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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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<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
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<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
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<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, 21 February 2017*

## Agriculture and Fisheries Council

[HLWS486]

**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 represented the United Kingdom at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 23 January in Brussels.

Council opened with a presentation by the Maltese Presidency on their work programme for the next six months.

This was followed by an update from Commissioner Hogan on the progress of EU trade talks, including a discussion of the findings of the Commission's report on the cumulative economic impact of future trade agreements on EU agriculture. The UK intervened to point out the benefits of an ambitious approach to future EU free trade agreements.

The Council then discussed the dairy market situation and the recent report on the EU Milk Package, along with ongoing outbreaks of Avian Influenza. Member States including the UK welcomed the fragile recovery of the dairy market. Commissioner Hogan stressed that the release of supplies of skimmed milk powder held in public intervention would be handled carefully to avoid any negative impact on the market. On Avian Influenza, the UK joined with several other Member States to raise concerns about the impact of necessary disease control measures on free-range egg producers. Commissioner Hogan agreed that the Commission would examine policy options and report back quickly.

A number of other items were discussed under 'any other business':

- The Slovakian delegation provided information on the conclusions of the 40<sup>th</sup> Conference of Directors of Paying Agencies;

- The Commission responded to a request for information regarding the scope of the Commission's powers to adopt delegated acts for exceptions from the rules on protected designations of origin for wines.

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. The outcome of these negotiations will determine what arrangements apply in relation to EU legislation in future once the UK has left the EU.

## ECOFIN

[HLWS487]

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

A meeting of The Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN) will be held in Brussels on 21 February 2017. EU Finance Ministers are due to discuss the following items:

### *Early morning session*

Ministers will be briefed on the outcomes of the 20 February meeting of the Eurogroup, and the European Commission will present an update on the current economic situation following the publication of the Commission's Winter Forecasts on 13 February. Ministers are also expected to discuss points of clarification in relation to the intergovernmental agreement on the Single Resolution Fund.

### *Anti-Tax Avoidance Directive*

Ministers will be invited to reach a general approach to the second Anti-Tax Avoidance Directive (ATAD2).

### *Current financial service legislative proposals*

The Council Presidency will provide an update on current legislative proposals in the field of financial services.

### *Criteria and process leading to the establishment of the EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes*

Council will take stock of further work that has taken place following the Council conclusions agreed at ECOFIN on 8 November 2016.

### *Preparation of the G20 Meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors on 17-18 March 2017 in Baden-Baden*

Ministers will be asked to mandate the Economic and Finance Committee (EFC) to finalise the EU Terms of Reference for the next meeting G20 of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors.

### *Discharge to be given to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the budget for 2015*

On the basis of a report from the European Court of Auditors, Ministers will be asked to approve a recommendation - to be forwarded to the European Parliament.

### *Budget guidelines for 2018*

Ministers will be asked to adopt Council conclusions on the guidelines for the 2018 budget, which will serve as a point of reference in the forthcoming budgetary cycle.

### *European Defence Fund*

The Commission will provide information on its European Defence Action Plan, focusing in particular on the proposed launch of a European Defence Fund.

## Local Government Finance

[HLWS485]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My right Hon Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Sajid Javid) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

### *Local Government Finance*

I have today laid before the House, the 'Report on Local Government Finance (England) 2017-18', which represents the annual local government finance settlement for local authorities in England.

I would like to thank all colleagues in the House, and council leaders and officials, who contributed to the consultation after the provisional settlement was published before Christmas. Representations from nearly 200 organisations or individuals have been carefully considered before finalising the settlement.

In 2010 we inherited the largest deficit in our peacetime history. As we continue to bring that down, local government, which still accounts for nearly a quarter of public spending despite the savings delivered since 2010, must continue to play its part.

At the same time, local residents rightly continue to expect excellent public services. I commend all councils for how they are getting on with the job. Public satisfaction with local services has been maintained, and councils are engaged in substantial efforts to modernise, transform local services, and reduce waste so that frontline services can be protected.

The 2017-18 local government finance settlement supports councils to continue in that regard, and progresses funding reforms to make councils more self-sufficient.

We remain committed to increasing funding certainty for local government. In total, local government spends more than £120 billion a year and the 2015 Spending Review and 2016-17 settlement delivered a flat-cash settlement for local government, providing four year funding allocations for the first time. The settlement being published today is the second year of the four year offer which was accepted by 97% of councils. To enshrine this commitment to stability in law the Local Government Finance Bill establishes a legal framework for multi-year settlements.

Councils are able to use this increased funding certainty to continue reforming the way they work and become more efficient, both in back-office functions and front line service delivery. Building on the £508 million savings already delivered from shared service arrangements, councils are using improved digital technology, new delivery models and innovative partnerships to deliver savings across local government.

We listened to the unanimous view that we must prioritise spending on adult social care services that councils provide to our elderly and vulnerable citizens. The Spending Review put in place up to £3.5 billion of additional funding for adult social care by 2019-20. Recognising the immediate challenges in the care market facing many councils next year, this settlement repurposes £240 million of money which was previously directed to local authorities via the New Homes Bonus to create a new adult social care support grant next year. It also grants councils extra flexibility to raise the adult social care precept by up to 3% next year and the year after.

These measures make available almost £900 million of additional funding for adult social care over the next two years, bringing the total dedicated funding available for adult social care to £7.6 billion over the four year settlement period.

But more money is not the only answer. We will bring forward reforms to provide a sustainable market that works for everyone who needs social care. And I welcome the consensus across both sides of the House that every area should move towards the integration of health and social care services by 2020, so that it feels like one service.

### *Council Tax Referendum Principles*

We are committed to keeping council tax down, and will maintain referendum principles to protect hard-working tax-payers from rising bills. Council tax in England has fallen by 9% in real terms from the levels left behind by Labour in 2010, and is expected to be lower in real terms in 2019-20 than it was in 2010-11.

This year, in addition to the further flexibility on the Adult Social Care Precept, we are proposing a core council tax principle of 2% for principal authorities, or £5 – whichever is greater – for all shire district councils, and for Police and Crime Commissioners in the lowest quartile.

### *100% Business Rates Retention*

To reduce local government's dependence on central government for funding – long campaigned for by councils – we have announced that by the end of this Parliament, local government will keep 100% of the income raised locally through business rates. Councils will take on new responsibilities to be funded from this additional income – estimated to be around £12.5 billion – as central government grants are phased out. And to ensure councils with less business rates do not lose out, there will continue to be redistributions between authorities.

The Local Government Finance Bill, currently before Parliament, provides the legislative framework for these reforms. This will allow us to continue to work closely with interested parties over the coming months on the more detailed aspects of reforms.

A consultation has already been conducted. The Government response to that announced that, in the reformed system, Revenue Support Grant, Rural Services Delivery Grant, the Public Health Grant and the Greater London Authority Transport Grant will be funded through retained business rates (<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/self-sufficient-local-government-100-business-rates-retention>). Taken together these account for around half of the additional retained business rates that we estimate will be available to councils. We will continue to engage with local government on the remaining responsibilities to be devolved as part of these reforms but it has already been confirmed that the devolution of Attendance Allowance funding is no longer being considered as part of the Business Rates Retention reforms.

A further consultation has been published seeking views on many of the important aspects of the new system (<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/100-business-rates-retention-further-consultation-on-the-design-of-the-reformed-system>) – for example, how growth in business rates can best be rewarded, and how the system can help authorities to manage and share risk. Responses to that consultation are invited by 3 May.

Pilots of these reforms will take place from April 2017 in Liverpool, Greater Manchester, West Midlands, West of England, Cornwall and Greater London. We have also confirmed that we are interested in building on the existing pilot scheme and will be inviting all councils to apply to participate in piloting aspects of 100% Business

Rates Retention from April 2018. We will be publishing more information about this process shortly.

#### *Conclusion*

Reforms to Local Government Finance, based around 100% business rates retention offer a bold and innovative response to the twin challenges of promoting economic growth and securing more self-sufficient and sustainable local government. They will help determine the role, purpose and means of delivery for local government in the years ahead. The 2017-18 Local Government Finance Settlement provides the financial stability authorities need as they transition towards the reformed system in 2019-20; these longer-term reforms will ensure the councils people rely on for their local services are both sustainable, and more self-sufficient.

# Written Answers

Tuesday, 21 February 2017

## Abortion

Asked by **Lord Steel of Aikwood**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of women who travelled from (a) the Republic of Ireland, and (b) Northern Ireland, to the rest of the UK to obtain legal abortions in the latest year for which figures are available. [HL5369]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** Summary information from the abortion notification forms returned to the Chief Medical Officers of England and Wales shows that 3,451 women from the Republic of Ireland and 833 women from Northern Ireland had a legal abortion in England and Wales in 2015. The Department does not collect data on abortions in Scotland.

## Asylum: North Korea

Asked by **Lord Alton of Liverpool**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any children born to one North Korean parent in China, who have not acquired citizenship of either the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea, or the People's Republic of China, have claimed asylum in the United Kingdom; and if so, whether they have been granted refugee status. [HL5228]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Information on claims and decisions is published as part of the Government's Immigration Statistics quarterly release.

The relevant data tables can be found in tabs AS\_01 and AS\_01\_q at the following link:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/572374/asylum1-q3-2016-tables.ods](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/572374/asylum1-q3-2016-tables.ods)

The tables are also attached to this answer.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Data Tables [AS\_01 and AS\_01q.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-02-06/HL5228>

Asked by **Lord Alton of Liverpool**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many individuals born in North Korea who have sought asylum in the United Kingdom have been deported since the United Kingdom–Republic of Korea Readmission Agreement came into force. [HL5229]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Information on removals is published as part of the Government's Immigration Statistics quarterly release.

These can be found at:  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/572383/returns5-q3-2016-tables.ods](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/572383/returns5-q3-2016-tables.ods)

The table is also attached to this answer.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Asylum Data Table [HL5229 rt\_05q.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-02-06/HL5229>

## Balkans: Conflict, Stability and Security Fund

Asked by **Baroness Helic**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what projects have been funded in the Balkans through the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund over the last 24 months; what is the breakdown of the funding for each of the countries for which the funding was made available; and what assessment they have made of the impact of the funding provided. [I] [HL5251]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Details of CSSF funded projects by country for FY 15/16 and 16/17 are shown below. Illustrative outcomes achieved so far include: A reduction in the impact of fiscal crime and improvements in regional law enforcement cooperation, improvement of legislation to ensure fair treatment for the survivors of wartime sexual violence, and improvements in transparency and professionalism in the public sector to help tackle corruption and patronage.

Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH)

*Peacekeeping/Conflict Deterrence:* Support to European Union Force Althea (EUFOR) in BiH

*Security Sector Reform:* Capacity building support to BiH's Armed Forces to meet NATO-required standards; improve coordination of law enforcement agencies

*Reconciliation:* Support to improve access to justice, non-discrimination and equality for survivors of wartime Sexual and Gender Based Victims

*Governance:* Support to the EU Special Representative's Office; capacity building to support socio-economic reform and development of economic and employment opportunities; promote anti-corruption measures to improve transparency and effective public financial management; support political reform; build future leader network; promote good governance

*Rule of Law:* Capacity building to improve governance, transparency and judicial reform; support for criminal justice reform.

FY15/16 Funding: £2,505,174 FY16/17 Funding: £8,421,421

Kosovo

*Peacekeeping/Conflict Deterrence:* Support to NATO Kosovo Force (KFOR)



*Security Sector Reform:* Capacity building support to defence ministries to meet NATO-required standards

*Reconciliation:* Supporting cross-border dialogue, economic cooperation and normalisation of relations between Kosovo and Serbia; promote social cohesion, political and ethnic reconciliation; support return and reintegration of minority communities and their rights; support to victims of sexual violence during conflict

*Governance:* Support to EU Special Representative's Office; capacity building to promote economic development; build future leader network ; strengthen political accountability, democratic institutions, media freedom; promote civic activism

*Rule of Law:* Support to EU Rule of Law Mission (EULEX); enhance capacity and transparency of legal and judicial system; support to combat illegal migration; introduce anti-corruption measures

FY15/16 Funding: £3,616,953 FY16/17 Funding: £2,883,034

Macedonia

*Security Sector Reform:* Capacity building support to Macedonia's Armed Forces to meet NATO-required standards; promote intelligence reform

*Reconciliation:* Support and promote inter-ethnic community relations and activity

*Governance:* Enhance media and civil society freedom; improve transparency and effective public financial management; strengthen democratic accountability and civic engagement; support socio-economic development

*Rule of Law:* Promote judicial reform; enhance civil society monitoring and engagement on state oversight and regulatory bodies; strengthen rule of law policies

FY15/16 Funding: £835,121 FY16/17 Funding: £1,162,345

Serbia

*Security Sector Reform:* Capacity building support to Serbia's Armed Forces

*Rule of law:* Capacity building support to Serbia's response to the migration crisis, and combating illegal migration

*Governance:* Promote good governance and accountability; promote economic development and improvement to business environment; promote public administration reform

*Reconciliation:* Strengthening ability of the state to handle legacy issues

FY 15/16 Funding: £615,995 FY16/17 Funding: £4,441,000

Cross Region

*Countering organised crime, fiscal crime, CT/extremism and illegal migration:* Technical assistance, strengthening expertise, and equipment provision to law enforcement agencies; understanding threat posed by violent extremism and radicalisation

FY15/16 Funding: £599,588 FY16/17 Funding: £2,214,106

## Charities: Grants

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Young of Cookham on 30 January concerning government and NHS donations to charities (HL4976), whether they will now arrange for each government department and NHS Trust to publish details of donations to charities during the period 2010–15. [[HL5272](#)]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** The cabinet office has no plans to arrange for the collation or publication of these details.

## EU Law

*Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks in the White Paper The United Kingdom's exit from and new partnership with the European Union, how the Great Repeal Bill will ensure that legislatures and Courts in the UK will be the final decision-makers in respect of UK cases. [[HL5309](#)]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Government will bring forward legislation in the next session that, when enacted, will repeal the European Communities Act 1972 and ensure a functioning statute book on the day we leave the EU. This 'Great Repeal Bill' will end the authority of EU law and return power to the UK.

The Prime Minister has been clear that we will take back control of our laws and bring an end to the jurisdiction of the Court of Justice of the European Union in the UK.

Our laws will be made in Westminster, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast and those laws will be interpreted by judges not in Luxembourg but in courts across this country.

## European Convention on Human Rights

*Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to continue to honour the UK's commitments under the European Convention on Human Rights and to give effect to internationally binding judgments of the European Court of Human Rights in UK cases. [[HL5310](#)]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** The Government has no plans to withdraw from the European Convention on Human Rights. As a nation we continue to comply with our international human rights obligations.

## Firearms and Unmanned Air Vehicles

*Asked by Lord Tebbit*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of whether the differences in the legal constraints placed upon ownership and use of (1) shotguns, and (2) drones available to the public, are proportional to the risks posed to the public and property by each of those devices. [[HL5314](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The shotgun licensing process is governed by the Firearms Act 1968. Under section 28 of the Firearms Act, the chief officer of police will only grant a shotgun certificate to individuals who, after investigation, are deemed not to pose a threat to public safety or to the peace.

Extensive checks are carried out on every applicant for a shotgun certificate, and are taken into account by the chief officer in their assessment of suitability. In respect of drones available to the public, it is vital that drones are operated safely and responsibly, and the use of drones for criminal purposes is something Government takes very seriously.

The Government is currently consulting on the future safe use of drones, including proposals such as registration and making drones electronically identifiable and strengthening penalties for breaking the law. The consultation can be found on gov.uk and closes on 15 March 2017.

## Fracking

*Asked by Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to publish the outcome of the consultation on the delivery methods and priorities for the Shale Wealth Fund. [[HL5301](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Shale Wealth Fund consultation resulted in 170 responses and closed on 26 October. Following this the government set out at Autumn Statement 2016 that local communities will benefit first and determine how the money is spent in their area. A government response to the consultation will be published shortly.

## Homosexuality

*Asked by Lord Cashman*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks of Baroness Williams of Trafford on 12 December 2016 (HL Deb, col 1021), what progress they have made in giving consideration to including additional offences in Chapter 4 of Part 5 of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 and which specific offences they have identified as appropriate for inclusion. [[HL5299](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The provisions enabling the Secretary of State to extend, by regulations,

the list of offences eligible for a disregard under the provisions of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, will come into force two months after the Policing and Crime Bill received Royal Assent. This happened on 31 January 2017. The Government will work with stakeholders to identify what offences might be appropriately added to that list.

## Housing

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the publication of the White Paper Fixing our broken housing market, what additional "transparent data" they expect to be able to collect, and what barriers there have been to the collection of data to date. [[HL5322](#)]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The White Paper includes proposed measures to improve data transparency in respect of: a) the pace of housing delivery; and b) the ownership of land.

The Government wants to ensure that new homes are built out as quickly as possible once planning permission is granted. There is currently no requirement for developers to report on the build out of new homes, and the information which the Government collects is limited. The White Paper proposes to introduce new requirements for developers to provide information about housing delivery – both at the planning application stage and after permission is granted. It also proposes that this information should be published as part of Authority Monitoring reports. These requirements are intended to improve the quantity, quality and consistency of information about build out rates. The responses to the White Paper consultation will inform further development of these proposals.

It can be difficult to establish the identity of all persons with an interest in land. As the White Paper makes clear, the Government would like to make data about land ownership, control and interests more readily available. To this end we are aiming to complete the Land Register by 2030, with all public-held land to be registered by 2025. We will also be consulting on options to improve the data held on those who have an interest in land.

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the publication of the White Paper Fixing our broken housing market, what are the "sharper tools" they hope to deploy in the attempt to drive up the delivery of new homes. [[HL5323](#)]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Government wants to ensure that new homes are built out as quickly as possible once planning permission is granted. The Housing White Paper seeks views on a range of new and improved tools to help local authorities to hold developers to account for delivery. The proposed tools include greater scrutiny of a site's delivery prospects where earlier permissions have not been implemented; shorter



timescales for implementing permissions; more streamlined completion notice procedures and new guidance encouraging more active use of compulsory purchase powers at stalled housing sites.

To support the use of these tools, the White Paper also proposes new requirements for developers to provide information about housing delivery – both at the planning application stage and after permission is granted. These requirements are intended to improve the quantity, quality and consistency of information about build out rates that local authorities have at their disposal.

### **Housing: Carbon Emissions**

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the publication of the White Paper *Fixing our broken housing market*, what plans they have to ensure that boosting productivity and innovation in methods of construction will lead to more zero carbon homes. [HL5320]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Housing White Paper - *Fixing our broken housing market* - sets out the steps we are taking to stimulate the growth of modern methods of construction. The use of modern methods of construction, including off-site construction techniques, has the potential to speed up the supply of high-quality, high-performance homes. Building homes under factory conditions improves consistency and predictability in housing design and manufacture, and can lead to higher energy efficiency, saving consumers money on energy bills.

### **Housing: Construction**

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the publication of the White Paper *Fixing our broken housing market*, what is their estimate of the level of disruption and delay caused to house building by the failure to secure timely utility connections. [HL5321]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Timely utility connections are key in ensuring that the homes this country needs are built. A range of factors may cause delays to build out of housing developments, such as discharging planning conditions and obligations, dealing with issues around protected species, or shortages in construction skills. Some builders cite the complex process and time it can take to make utility connections as one of the more significant delays in providing new homes, and have estimated it can in some cases add a three to six month delay after construction has started.

This is why we have committed in the White Paper to review what more we could do to ensure that utilities planning and delivery keeps pace with house building and supports developments across the country.

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

*Asked by Lord Kinnock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the Prime Minister's Lancaster House speech on 17 January, in which areas of the UK has net EU migration "put pressure on public services, like schools, and stretched infrastructure, especially housing". [HL5256]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Office for National Statistics (ONS) published a report based on 2011 census data, on the changing levels of the non-UK born population in every local area, available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/articles/internationalmigrantsinenglandandwales/2012-12-11#tab-Local-geography-of-non-UK-born-and-non-UK-nationals>)

The Home Office also published a research report 'The Social and Public Service Impacts of International Migration at the Local Level' (July 2013) which shows the local authorities that have been particularly affected by international migration, including migration from the European Union Member States. This is available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/210324/horr72.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/210324/horr72.pdf)

The Answer includes the following attached material:

International Migrants in England and Wales: 2011 [International Migrants in England and Wales 2011 (3).pdf]

International Migration at the Local Level [ International Migration at the Local Level .pdf]

The material can be viewed online at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-02-06/HL5256>

### **Israel: Palestinians**

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding reports of toxic waste, effluent and pollution released from Israeli industry and settlements in the West Bank onto Palestinian land and into the water supply. [HL5315]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** While we have not raised this issue with the Israeli authorities, the UK Government has made clear to the Government of Israel of our concerns about the humanitarian and environmental impact of the damage to water sources and the destruction of Palestinian agricultural land that has been caused by settlement-related building activity. We deplore the destruction of Palestinian property and have called on the Israeli Government to cease such activity.

We have also urged the Israeli Government to avoid actions that restrict Palestinian access to water for irrigation and drinking. With Department for International Development support, UNICEF works with the

Palestinian Water Authority to help monitor the water situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and ensure effective response in case of an emergency.

### **Israeli Settlements**

*Asked by Lord Warner*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they will take with their international partners in respect of the government of Israel's decision to retrospectively legalise the previously illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories of the West Bank. [HL5316]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood), issued a statement on 7 February condemning the passing of the Land Regularisation Bill and expressing concern that the bill paves the way for significant growth in settlements deep in the West Bank, threatening the viability of the two-state solution. The UK also welcomes the recent statement by Federica Mogherini, Vice-President of the European Commission, condemning the adoption of the bill.

### **Ivory: Sales**

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are considering a total ban on ivory sales in the light of the announcement by the government of China that they intend to introduce a full ban within 12 months. [HL5397]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** We were pleased to hear of China's announcement that it will end its domestic commercial ivory trade in 2017. We look forward to seeing further detail on China's measures, including understanding the nature of provisions for auctioning certified ivory 'relics' and how China plans to implement the new measures.

We are committed to bringing an end to elephant poaching and in September 2016, the Secretary of State for Environment announced proposals for a ban on trade in worked ivory from the last 70 years, which would make UK rules on ivory amongst the toughest in the world. We will shortly be consulting on these plans. At the same time we will be calling for evidence on what more we can do to tackle this issue, including how we best enforce this ban.

We are doing more than ever to tackle the illegal wildlife trade, including investing £26 million to help bring an end to this cruel trade.

### **Madeleine McCann**

*Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what has been the total cost to date of Operation Grange, the investigation

into the disappearance of Madeleine McCann, and whether any resources have been allocated to it for the financial year 2017–18. [HL5324]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The total cost of Operation Grange since 2011, up until end of January 2017, is £11.05m. We have already provided the Metropolitan Police Service with the funding required for Operation Grange to continue until at least the end of the 2016/17 financial year. The resources required will be reviewed again at this point.

### **Non-domestic Rates**

*Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the recent business rates revaluation, what are the average changes affecting (1) rural businesses, and (2) urban businesses. [HL5260]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Revaluation will mean that nearly three quarters of business will see their bills stay the same or fall, and from April 2017, 600,000 small businesses will pay no business rates at all. The Government introduced a £3.6 billion package of transitional relief to support businesses affected by revaluation. To support businesses in rural areas, the Government is doubling rural rate relief from 50 per cent to 100 per cent from 1st April 2017. The Department does not hold information on whether a particular business is rural or urban.

*Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on rural businesses that are operating at narrow margins of the impact of increases in rateable values. [HL5262]

*Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering*

To ask Her Majesty's Government over how long a period the recent rateable revaluation in respect of business rates was estimated. [HL5263]

*Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering*

To ask Her Majesty's Government during the recent business rates revaluation, what regard was given to the impact on the turnover and profitability of businesses of seasonality in produce such as livestock, and of currency movements. [HL5264]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Business rates are based on valuations from the Valuation Office Agency and we do not intervene in their independent assessments. Rateable values are assessed to consistent standards and generally reflect the open market rental value of the property. And it is for the Valuation Office Agency to decide how to apply these standards to the circumstances of each property. A £3.6 billion transitional relief scheme will provide support for the minority who do face an increase.

**Non-domestic Rates: Greater London**

*Asked by Lord Berkeley of Knighton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to protect small businesses in London from closure owing to the rise in business rates. [HL5297]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Business rates are based on valuations from the Valuation Office Agency and we do not intervene in their independent assessments. A £3.6 billion transitional relief scheme will provide support for the minority who do face an increase. London will benefit more than anywhere else in the country from the transitional relief scheme. In total properties in London will benefit from transitional relief worth over £1 billion over the life of the scheme.

From 1 April, we are permanently doubling the level of Small Business Rate Relief and increasing the thresholds to benefit a greater number of property occupiers. Eligible properties with a rateable value of £12,000 and below will receive 100 per cent relief. This means that 600,000 small businesses will pay no business rates at all.

**Peers: Correspondence**

*Asked by Lord Lamont of Lerwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the Home Secretary intends to reply to Lord Lamont's letter of 16 November 2016 about Mr Amini and his request for a visa to come to the UK. [HL5307]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I am sorry for the delay in responding to your correspondence of 16 November 2016 to the Home Secretary. This was passed to me for response and a reply was sent on 10 February 2017.

**Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education**

*Asked by Lord Northbourne*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the recently published Ofsted inspection framework does not make any reference to the role of parents and families in developing the personal, social and health education of children and in preparing those children for carrying out a role as parents in the future. [HL5361]

**Lord Nash:** The purpose of Ofsted school inspection is to assess the quality of education provided by the school for its pupils. This includes reporting on how well the school's provision supports pupils' personal development, behaviour and welfare, and their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. In addition, Ofsted's school inspection handbook does require inspectors to consider how well leaders and governors engage with parents, carers and others in supporting pupils.

**Public Expenditure: Northern Ireland**

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have recovered unspent financial allocations to the Northern Ireland Executive in (1) the current financial year, (2) the financial year 2014–15, and (3) the financial year 2015–16; how much was recovered in each year; what was the purpose for which those sums were originally granted; and what were the dates on which they were granted. [HL5300]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Northern Ireland Executive's block grant is not hypothecated for spending on specific purposes. In common with the other devolved administrations, it may carry over unspent provision from one year to the next under the Budget Exchange system, described in section 7 of the Treasury's 'Statement of Funding Policy'.

The current ceilings for Budget Exchange are 0.6% Resource DEL, 1.5% General Capital DEL and 15% Financial Transactions Capital DEL. No funding in these categories was surrendered to the Treasury in 2014–15 or 2015–16 as unspent provision was within these limits. Underspends for 2016–17 will be calculated after the end of the financial year.

**Refugees: Children**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will continue to implement section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016, relating to unaccompanied refugee children, beyond the end of March into the next financial year. [HL5328]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Under the Immigration Act we made a commitment to transfer a specified number of unaccompanied refugee children to the UK, following consultation with local authorities on capacity.

On 8 February, the Government announced that we will transfer the specified number of 350 children to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act. This includes the more than 200 children already transferred from France as part of the UK's support for the Calais camp clearance.

We will announce in due course the basis on which further children will be transferred from Europe to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act to the specified number.

**Religious Hatred: Christianity**

*Asked by Baroness Berridge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for a Christian hate crimes unit, additional to the Jewish and Muslim hate crimes

units in the Department for Communities and Local Government. [HL5298]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Government set out its commitment to reduce the harm caused by all hate crime, including that which is religiously motivated, in ‘[Action against hate: the UK government’s plan for tackling hate crime](#)’ which was published in July 2016.

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) does not have specific units for antisemitic or anti-Muslim hate crime. Rather, we support Working Groups to bring members of those communities, where religiously motivated hate crime is at the highest levels, together with Government and other agencies to discuss what more we can do to tackle anti-Semitism and anti-Muslim hate crime. DCLG also supports the cross-Government Hate Crime Programme, which coordinates the response to all forms of hate crime across Whitehall and the Criminal Justice Agencies.

DCLG supports the police website ‘True Vision’ and, in January 2017, the Communities Secretary announced £25,000 extra funding for True Vision to work with Christian Groups, including Churchwatch. The project will assess the nature and extent of anti-Christian hate crime, reassure affected Christians and raise awareness of reporting mechanisms for hate crime. The findings of the research will help inform our future activity to challenge hate crime, which is unacceptable in any community.

### Schools: Textbooks

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Chesterton*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether they will take steps to ensure that maintained schools have adequate resources to continue to make text books available to pupils as a central part of their education. [HL5394]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Chesterton*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what comparisons they have made regarding the purchase and use of books in maintained schools in different parts of the UK. [HL5395]

**Lord Nash:** We want schools to have the resources they need, and through our careful management of the economy we have been able to protect the core schools budget in real terms. That means that in 2016-17 schools have more funding than ever before for children’s education, totalling over £40 billion. We will continue to provide advice and support to help schools use their funding in cost effective ways, and improve the way they buy goods and services, so they get the best possible value for their pupils.

Individual schools are best placed to determine which appropriate teaching resources they fund from within their budgets. We believe, however, that high quality textbooks can make a real difference to teaching. We have worked with publishers with the aim of improving the quality of textbooks available to schools, to better support excellent

teaching and teacher professional development. We do not however collect detailed information on the purchase and use of books in different parts of the UK.

### Social Rented Housing: Construction

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, further to the publication of the White Paper *Fixing our broken housing market*, whether they will allow local authorities to build council housing or work with partners to provide other forms of social housing, rather than make provision for starter homes, if that is the demonstrable local need. [HL5318]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** As our Housing White Paper made clear, we want local authorities to deliver starter homes as part of a mixed package of affordable housing that can respond to local needs and local markets. In keeping with this approach to deliver a range of affordable homes, rather than a mandatory requirement for starter homes, we intend to amend the National Planning Policy Framework to introduce a clear policy expectation that housing sites deliver a minimum of 10 per cent affordable home ownership units. It will be for local areas to work with developers to agree an appropriate level of delivery of starter homes, alongside other affordable home ownership and rented tenures.

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, further to the publication of the White Paper *Fixing our broken housing market*, what specific steps they will take to help councils build more social housing. [HL5319]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** We are sympathetic to the challenges faced by local authorities, and the Housing White Paper reflects our ambition to support them in building more affordable homes.

My officials will work with local authorities to understand all the options for increasing the supply of affordable housing, considering innovative ideas and bespoke deals with local authorities to support delivery.

### World War II: Genocide

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, in the light of correspondence from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth to Lord Hylton concerning a grant towards the National Holocaust Memorial, what is the estimated cost to (1) build, and (2) annually maintain, the National Holocaust Memorial; of those sums, how much will be provided from (a) government department direct grants, (b) other sources of public funding, and (c) private funds; and whether they will make a statement to Parliament on the costs and funding. [HL5303]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Government has committed £50 million towards establishing a new National Holocaust Memorial, learning centre and

endowment fund; with an expectation of a further £50 million being raised in donations. The estimated cost of constructing the memorial and learning centre is up to £40	million. Further consideration of the costs associated with the memorial and learning centre will continue over the coming months
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