operator which is a signatory to the Code of Practice to have a stated policy of non-compliance with some of the Code's provisions. [HL4524]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The Cabinet and Pole Siting Code of Practice applies to the erection of new broadband telegraph poles and cabinets for the provision of fixed broadband services which includes copper wire and fibre cabling. Operators who deploy fixed-line infrastructure to provide such services should seek to comply with all of its provisions in relation to telegraph poles.

### Cedars Pre-departure Accommodation Facility

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they intend to use the Cedars deportation centre following its closure. [HL4581]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** On 21 July 2016, the Government announced its decision to close the Cedars pre-departure accommodation facility. The future use of the site will be a matter for the landlord.

### Chair of State

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask the Senior Deputy Speaker when the Chair of State in the House of Lords Robing Room will be reupholstered. [HL4579]

**Lord McFall of Alcluith:** It is expected that the arms of the Chair of State in the House of Lords Robing Room will be reupholstered in the next financial year. The back of the seat will be left intact but its condition will



continue to be monitored in case further restoration work is required.

### Charities: Grants

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen on 19 December 2016 concerning the total amount of donations made by the Government and the NHS to charities, whether they have plans to review their policy of not collating this information centrally, and how they plan to communicate to taxpayers the extent to which their taxes are being used to support charities. [HL4549]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** There are no formal plans to review government policy on donations.

### Cyprus: Military Bases

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the strategic significance of the UK's military bases on the island of Cyprus. [HL4615]

**Earl Howe:** The United Kingdom's military bases in the Sovereign Base Areas and separate Retained Sites remain a vital strategic defence and national security asset, supporting our interests in an unstable region.

### Developing Countries: Sustainable Development

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have an action plan for the voluntary national review under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. [HL4432]

**Lord Bates:** We welcome this year's national voluntary reviews which provided an opportunity to learn from other countries' approaches to delivering the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. The Government will put itself forward for review in due course and will decide the exact process thereafter.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which government departments will be responsible for the voluntary national review relating to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. [HL4434]

**Lord Bates:** The Global Goals for Sustainable Development have been integrated into departments Single Departmental Plans. The Government will put itself forward for voluntary national review in due course.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have a cross-Whitehall coordinator for the voluntary national

review relating to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. [HL4436]

**Lord Bates:** The Government will put itself forward for voluntary national review in due course and will decide the exact process, including Whitehall coordination thereafter.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they intend to raise awareness of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals within the UK. [HL4487]

**Lord Bates:** The Government will soon publish a cross-governmental report on the UK's approach to delivering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) both at home and around the world and will use this opportunity to publicise the Goals. We are also actively considering ways to further raise awareness of the SDGs with the public.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they will involve (1) public administrators, (2) state institutions, (3) political parties, and (4) civil society, in the voluntary national review relating to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. [HL4488]

**Lord Bates:** Public administrators, state institutions, political parties, civil society and the public all have an important role to play in delivering the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. The Government is considering when to put itself forward for its first voluntary national review to the UN High Level Panel and will decide the best process for involving other stakeholders thereafter.

### Naturalisation

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any applications for naturalisation have been awaiting a decision from the Home Office for longer than two years; and if so, why. [HL4399]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office aim to process 95% of naturalisation applications within six months. In some cases, applications for naturalisation have been outstanding for more than two years. These cases are of a more complex nature where further investigation is required, often involving other government departments and external agencies. The extent and length of time taken to complete these investigations varies according to the particular circumstance of each application.

### Refugees: Children

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 10 January (HL4287), how many of the 750 children

brought to the UK have been transferred under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 without reference to the Dublin Regulation. [HL4525]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Approximately 200 of the children brought over from France as part of the Calais camp clearance were transferred as a result of them meeting the criteria for section 67 of the Immigration Act.

### Schools: Inspections

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many schools in England and Wales have not been inspected by OFSTED in the last 10 years for which figures are available. [HL4449]

**Lord Nash:** The Education Act 2011 provided that schools can be exempt from routine inspection on the basis of having been judged 'outstanding' by Ofsted at their last full inspection under section 5. Outstanding schools are exempt from routine inspection as long as they maintain their high standards. There are 106 outstanding schools which have not been inspected in the last 10 years.

In addition, there are a number of new schools, yet to be inspected by Ofsted as set out in the table below:

*Number of new schools not yet inspected by Ofsted[1],[2]*

<i>Academic year of opening</i>	<i>Number Of Schools</i>
Total	1064
2013-14	192
2014-15	411
2015-16	290
2016-17	171
1. Open as at 31st December 2016	Sources:
2. Inspection data as at 30th November 2016	Ofsted inspection data

### Schools: Staff

*Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many support staff, expressed as full-time equivalents, were employed in English primary, secondary and special state schools, in (1) 2007–8, (2) 2011–12, and (3) 2015–16, or if 2015–16 data are not yet available, 2014–15. [HL4441]

*Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many support staff, expressed as full-time equivalents, employed in English primary, secondary and special state schools, were employed as teaching assistants, learning support assistants or in other primarily classroom-based roles,

in (1) 2007–8, (2) 2011–12, and (3) 2015–16, or if 2015–16 data are not yet available, 2014–15. [HL4442]

*Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many teachers, expressed as full-time equivalents, were employed in English state schools, primary, secondary and special schools, in (1) 2007–8, (2) 2011–12, and (3) 2015–16, or if 2015–16 data are not yet available, for 2014–15. [HL4443]

*Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many support staff in total, expressed as full-time equivalents, were employed in (1) English academies and free schools, and (2) local-authority controlled schools, in (a) 2014–15, and (b) 2015–16. [HL4444]

*Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) teachers, (2) teaching assistants, (3) learning support assistants, (4) other classroom-based support staff, and (5) other support staff, expressed as full-time equivalents, were employed in (a) English academies and free schools, and (b) local-authority controlled schools, in (i) 2014–15, and (ii) 2015–16. [HL4445]

**Lord Nash:** The information requested is publicly available.

The Department collects information on all school staff employed by state funded schools each year in the November School Workforce Census. The results of each census are published annually. The latest information is for November 2015 and was published in June 2016 in the 'School Workforce in England: November 2015' statistical release. This is available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/school-workforce-in-england-november-2015>

Time series statistics (2005 to 2015) showing the number of full-time equivalent teachers, teaching assistants, and other school staff working in primary, secondary and special schools are published in Table 1 of the above statistical release.

Table 3a of the release shows the number of full-time equivalent teachers working in local authority maintained schools and separately in academy and free schools in the primary, secondary and special school phases. Similar information for the number of full-time equivalent teaching assistants, and other school staff working in local authority maintained schools and separately in academy and free schools is available in Table 3b.

The detailed breakdown of the full-time equivalent staffing numbers in 2014 (shown separately for local authority maintained schools and academy and free schools) is available in Tables 1-3 of the previous year's statistical release. This is available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/school-workforce-in-england-november-2014>

### Sierra Leone: Hospitals

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they intend to support and promote, as a centre of excellence, the Aberdeen Women's Hospital in Sierra Leone. [HL4431]

**Lord Bates:** Tackling the very high rate of maternal deaths and teenage pregnancy is a priority for DFID's work in Sierra Leone, and the Aberdeen Women's Centre is providing critical services to many women and girls. DFID is supporting them and other birth centres by providing free life-saving medicines.

The Secretary of State visited the Centre in November to see the work they are doing and on Monday the 9th January Minister Wharton met this week with The Gloag Foundation, who provide funding for the Centre, to discuss potential areas of collaboration in achieving our shared goals.

### Teachers: Resignations

*Asked by **Lord Maginnis of Drumglass***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the ongoing annual additional cost of state school teachers leaving the profession within five years of starting in 2010. [HL4420]

**Lord Nash:** There are more than 456,000 teachers in state-funded schools throughout England – up more than 15,000 since 2010. The retention rate for new teachers is around 90% and of those that started in 2010, 70% are still in the classroom.

The Department's Teacher Supply Model estimates the number of new teachers we need to train each year. Based on the National Audit Office Report on "Training new teachers", it cost £700 million to train 33,200 trainees in 2013/14. This report is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL\_4420\_Attachment [HL4420 Attachment.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-09/HL4420>

### Terrorism

*Asked by **Baroness Deech***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of developments in European intelligence sharing since the 2015 terrorist attacks in Paris and the 2016 terrorist attacks in Brussels. [HL4393]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We do not comment on intelligence matters.

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