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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, Whip
<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, Whip
<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
<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

*Monday, 24 April 2017*

## BEIS Arm's Length Body

[HLWS605]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** My honourable Friend the Minister of State for the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (Mr Nick Hurd) has made the following statement:

The Government has announced the sale of the UK Green Investment Bank plc (GIB) to Macquarie Group Limited (Macquarie), with a £2.3bn deal which secures a profit on the government's investment in the bank, provides value for taxpayers and ensures GIB continues its green mission, in the private sector.

GIB has been a real success story since it was created in 2012 – the world's first dedicated green investment bank, established to accelerate private sector investment into the UK green economy. It has fulfilled that mission, supporting almost 100 green infrastructure projects in the UK so far, and attracting £3 of third party funding for every £1 it invests. It has shown, as it set out to do, that green investment can be both green and profitable. Having demonstrated its success, the Government decided to move GIB into the private sector where it can continue its success on an even greater scale.

The deal, secured through a competitive process as set out in a Report to Parliament on 3 March 2016, will meet the objectives outlined by government of securing value for money for the taxpayer while ensuring GIB continues its green mission, free from the constraints of public sector ownership. It has the backing of GIB's independent Board.

Under the ownership of Macquarie, one of the largest infrastructure investors in the world, GIB will invest more into the green economy than ever before, with £3bn of new investment targeted over the next three years, exceeding GIB's track record of committing £3.4 billion of investment over the four and a half years since it was founded. GIB will become the primary vehicle for Macquarie's renewable energy investment in the UK and Europe, allowing GIB to expand internationally.

Macquarie has today published a series of commitments over the future of GIB under their ownership, including that GIB's green purpose and green objectives will be maintained. This is in line with the 'special share' in GIB to safeguard GIB's green purposes, which will be held by five independent trustees who will have the power to approve or reject any proposed change to GIB's green mission.

Macquarie has also committed to continue GIB's investment approach, targeting investments across all areas of the green economy and across all stages of the project lifecycle, including the critical phases of development and construction. This will ensure GIB

remains a specialist green investor supporting renewable energy investment and emissions reduction in the UK.

Macquarie is committed to maintain the GIB platform and brand, and to utilise the skills and experience of GIB employees in Edinburgh and London. GIB's Edinburgh office will be home to a new revenue generating project delivery business providing services to the green energy portfolios of GIB and Macquarie in the UK.

The transaction value of around £2.3bn ensures that on completion, all taxpayer funding invested in GIB has been returned with a substantial profit. This comprises proceeds from the sale of around £1.7bn, with a further £0.6bn of GIB's current outstanding commitments which will be met by Macquarie and its partners, rather than by taxpayers.

As part of the transaction, a number of GIB's offshore wind assets will be moved into a new offshore wind investment vehicle, which GIB will manage and hold a 25% stake. Investors in this investment vehicle will be long-term institutional investors Macquarie European Infrastructure Fund 5 (MEIF5) and the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS). This type of transaction structure matches GIB's existing approach to asset ownership, providing a mechanism for long-term institutional investors to invest in low carbon projects while ensuring GIB can recycle its capital into new green investments.

The Government will continue to hold a £130m portfolio of a small number of GIB's existing investments. This portfolio will continue to be managed by GIB until these investments can be sold on in a way which returns best value for taxpayers' money.

The Government would like to put on record its gratitude to GIB management and staff, who have all played a key role in GIB's success, and who have worked tirelessly and professionally to support the sale process while continuing to source and finance green projects across the UK.

The sale proceeds will be received on completion of the transaction, which is expected to take around two months. The transaction is conditional on certain regulatory approvals including EU merger clearance. Under the Enterprise Act 2016, Government is required to provide a full report to Parliament on completion of the transaction.

## Contingent Liability

[HLWS595]

**Earl Howe:** My hon. Friend the Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology (Harriett Baldwin) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I have retrospectively laid before Parliament a Ministry of Defence (MOD) Departmental Minute describing the contingent liabilities within the Astute Boat 5 and 6 Whole Boat Contracts with BAE Systems Marine Ltd.

The Departmental Minute describes the Contingent Liability that the MOD will hold as a result of placing the Astute Boats 5 and 6 Whole Boat Contracts, which will

provide production, test and commissioning of the fifth and sixth Astute Class submarines, HMS ANSON and HMS AGAMEMNON. The maximum contingent liability against the MOD is unquantifiable and will remain until the respective Out of Service Date of the submarine.

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

For Boat 6 the Department was faced with exceptional sequencing from the completion of difficult negotiations. The Department faced the prospect of losing the deal and its associated £110 million savings, due to new changes to Single Source Contract Regulations introduced on 1 April 2017. As such I decided to proceed with the agreement, following scrutiny of the contract by the Department's Investment Approvals Committee which confirmed that the contract offered best value for money for the taxpayer, and subsequent approval by HM Treasury.

As a result of detailed work in connection with the Boat 6 contract it has been recognised that contingent liabilities arising from the Boat 5 contract, which has hitherto been considered not to require notification to Parliament, are in fact the same as those for Boat 6 and should therefore have been notified, notwithstanding the fact that that no credible scenario has been identified in which a claim could exceed contractual limits.

Within both the Boat 5 and 6 contracts, BAE Systems Marine Ltd limited their exposure to Product Liability to £1 billion per incident and £300 million in any 12-month period. This limits the contractor's exposure for claims by the MOD for losses associated with the product being defective or deficient, and creates an exposure for the MOD for third party claims against the contractor for losses associated with the product being defective or deficient. It is the view of the Department that the likelihood of any claim is remote.

[HLWS596]

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

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## Contingent Liability Notification

[HLWS594]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** My honourable friend the Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Simon Kirby) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I can today confirm that I have laid a Treasury Minute informing the House of the contingent liability that HM Treasury has taken on in authorising the sale of a portfolio of Bradford & Bingley loans acquired during the financial crisis under the last Labour Government.

This includes certain remote fundamental market-standard warranties which are capped at 100% of the final sale price. The maximum contingent liability arising from these remote warranties is capped at the total consideration received, giving a maximum contingent liability of £11.9 billion. These fundamental warranties are considered to be so remote that they do not meet the definition of a contingent liability requiring disclosure under International Financial Reporting Standards. However, they are disclosed as remote contingent liabilities under principles of Parliamentary accountability.

Further market-standard time and valued capped warranties and indemnities confirming regulatory, legislative, and contractual compliance have been

provided to the purchasers. The maximum contingent liability arising is approximately £0.79 billion.

I will update the House of any further changes to Bradford & Bingley as necessary.

### Cross Government Prosperity Fund

[HLWS603]

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

I wish to update the House on how the Prosperity Fund has supported global and UK prosperity in its first year and its plans for future years. As we leave the European Union the Prosperity Fund is a vital part of how the UK will be a global, outward-looking nation that is confident on the world stage and has strong, fruitful relationships with countries around the world.

On 21 July 2016 I informed the House on the aims and objectives of the £1.3bn Prosperity Fund (HCWS104 and HLWS105) and a short paper was published on [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) that details how the Fund operates. The Fund uses primarily Official Development Assistance (ODA) resources to promote economic reform in ODA-eligible middle income countries, which are home to 70% of the world's poor, contributing to a reduction in poverty. Shared prosperity is a key part of the UK Aid Strategy. The Fund has a secondary benefit of opening up opportunities for international, including UK, business.

Projects are focussed on countries and sectors identified through cross-Whitehall economic analysis as being those areas with large numbers of people living in poverty, potential for inclusive growth and where UK expertise can make a real difference.

As set out in the Fund's Spending Round 2015 Settlement Letter the Fund is 97% ODA with a small non-ODA allocation. ODA projects must meet the primary purpose to support poverty reduction and promote sustainable economic growth.

The strategic direction for the Fund is set by a cross-government Ministerial Board supported by a director level Portfolio Board comprised of representatives from key departments. This structure reflects the cross-government nature of the Fund and ensures that programmes deliver value for money and support government objectives. Accounting Officers remain responsible for ensuring the value for money of programmes funded by the Prosperity Fund.

The Ministerial Board has met nine times since January 2016. These regular meetings have allowed it to respond promptly and flexibly to changing circumstances – for example endorsing increased funds to trade related projects after the EU referendum.

The Prosperity Fund has continued to refine its systems and processes throughout the first year in order to ensure that it succeeds. It has acted on positive feedback and helpful advice from the Infrastructure and Projects

Authority, the National Audit Office, and, most recently the Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI).

We welcome this external scrutiny as an opportunity to test the portfolio and management systems with independent experts. As stated in our formal management response to the ICAI review, the Prosperity Fund accepts and is implementing their recommendations, many of which it had already identified through its own internal reviews.

Year one of the Prosperity Fund was designed as a transition year. The Ministerial Board allocated £55m of ODA to projects in a range of ODA eligible countries including China, India, Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Indonesia, Nigeria and South Africa and in areas such as financial services, infrastructure, business environment, energy, and trade and regulation. It also allocated £5m of non-ODA in support of government prosperity objectives in both ODA-eligible countries and developed markets.

In South Africa, electricity shortages have cut GDP by 2% in recent years. The Prosperity Fund piloted an innovative British technology to help address this, enabling local government, universities, businesses and utilities to save a minimum of 15% on their electricity consumption.

In Brazil, the work of the Prosperity Fund has been recently celebrated in national media as an example of the importance of international cooperation to tackle transnational bribery and reduce corruption, and has helped to shape the recently approved “10 Measures against Corruption” law in Brazil.

The Prosperity Fund financed the former Prime Minister's anti-corruption summit in May 2016 which brought together world leaders, business and civil society to agree measures to reduce corruption. The Fund has also placed the UK at the forefront of delivering international commitments to tackle corruption such as setting up the International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre, financed by the Prosperity Fund and hosted by the UK's National Crime Agency.

The Fund is committed to meeting the UK government transparency commitments on ODA spend. Details of all year one programmes will be released on GOV.UK in mid 2017 and an annual report on the first year will be issued by autumn 2017.

The majority of the Prosperity Fund will be allocated to large, high impact, multi-year programmes. To date 18 such programmes have been endorsed by the Ministerial Board and are now being developed by UK government departments including HM Treasury, the Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Many other government departments are involved in the design and delivery of individual programmes.

These programmes include country specific work in South America and Asia, regional programmes in South East Asia, and multi-country, sector specific programmes on trade reform, insurance, education and anti-corruption. The focus of all programmes is high impact and value for



money. We expect the first of these to launch later in the year.

We will refresh our GOV.UK page with more information on the Fund following this update and will continue to develop these pages as the Fund progresses, including with information on programmes as they launch.

## Department of Health Arm's Length Bodies

[HLWS599]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** My hon. Friend has made the following Written Statement:

The Department of Health has completed its Triennial Reviews of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, the Human Tissue Authority and the Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment and is today publishing the associated reports. A copy of the each review report is attached. Additionally, the review of the NHS Pay Review Body and the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration will be subsumed within a cross-cutting review of the classification of the Department of Health's Advisory Non-Departmental Public Bodies.

Each review, which took place during 2015-16, consulted with a wide range of stakeholders and concluded that the organisations perform necessary functions effectively. The reports contain recommendations intended to support each organisation's future performance, efficiency, and governance.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Triennial Review - COM [Triennial Review - COM.pdf]

Triennial Review - HFEA [Triennial Review - HFEA.pdf]

Triennial Review - HTA [Triennial Review (HTA).pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2017-04-24/HLWS599/>

## General Affairs Council

[HLWS602]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** My right honourable friend the Minister of State for Exiting the European Union (Mr David Jones) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The General Affairs Council (GAC) on 25 April 2017 is expected to focus on: Modification of the Commons Provisions Regulation; Bringing Cohesion Policy closer to our citizens; and Implementation of EU Macro-Regional Strategies; followed by a Working lunch.

### *Modification of the Commons Provisions Regulation*

The Presidency will provide an update on proposed changes to the legislation which governs the Common Provisions Regulation, the overarching EU regulation which governs the European Structural and Investment

Funds. These are expected to be in place before our withdrawal from the EU and were proposed by the Commission as part of the Mid-Term Review of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) in order to simplify and harmonise existing regulations.

### *Bringing Cohesion Policy closer to our citizens*

The Council will adopt conclusions which: assess the EU's cohesion policy in recent years; recognise the need for greater visibility in its implementation; and call for further simplification and flexibility in the period beyond 2020. A discussion between Member States on the themes raised during the negotiation of the conclusions is expected.

### *Implementation of EU Macro-Regional Strategies*

The Council will adopt conclusions on 'EU Macro-Regional Strategies', the frameworks for co-operation between Member States and non-Member States in tackling common challenges by better using existing EU initiatives and sources of funding.

### *Working lunch*

Following the meeting there will be a working lunch, at which Ministers will have the opportunity to exchange views on the role of cohesion policy post 2020 with Corina Crețu, European Commissioner for Regional Policy. This is expected to be an informal discussion.

## Law and Order Trust Fund Afghanistan

[HLWS597]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** My Honourable Friend, the Parliamentary Under Secretary for State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Alok Sharma), has made the following written Ministerial statement:

On 23 December 2016 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office fulfilled the promise given by the former Prime Minister at the NATO Chicago Summit in 2012 to commit £70 million for each of the calendar years 2015-2017 towards Afghan National Defence and Security Force (ANDSF) sustainment. At the NATO Summit in Warsaw in 2016, the UK committed a further £210 million to sustain its commitment of £70 million per year until 2020.

The UK's 2016 contribution, funded from the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF), has been channelled through the United Nations Development Programme's Law and Order Trust Fund Afghanistan (LOTFA) to support payroll management, Afghan National Police (ANP) salaries and Ministry of Interior (MoI) and ANP development.

The development of a capable, accountable and responsive MoI and ANP, committed to delivering rule of law, is essential to long term stability and security in Afghanistan. The ANP play a fundamental role in providing security; rule of law and public order; as well as helping to build trust in the legitimacy of the state. Due to the challenging security environment international support for Afghan policing continues to be required. The UK remains committed to supporting the development of

security institutions in Afghanistan, including the ANP and MoI.

## Northern Ireland Finances

[HLWS604]

**Lord Dunlop:** My Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (James Brokenshire) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

At the point when the Assembly dissolved in January, there had been no Budget set for the Northern Ireland Executive for the 2017-18 financial year. As a result, since the end of March it has fallen to the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Finance to allocate cash to Northern Ireland departments under powers provided by section 59 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. Since that point, consistent with the UK Government's ultimate responsibility for political stability in Northern Ireland, I have been working closely with the Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS), in conjunction with the NICS Board, to explore the most appropriate means by which to provide further assurance around the Budget for Northern Ireland departments in the absence of an Executive.

I outline in the attached tables an indicative Budget position and set of departmental allocations, based on advice from the Head of the NICS in conjunction with the NICS Board. These allocations seek to reflect, as far as possible, their assessment as to the priorities of the political parties prior to the dissolution of the Assembly and the further allocations they consider are required within the budget available. By so doing I intend to give clarity to Northern Ireland departments as to the basis for departmental allocations in the absence of an Executive, so that Permanent Secretaries can plan and prepare to take more detailed decisions in that light.

Alongside that, I wish to make clear - as I shall also do in proceedings on the Northern Ireland (Ministerial Appointments and Regional Rates) Bill - that this Government, if returned and efforts to secure the resumption of devolved government do not succeed, would ultimately be prepared to provide legislative authority for the expenditure of Northern Ireland departments for 2017-18.

The totals I set out would not constrain the future ability of an incoming Executive to adjust its priorities during the course of the year. Any future UK Government would similarly need to reflect upon the final shape of allocations in the light of the circumstances at the appropriate time.

### *Resource - Departmental Expenditure Limits*

The resource positions begin from the indicative departmental totals set by the Permanent Secretary of the NI Department of Finance under his s59 powers. From there further allocations have been made in the light of the assessment made by the Head of the Civil Service, in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Civil Service Board, as to pressures to be addressed. These totals do not

include the £42m of resource provided in the March Budget, as that extra funding was allocated after the last Executive dissolved. This is in order to maintain flexibility for the any new Executive to allocate resources to meet further priorities as they deem appropriate.

### **Capital - Departmental Expenditure Limits**

The capital position has been determined by the Head of the NICS, in conjunction with the NICS Board, based on engagement with individual departments, again reflecting the decisions and priorities of the last Executive. It includes the allocation of £114m of Financial Transactions Capital. It would make available funding for projects which were announced by the Executive as part of their 2016-17 Budget. These include the A5 and A6 road projects, the Belfast Transport Hub, and the Mother and Children's Hospital. However it would be for individual departments to prioritise and allocate their capital budgets. As with the resource totals above, this does not include the £7m of capital provided in the March Budget.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Tables 1 and 2 [WMS 24 April Tables 1 and 2.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2017-04-24/HLWS604/>

## Sky/Fox Merger

[HLWS601]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** My Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Karen Bradley) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

On Thursday 16 March I intervened in the proposed acquisition of Sky by 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fox on the media public interest grounds of media plurality and commitment to broadcasting standards by issuing a European Intervention Notice (EIN).

The EIN triggered the requirement for Ofcom to assess and report to me on the public interest grounds specified and for the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) to report to me on jurisdiction. I required Ofcom and the CMA to provide their reports to me in response to the EIN by Tuesday 16 May. Once I receive these reports, my decision-making role in this process would resume.

Given the proximity of this decision to the forthcoming general election and following discussions with the parties, Ofcom, the CMA and the Cabinet Office Propriety and Ethics team I wrote to Ofcom and the CMA on Friday 21 April to extend the period by which these reports should be submitted to Tuesday 20 June.

## Tailored Review of Arts Council England

[HLWS600]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** My Rt Hon Friend the Minister of State for Digital and Culture (Matt Hancock) has made the following Statement:

I am today publishing the report of the tailored review of Arts Council England. The review was first announced in the Culture White Paper in March 2016, and was officially launched on 9 August 2016.

The review's purpose was to challenge and seek assurance of the continuing need, efficiency and good governance of Arts Council England. The review concluded that the functions of Arts Council England are necessary and should continue to be delivered by Arts Council England in its current form as a Non-Departmental Public Body.

The review found Arts Council England to be an efficient and well governed organisation that was highly regarded across the arts and culture sectors. The review made a number of recommendations for further improving the effectiveness of Arts Council England, for example through further integrating museums and libraries; further supporting skills capability and financial resilience; developing more local partnerships and strengthening the use of cultural investment as regeneration capital; strengthening the assessment of the impact of its funding; and ensuring that its funding is fully accessible in order to benefit everyone and not just the privileged few. There are recommendations too for DCMS, on providing stronger assurance that the Arts Council is investing public money effectively, and reviewing the cultural property and export license functions.

The review was carried out by DCMS, and an independent Challenge Panel was appointed to assure its robustness and impartiality. The review was carried out with the full participation of Arts Council England, and gathered evidence from a range of stakeholders from across government and the arts and culture sectors and through a public consultation. I would like to thank all those who contributed to the review.

The report will be placed in the libraries of both Houses and is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tailored-review-of-arts-council-england>

### **English Votes for English Laws Analysis for Technical and Further Education Bill**

[HLWS598]

**Lord Nash:** My right honourable friend the Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills (Robert Halfon)

made the following Written Ministerial Statement on 19 April 2017.

I am pleased to announce the publication of analysis of English Votes for English Laws in relation to amendments to the Technical and Further Education Bill during its passage through the House of Lords.

The English Votes for English Laws process applies to public bills in the House of Commons. To support the process, the Government has agreed that it will provide information to assist the Speaker in considering whether to certify that Bill or any of its provisions for the purposes of English Votes for English Laws. Bill provisions that relate exclusively to England or to England and Wales, and which have a subject matter within the legislative competence of one or more of the devolved legislatures, can be certified.

The memorandum provides an assessment of tabled amendments to the Technical and Further Education Bill, for the purposes of English Votes for English Laws, ahead of Commons Consideration of Lords Amendments (CCLA).

This analysis reflects the position should all the amendments from the House of Lords be accepted.

The memorandum can be found on the Bill documents page of the Parliament website at: <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/technicalandfurthereducation/documents.html>

I have also deposited a copy in the Libraries of the House.

### **UK Bilateral Loan to Ireland**

[HLWS593]

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

HM Treasury has today provided a further report to Parliament in relation to the bilateral loan to Ireland as required under the Loans to Ireland Act 2010. The report relates to the period from 1 October 2016 to 31 March 2017.

A written ministerial statement on the previous statutory report regarding the loan to Ireland was issued to Parliament on 13 October 2016, Official Report, column 15WS.



# Written Answers

Monday, 24 April 2017

## Armed Forces: Finance

Asked by **Lord Burnett**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the annual budgets for (1) the Royal Navy, (2) the Royal Air Force, and (3) the Army, for each financial year from 2014–15 to 2019–20; and whether any of those budgets for the years to 2016–17 were underspent. [[HL6702](#)]

Asked by **Lord Burnett**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the annual budgets of the Royal Marines for each financial year from 2014–15 to 2019–20; whether those budgets include a proportion of the UK Special Forces budget; and if so whether those payments are spent exclusively on Special Forces personnel, training and operations. [[HL6703](#)]

**Earl Howe:** The Armed Services operate as fully integrated joint organisations in which elements from the Royal Navy, the Army, the Royal Air Force, and the Royal Marines all work closely together and share buildings, facilities, and sometimes equipment. A joined-up approach is vital to delivering the capability enhancements outlined in the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review. However, the consequent integrated budgetary structure means that it is not possible to state accurately what the Spending Review settlement means for individual services in a particular financial year (FY).

As is standard practice, we do not comment on the operations of the Special Forces.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is split into six Top Level Budget areas including Navy Command, Army Command and Air Command. The following information shows the net Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) outturn (resource and capital) for the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force Top Level Budget areas in FYs 2014-15 and 2015-16.

<i>Net DEL outturn by Top Level Budget (reviewed as forecast against budget by the Defence Board during the year)</i>	<i>Restated 2014-15* (£000)</i>	<i>2015-16 (£000)</i>
Royal Navy	2,361,787	2,506,976
Army	6,402,314	6,553,188
Royal Air Force	2,416,171	2,509,289

\*During the last two years a new organisation, Information Systems and Services, has been formed (by combining internal MOD branches) to deliver information capabilities to the Department. The new organisation is part of Joint Force Command and comparator year figures

have been restated to reflect the reorganisation which mainly impacted Defence Equipment and Support and Joint Forces Command.

Annual budgets for each Top Level Budget area are determined depending on capability requirements and priorities. Forecasts of near cash expenditure against budgets are regularly reviewed and revised by the Defence Board in-year, when considering performance and resource allocation. It is not possible to accurately state the annual performance of individual Top Level Budget areas, or what their control totals will be in future years.

## A14

Asked by **Lord Hunt of Chesterton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the rise in local air pollution, and associated health effects, resulting from the proposed increase in road traffic following alterations at the A14 Brampton interchange. [[HL6316](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Air quality modelling completed by Highways England during the development of the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon improvement scheme indicated that there would be no overall significant effect on air quality in Brampton. An Environmental Statement was published in December 2014, which included a full air quality assessment.

## Africa: Snakes

Asked by **Lord Alton of Liverpool**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the response by Lord Bates on 3 April (HL Deb, cols 930–1) concerning neglected tropical diseases, how they are responding to Africa's need for anti-venoms to treat snake bites, following the cessation of production by the major manufacturer. [[HL6579](#)]

**Lord Bates:** The UK Government is currently supporting the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, funded by Medical Research Council and DFID, to develop a new 'universal antivenom' to treat victims of any of the most venomous snakes that threaten human health in sub-Saharan Africa.

DFID launched a call for expressions of interest for the development of new technologies on 30 March. This call highlights that DFID is particularly interested in a number of areas, including innovative technologies to improve health outcomes for the poorest living in low and middle income countries which are currently neglected by the global research and development community, such as new anti-venoms to treat snake bite.

## Agriculture

Asked by **Baroness Parminter**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to consult the public on future policy and support for

farming once the UK leaves the EU, in advance of any decisions being taken or legislation being tabled; and if so, how views will be sought. [HL6564]

*Asked by Baroness Parminter*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to consult stakeholders, including the National Farmers' Union and the Food and Drink Industries Group, on future policy and support for farming once the UK leaves the EU, in advance of any decisions being taken or legislation being tabled; and how those views will be sought. [HL6565]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Secretary of State set out five priority themes for engagement in her speech to the 2017 NFU Conference on 21 February: global demand, productivity, sustainability, resilience and consumer trust.

We will be working closely with the industry and the public on what is needed to drive agricultural and environmental policies forward once we leave the EU. Over the next few months we will be engaging with stakeholders so that Ministers and officials will be able to hear industry and the public's views first hand.

We have a once in a generation opportunity to transform our food and farming policies and improve our environment and it is vital we are all part of this process.

### **Agriculture and Environment Protection**

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the announcement by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 4 January, what progress they have made on finalising the two green papers on (1) the future of food and farming, and (2) the environment; and when they plan to publish them. [HL6618]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** We are committed to publish both a 25 year environment plan and food and farming plan to support our twin ambitions of being the first generation to leave the natural environment of England in a better state than that in which we found it, and to become a world leading food, farming and fishing nation: to grow more, sell more and export more British food.

We are stepping up our engagement with a wide range of stakeholders to inform development of the full plans, which we are committed to publishing during this Parliament.

### **Agriculture: Apprentices**

*Asked by Baroness Byford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 7 March (HL Deb, col 1246), whether the trebling of agricultural apprenticeships from 6,000 to 18,000 is a target for (1)

the whole period to 2020, or (2) each year until and including 2020. [I] [HL6458]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Government's commitment is to treble the number of apprenticeships in food, farming and agri-tech. This means increasing the number of annual starts to 18,000 by 2020. The number of starts in the most recent full year for which statistics are available (2015-2016) was 7,160.

### **Ahmed al-Asiri**

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the statement by the government of Bahrain that an attempted citizen's arrest of Maj Gen Ahmed al-Asiri, relating to alleged war crimes committed in Yemen by Saudi Arabia, was a "barbaric assault by a group of terrorists". [HL6541]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK supports freedom of expression and peaceful protest as a fundamental right in itself and an essential element of a full range of human rights. This must, however, be within the law and it is for the Police to investigate any complaints.

Following the incident on 30 March the Foreign Secretary had a conversation with the Deputy Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman, in which he expressed his regret at the disturbance to Major General Asiri's visit to London.

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of reports that the Foreign Secretary called Saudi Arabia's Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to apologise for the attempted citizen's arrest of Major General Ahmed Asiri by activist Sam Waldron, whether the Foreign Secretary will call Sam Waldron regarding the reported remarks by the Bahraini Foreign Ministry describing him as a terrorist. [HL6633]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Foreign Secretary spoke to the Deputy Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and expressed regret at the events.

The UK supports freedom of expression and peaceful protest as both a fundamental right in itself and as an essential element of a full range of human rights. Expressions must be within the law and it is for the Police to investigate any complaints.

### **Air Routes**

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the risk that UK-based airlines will relocate abroad in order to maintain continental routes after Brexit. [HL6433]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government is considering carefully all the potential implications arising from the UK's exit from the EU and plans to negotiate the best possible relationship between the UK and the EU in the field of aviation. The Department for Transport is working closely with the sector to best understand its requirements and to ensure that the outcome of the negotiations serves the interests of both passengers and the aviation industry.

### Air Routes: Europe

*Asked by Lord Teverson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to ensure that, following Brexit, airlines based in the UK will still be able to operate European flights; and what assurances they are able to give to the public, airports and airlines, that tickets sold up to eighteen months ahead can be honoured post-Brexit. [HL6369]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government plans to negotiate the best possible relationship between the UK and the EU in the field of aviation with a smooth and orderly transition. The Department for Transport is working closely with the industry to best understand their requirements and to ensure that the outcome of the negotiations serves the interests of both passengers and the aviation industry.

*Asked by Lord Teverson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to negotiate, during the Brexit negotiations, a transitional aviation regime for UK airlines operating European routes, in order to avoid a sudden end to the operation of those routes; and if so, (1) how they intend to conduct, and (2) when they expect to conclude, those negotiations. [HL6370]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government plans to negotiate the best possible relationship between the UK and the EU in the field of aviation with a smooth and orderly transition. The Department for Transport is working closely with the industry to best understand their requirements and to ensure that the outcome of the negotiations serves the interests of both passengers and the aviation industry.

### Air Traffic Control

*Asked by Lord Stevens of Kirkwhelpington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are planning to conduct statutory five-yearly reviews of all UK airspace allocation, both civil and military. [HL6448]

*Asked by Lord Stevens of Kirkwhelpington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to better harmonise civil, general and military

aviation activity within the UK, especially in congested areas such as the south-east of England. [HL6449]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has a duty to classify UK airspace and to keep such classification under review, under the Directions given by Government. In exercising this air navigation function the CAA must also reasonably apply a number of provisions, including to secure the most efficient use of airspace and to satisfy the requirements of operators and owners of all classes of aircraft.

This year we have begun the process of developing a new Government strategy for UK aviation as a whole. We will be consulting widely throughout 2017, starting in the next few weeks. This will include seeking views from those involved in civil, general and military aviation. This will be an ambitious programme of work, leading to publication of an Aviation Strategy White Paper at the end of 2018.

### Aircraft Carriers: Procurement

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much of the projected £6.2 billion cost of the UK's two new aircraft carriers has already been spent. [HL6551]

**Earl Howe:** The Ministry of Defence had spent £5,650 million to the end of February 2017 on the Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carrier programme.

### Airports: Closures

*Asked by Lord Stevens of Kirkwhelpington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will consider the introduction of new rules to ensure that no airfield can be closed without a full independent economic appraisal and audit of its contribution to local, national and international connectivity. [HL6450]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The majority of airfields in the UK are privately owned and operated. Operational decisions are therefore a commercial matter.

The Government will be starting work on a new aviation strategy this year. We will be considering a number of issues within the general aviation sector and the role that aerodromes play in supporting connectivity.

### Antidepressants

*Asked by Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many NHS prescriptions for anti-depressants were written in (1) 2010, and (2) 2015; and what was their estimated cost. [HL6699]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** Information from the Prescription Cost Analysis system regarding the number of antidepressant prescription items written in the United Kingdom and dispensed in the community in England, for the years 2010 and 2015 is shown in the following table.

Total number and Net Ingredient Cost (NIC) of antidepressant prescription items written in the UK and dispensed in the community in England in 2010 and 2015 for British National Formulary Section 4.3 antidepressants.

Year	Items	NIC (£)
2010	42,787,966	220,372,789
2015	61,021,611	284,745,611

Source: Prescription Cost Analysis.

*Asked by Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is NHS policy for general practitioners prescribing anti-depressants to patients whose depression relates to the effects of alcohol. [HL6700]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** There is no single National Health Service policy for the prescribing of antidepressants to those individuals whose depression is linked to the effects of alcohol. However, clinicians are expected to prescribe such medication in accordance with best practice and any available guidance.

Under the terms of their contract with NHS England, general practitioners (GPs) are required to identify any patient, over the age of 16, who is drinking alcohol at increasing or higher risk levels by using either of two of the World Health Organization's Alcohol Use Disorders Identification questionnaires.

Where a patient is identified as such, GPs must also ensure the patient is assessed for anxiety and depression, is offered screening for anxiety and depression and where this is diagnosed, ensure the patient is provided with any treatment or support which may be required – including referral for specialist mental health treatment.

It is a clinical decision of the individual GP to decide what treatment is most appropriate taking into account any relevant National Institute of Health and Care Excellence guidance and professional advice from the Royal Colleges.

*Asked by Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many anti-depressants were prescribed to patients in 2015 who continued to consume alcohol; and at what cost. [HL6701]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** This information is not held centrally.

## Arcadia Group: Pensions

*Asked by Lord Myners*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are investigating circumstances surrounding the pension deficit of Arcadia; and what assessment they have made of the effectiveness of the Pensions Regulator in overseeing the scheme and its governance. [HL6632]

**Lord Henley:** The regulatory oversight of work-based pension schemes, including funding issues, is a matter for the independent Pensions Regulator. The recent BHS settlement shows that there is a system in place for protecting the benefits of members of occupational pension schemes.

The government remains confident in the effectiveness of the Regulator however, we have recently launched a consultation on Defined Benefit pensions to make sure the tools they have are appropriate and sustainable. The paper also covers a number of other areas of concern in the defined benefit sector, including the powers of the Regulator. This paper was laid before Parliament on 20 February 2017.

The closing date for comments is 14 May 2017; responses can be submitted to the following postal address:

DB Consultation  
Private Pensions  
First Floor  
Caxton House  
6-12 Tothill Street  
London  
SW1A 9NA

## Arms Trade: Trade Fairs

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to ensure that no illegal torture equipment is sold at arms fairs held in the UK; and, when such sales occur, what action they take. [HL6531]

**Lord Price:** The Export Control Organisation (ECO) in the Department for International Trade works closely with the organisers of the world's leading event for the defence and security sector (Defence and Security Equipment International), held bi-annually in London, to ensure that exhibitors are aware of their legal obligations in respect of illegal torture equipment. To date these arrangements have been covered by a Memorandum of Understanding between the organisers and Export Control Organisation.

HMRC, which is responsible for enforcing export controls, and DIT maintain a presence at the bi-annual event to monitor compliance. HMRC, has appropriate powers to take a range of enforcement action in the event that controls are breached or there is an allegation that controls have been breached.

In addition, ECO personnel also routinely attend other defence sales events in the UK to raise awareness among both exhibitors and other attendees of their export control responsibilities.

## Asylum

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many grants of discretionary leave to remain were made in 2016 in



respect of asylum seekers whose claims had been refused; and how the reasons for those grants were classified. [HL6680]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office publishes the number of asylum applications and initial decisions broken down by nationality, each quarter in table as\_01 of the Immigration Statistics release. The latest figures are attached to this answer. They are also available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2016/asylum>

Each asylum case is considered on its individual merits in accordance with our international obligations and protection is granted where it is needed. Information regarding the reasons that an individual is granted status is not readily accessible from central statistical records and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost through a manual search of individual case files.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Asylum Table [Asylum Table.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-04-05/HL6680>

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of refused asylum seekers currently in the UK who have no immediate prospect of leaving. [HL6681]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The UK has a long and proud tradition of providing a safe haven to those who genuinely need our protection.

All asylum and human rights claims are carefully considered on their individual merits in accordance with the UK's obligations under the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the European Convention on Human Rights.

Where a decision has been made that a person does not require international protection, and there are no remaining rights of appeal or obstacles to their return, the Home Office expects unsuccessful asylum seekers to return voluntarily to their home country. The Home Office can assist persons who wish to return voluntarily. The Home Office's preferred option is for those who have no legal basis to remain in the UK to leave voluntarily and we offer assistance to those who choose to do so. Further details can be viewed at:

- <https://www.gov.uk/return-home-voluntarily/who-can-get-help>

But if an individual does not leave the UK voluntarily, then it will become necessary to enforce their removal.

The Home Office closely monitors developments in all countries of return and takes decisions on a case-by-case basis in the light of international obligations and the latest available country information. The Home Office only

enforces removal when it and the courts conclude that it is safe to do so, with a safe route of return.

Enforced removals are carried out in the most sensitive way possible, treating those being removed with respect and courtesy.

Details of total numbers of cases who have had asylum claims refused and have no basis to remain having exhausted all appeal rights can be found at:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-transparency-data-february-2017>

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what practical assistance is provided by the Home Office to refused asylum seekers who are co-operating with re-documentation procedures, to obtain new travel documents. [HL6682]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Where a failed asylum seeker has agreed to return to their home country voluntarily, the Home Office Voluntary Returns Service (VRS) will assist them with obtaining travel documents required by the receiving country to facilitate entry. VRS will provide their travel costs to the embassy or High Commission and will also cover the cost of the travel document if required.

Where a failed asylum seeker does not choose to return voluntarily, the Home Office will engage directly with the relevant embassy or High Commission to obtain the required travel document for return.

## Asylum: Balkans

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the joint report from the International Rescue Committee and 11 other organisations, Out of Sight, Exploited and Alone, concerning unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in the Balkans, and its principal concerns of (1) insufficient and unreliable data or information management on UASC within the region, (2) a lack of options for safe accommodation and comprehensive services for UASC in line with each child's best interests, (3) a lack of access to legal pathways, (4) a lack of cross-border case management to improve continuity of care and protection, and (5) exposure to exploitation, violence and trafficking, including as a result of smuggling and violent pushbacks. [HL6510]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The primary responsibility for unaccompanied children in Europe lies with the State in which they are present. We are committed to making sure that the Dublin III process works effectively to ensure that vulnerable asylum-seeking children receive the protection and support they need and are reunited as soon as possible with any close family members in the UK.

We regularly engage with the Governments in the Western Balkans region on migration and provide

additional support to EU Member States hosting large numbers of unaccompanied children to promote their welfare. The UK has established a £10 million Refugee Children's Fund to support the needs of vulnerable children arriving in Europe and prioritises the needs of unaccompanied and separated children travelling through Greece and the Balkans. Support includes specialised shelters which offer 24 hour care, including psychosocial support, educational activities and legal assistance.

Since October 2015, we have provided more than £17.2 million in humanitarian assistance for refugees and migrants in the Balkans. This has provided life-saving assistance (shelter, water and sanitation, hot and cold food, medical care and protection) for the most vulnerable migrants and refugees; as well as enhanced data for better migration management and support for durable solutions.

The UK has allocated £8 million to a new Women and Girls Protection Fund which will protect girl and women refugees in Greece and the Balkans by providing shelters as a safe alternative to camp environments and strengthening national counter-trafficking mechanisms.

### Asylum: Children

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what children's best interest evaluation has been made of their policy to refuse children entitled to asylum in the UK the family reunion rights granted to adults since the removal of the UK's immigration reservation to the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2008. [HL6683]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The current family reunion policy meets our international obligations. Widening it to allow children to sponsor family members would create additional motives for them to be encouraged, or even forced, to leave their family, and risk hazardous journeys to seek to enter the UK illegally. This would play into the hands of criminal gangs who exploit vulnerable people, and goes against our safeguarding responsibilities.

The Government believes that the best interests of children are reflected in their remaining with their families and claiming asylum in the first safe country they reach; this is the fastest route to safety.

### Aviation

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what priority they will give to ensuring continued access to the EU's Open Skies deregulated aviation market in the negotiations to leave the EU. [HL6426]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government plans to negotiate the best possible relationship between the UK and the EU in the field of aviation with a smooth and orderly transition. The Department for Transport is working closely with the industry to best understand their

requirements and to ensure that the outcome of the negotiations serves the interests of both passengers and the aviation industry.

*Asked by Lord Stevens of Kirkwhelpington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to clarify the rules covering the operation of seaplanes for personal and recreational use around the UK. [HL6487]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government has no plans at present to clarify the rules covering the operation of seaplanes for personal and recreational use.

### Aviation: Compensation

*Asked by Lord Balfe*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan for passenger rights to compensation for delay, cancellation, denied boarding and involuntary downgrading on air flights, as laid out in EU Regulation 261/2004, to be transposed in their entirety into UK law upon withdrawal from the EU. [HL6693]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government is considering carefully all the potential implications arising from the UK's exit from the EU, including future arrangements for passenger rights. The Great Repeal Bill will provide a functioning statute book on the day the UK leaves the EU. In addition to repealing the European Communities Act, the Bill will convert EU law into UK law as it stands at the moment before we leave the EU; and create temporary powers to make secondary legislation. The Bill aims to maximise certainty for individuals and businesses as we leave the EU. The Department for Transport is working closely with consumers and industry to best understand their requirements.

### Aviation: Regulation

*Asked by Lord Trefgarne*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are their proposals for the regulation of civil aviation following Brexit. [HL6549]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government is considering carefully all the potential implications arising from the UK's exit from the EU, including future arrangements for the regulation of civil aviation. Until the UK leaves the EU, EU law continues to apply alongside national rules. The Department for Transport is working closely with the sector to best understand its requirements.

The Great Repeal Bill, as set out in the White Paper published 30<sup>th</sup> March, will convert EU law as it stands at the moment of Exit into domestic law before we leave the EU. It will also enable domestic law to reflect the content of any withdrawal agreement under Article 50. This approach will provide maximum clarity and certainty for business and individuals, as in general the same rules and

laws will apply on the day of Exit. Parliament (and, where appropriate, the devolved legislatures) will then have the ability, where it decides it is right to do so, to amend, repeal, or improve any piece of EU law at the appropriate time once we have left the EU.

### Aviation: Security

*Asked by Lord Balfre*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, before introducing the ban on the carriage of personal electronic devices in cabins on certain flights, what assessment they made of (1) the additional risk of lithium battery fires in aircraft holds, and (2) the safety implications of implementing a ban on lithium batteries being transported in any part of the aircraft. [I] [[HL6377](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The International Civil Aviation Organisation Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air (and the International Air Transport Association Dangerous Goods Regulations) detail the conditions for the carriage of consumer Portable Electronic Devices (PEDs) containing lithium ion/metal batteries by passengers and crew. Carriage within checked/hold baggage is permitted with the devices switched off and packed such that they are afforded suitable protection from damage and inadvertent operation.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has provided further advice to air carriers on the procedures to be followed in relation to the carriage of devices containing lithium batteries in the hold of an aircraft. With assurance that these procedures are in place and that passengers are complying with the operators' safety instructions, the CAA's assessment is that the safety risk in relation to this issue can be managed.

### Baltic States: NATO

*Asked by Lord Campbell of Pittenweem*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they have taken against attempts to undermine by disinformation the effectiveness of the British troops deployed to the Baltic States as part of the NATO alliance Enhanced Forward Presence initiative. [[HL6656](#)]

**Earl Howe:** The UK and NATO constantly monitor the threats to the Euro-Atlantic security environment. The Enhanced Forward Presence (EFP) we have deployed to the Baltic States and Poland is defensive in nature, but combat capable, and we will configure our forces appropriately in response to the challenges NATO faces in the region. The effectiveness of UK involvement in this operation is founded upon our longstanding engagement and interoperability with NATO, our host nations of Estonia and Poland, our EFP partners, the US, Denmark, and France. Any attempts to undermine this deployment

through disinformation will be countered in an open, honest, and transparent fashion.

### Bank of England

*Asked by Lord Harrison*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will consider advising the Bank of England to change its formal name to the Bank of England and the United Kingdom, whilst continuing to use the Bank of England for day-to-day purposes. [[HL6710](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Bank of England's name carries a longevity that pre-dates the formation of the United Kingdom itself, having been founded in 1694 as "the Governor and Company of the Bank of England". Under the current state of the union the Bank acts as central bank for the entirety of the United Kingdom. This includes underwriting both Scottish and Northern Irish banknotes.

To change its name now would represent a break from over 300 years' worth of history and the prestige it carries as a global brand.

### Banks: Closures

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the closure of high street branches of the major UK banks, what assessment they have made of the continued availability of access to financial services. [[HL6717](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government is committed to improving access to financial services, across both traditional and digital channels.

Six in ten UK adults aged 16 and over now use internet banking, while the British Bankers' Association estimates that the use of mobile payments alone increased by 54% between 2014 and 2016. The Government recognises that online and mobile banking brings practical day to day benefits to many consumers.

The Government also recognises the need to support local communities to adapt to changes in the banking landscape, including when bank branches close. In March 2015, the Government helped to broker an industry-wide agreement to work with customers and communities to minimise the impact of bank branch closures and put in place alternative banking services. The Government welcomed Professor Russel Griggs' recent review of the Protocol and is pleased to see the industry commit to further improvements to protect those affected by closures.

Alternative banking services are also available at the Post Office. As a result of a new agreement with UK banks, announced in January 2017, the Post Office estimates that 99% of personal and 75% of business customers will be able to carry out their day to day banking at more than 11,500 Post Office branches across the UK.

## Botswana: Earthquakes

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effects of the earthquake in central Botswana on 3 April, and whether they will ensure that the EU offers appropriate assistance to the government of Botswana. [1] [HL6608]

**Lord Bates:** Reports from the most affected areas indicate only minor injuries and minimal damage from the earthquake on 3 April, and its aftershocks. We will continue to monitor developments and ensure that appropriate assistance is provided if requested by the Government of Botswana.

## Brexit

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of a second Scottish independence referendum on Brexit negotiations and planning. [HL6432]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** As the Prime Minister has said, now is not the time to be talking about a second independence referendum. It would be unfair to the people of Scotland to ask them to make a crucial decision without knowing what our future partnership with the EU will be.

The UK needs to work together, putting all our energies into securing a deal that works for the entire United Kingdom and the right deal for Scotland in our negotiations with the European Union.

*asked by Baroness Smith of Gilmorehill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the need for legislative consent motions to be passed by the Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly, and the Northern Ireland Assembly in relation to the Great Repeal Bill. [HL6637]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The final content of the Great Repeal Bill, when it is introduced, will determine the process to take it forward.

The Government fully respects the Sewel Convention and is working closely with the devolved administrations – for example through the Joint Ministerial Committee on EU Negotiations.

This is part of the normal working arrangements between the UK Government and the devolved administrations.

*Asked by Lord Eames*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the similarities in land border issues to be taken into consideration in relation to (1) Spain and Gibraltar, and (2) Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, in the forthcoming negotiations with the EU. [HL6672]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** We have been engaging with the Devolved Administrations, including the Northern Ireland Executive, and Gibraltar to understand their priorities and interests, and will continue to involve them as we enter negotiations.

We have established a Joint Ministerial Committee (European Union Negotiations) for the Devolved Administrations, and are engaging with Gibraltar through the new Joint Ministerial Committee (Gibraltar European Union Negotiations). The latter will allow us to take account of the particular interests that Gibraltar has, given that the EU Treaties apply to a large extent in Gibraltar, with some exceptions (for example, Gibraltar is not part of the Customs Union).

Regarding the Common Travel Area between the United Kingdom and Ireland, there is a strong commitment between the United Kingdom government, the Irish government and the Northern Ireland Executive to protect the current arrangement. We will work with the new Northern Ireland Executive, the Irish Government and the Crown Dependencies to deliver a practical solution that allows for the maintenance of the Common Travel Area, while protecting the integrity of the United Kingdom's immigration system.

We understand the importance of a well functioning Gibraltar-Spain border, and stand ready to work with the Government of Gibraltar and the Government of Spain to ensure the border continues to function well.

## Brexit: Northern Ireland

*Asked by Lord Eames*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the response by Baroness Goldie on 21 March (HL Deb, cols 248–252) concerning their commitment to fully involving Gibraltar to ensure that its priorities are properly taken into account as the UK prepares to leave the EU, whether they intend to make a similar commitment to the Northern Ireland Executive. [HL6670]

*Asked by Lord Eames*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the response by Baroness Goldie on 21 March (HL Deb, cols 248–252) concerning their commitment to fully involving Gibraltar to ensure that its priorities are properly taken into account as the UK prepares to leave the EU, what plans they have to inform Parliament of the impact on Northern Ireland of any assurances given to the people of Gibraltar before and during negotiations with the EU. [HL6671]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** Ministers in the Department for Exiting the European Union are fully engaged on issues related to Northern Ireland. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland keeps closely engaged on a range of issues of mutual interest and concern with Northern Ireland's political parties and independents, including on the subject of the UK's exit from the EU. This



engagement includes parties that opted not to join the outgoing Executive.

The Joint Ministerial Committee on EU Negotiations (JMC(EN)) has met four times to understand and consider each administration's priorities; to seek to agree a UK approach to, and objectives for, negotiations, and to consider proposals put forward by the devolved administrations. The Joint Ministerial Committee is also meeting more frequently in plenary format: the Prime Minister has chaired two meetings since the referendum. Representatives from the DUP and Sinn Féin both attended JMC(P) on Monday 30th January and have attended every JMC(EN). The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland continues to undertake discussions with all of the main political parties and independents in Northern Ireland.

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the Prime Minister are fully committed to ensuring that the unique interests of Northern Ireland are protected and advanced.

Regarding engagement with Parliament, we will keep the House informed throughout the entire process of the UK's exit from the European Union; and we have committed to keeping the UK Parliament at least as well informed as the European Parliament as negotiations progress.

### **Brexit: Republic of Ireland**

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government under what authority the government of the Republic of Ireland is playing a role in the negotiations for the UK leaving the EU. [HL6750]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Republic of Ireland is a European Union Member State and its role in the European Council discussions on the response to the United Kingdom's Article 50 notification stems from the fact that it is one of the other 27 EU Member States.

In terms of our bilateral relationship, the Prime Minister has been clear that one of our key priorities for exit will be to maintain our strong relationship and historic ties with Ireland. We are determined that our record of collaboration, built on shared experience and values and supported by personal, political and economic ties, continues to develop and strengthen after we leave the EU.

### **British Nationals Abroad: EU Countries**

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what priority they will give in their negotiations on leaving the EU to securing an agreement continuing the annual increase in the UK state pension for UK citizens who remain living in EU member states. [HL6610]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Prime Minister was clear in her letter to the President of the European Council that we should seek an early agreement on the rights of UK nationals in the EU and EU nationals in the UK, on a reciprocal basis. This is a priority issue for the forthcoming negotiations and, as the Prime Minister has emphasised, we will always put the interests of citizens first.

### **Business: Investment**

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the latest Office for Budget Responsibility figures published in its Economic and fiscal outlook March 2017, showing an annual fall in business investment of 1.5 per cent in 2016 and a further fall forecast for 2017, what is their assessment of the impact of falling business investment on GDP; and what plans they have to address this. [HL6630]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The OBR forecast business investment to grow by 15 per cent over the forecast horizon to 2021, and to rise as a share of GDP. The government is committed to ensuring that businesses have the right environment to invest. We are delivering this by cutting corporation tax to 17 per cent by 2020, setting out our Industrial Strategy and investing for the future through the National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF).

### **Business: Regulation**

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures have been put in place to ensure that the Brexit negotiations do not impose undue bureaucratic burdens on UK businesses. [HL6436]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Government's first objective as we negotiate a new deep and special partnership with the European Union is to provide business, the public sector, and everybody in our country with as much certainty as possible.

Our decision to convert the 'acquis' – the body of European legislation – into UK law at the moment we repeal the European Communities Act is an essential part of this plan. The same rules and laws will apply on the day after exit as on the day before. It will then be for democratically elected representatives in the UK to decide on any changes to that law, after full scrutiny and proper debate.

### **Care Homes**

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment has been made of the cost effectiveness of local authorities developing and running social care

residential homes to meet the urgent needs of the elderly population. [HL6568]

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what encouragement and support is given to local authorities to develop and run their own social care residential provision, in the light of the loss of places through the closures of privately run homes for the elderly. [HL6569]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** High-quality, personalised care and support can only be achieved where there is a vibrant, responsive market of service providers. There has been an effective market operating in adult social care for over 20 years. The independent and charitable sector has proved successful in meeting increased demand for high quality services.

The Government continues to monitor the capacity of the social care system and bed capacity has remained broadly stable - 460,664 beds in 2010 to 459,874 now.

The Government does not advise local authorities or private companies on how to set up or operate care homes. The Care Act 2014 placed duties on local authorities making them responsible for ensuring there is an effective pool of quality providers of social care in their area with capacity to meet the needs of their local population. It is for local authorities to determine the most cost effective way of meeting the care needs of their local population.

Should a care home close, local authorities have duties to step in temporarily and ensure that all people affected in its area continue to have their needs met and their care is not interrupted.

The Department has worked with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, the Local Government Association, the care sector and other partners to produce a wide range of guidance and support about market shaping and commissioning. We have brought this together in an online hub called Adult Social Care Market Shaping, which is an online only resource widely available to people and organisations including local authorities, service users, and care providers.

### **Central European University**

*Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will make representations to the government of Hungary to protect the legitimacy, autonomy and academic freedom of the Central European University. [HL6664]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are closely monitoring the situation. As part of our regular, open and frank discussions with the Hungarian Government, the British Embassy in Budapest is engaging with them on this matter.

### **Channel Four Television: Public Appointments**

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Ashton of Hyde on 4 April (HL6217 and HL6218), whether the female candidate who was not approved for appointment by the Secretary of State failed to meet the skills and experience set out in the advertised job descriptions. [HL6668]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** Non-executive members of the Channel 4 Corporation board are appointed by Ofcom with the approval of the Secretary of State. The selection panel are responsible for interviewing candidates and identifying those who are appointable. Ofcom advertised for four vacancies for candidates with specific sector skills and experience and the Secretary of State approved the four candidates on the basis that they best met the skills and experience set out in the advertised job descriptions.

### **Charities: Grants**

*Asked by Baroness Barker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures are in place to evaluate the Tampon Tax Fund's achievement of its objectives. [HL6586]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The Tampon Tax Fund provides grants to a wide range of organisations. Every grant recipient will have specific agreed outcomes against which its project will be monitored.

*Asked by Baroness Gould of Potternewton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which charities were awarded funding from the Tampon Tax Fund; how much was allocated to each charity; and what were the criteria used to determine those awards. [HL6661]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** As announced on 30th March 2017, 70 organisations were selected to be put forward to share £12 million worth of investment from the Tampon Tax Fund. All applications into the fund were assessed against three criteria: evidence for the need of the project; the organisation's ability to deliver; and the sustainability and impact of the project. A list of the 70 organisations has been published on the Government website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/charities-across-the-uk-benefit-from-tampon-tax-fund>

### **Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre**

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre has made of the extent of child sexual abuse and exploitation online; which groups of children are

particularly at risk; and whether there is evidence of a growing problem of online sexual risk for UK children. [HL6367]

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre has published any statistics in publicly available research reports since 2013; and if not, whether it has any plans to do so in the short term. [HL6368]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The National Crime Agency, of which the CEOP Command forms part, publishes the National Strategic Assessment annually. The Assessment provides a comprehensive picture of the risk posed to the UK and its interests by serious and organised crime, including child sexual exploitation and abuse.

The National Crime Agency also publishes an Annual Report which contains a set of statistics in respect of the whole of its activity.

### Children: Day Care

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Durham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the increased number of childcare staff that will be required for the implementation of the 30 hours free childcare a week for three- and four-year-olds from September. [HL6597]

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Durham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have for increasing the number of childcare staff by September to meet additional demand resulting from the implementation of the 30 hours free childcare a week for three- and four-year-olds. [HL6598]

**Lord Nash:** The number of places, and therefore staff, required to deliver 30 hours will depend on a variety of factors, including existing take up of additional childcare outside the current free entitlement. Many working families with three- and four-year olds already use more than 15 hours of childcare so many of the required childcare places already exist. There is also existing spare capacity in the system to help deliver the new entitlement.

Local authorities continue to be required to secure sufficient childcare, and therefore staff to fulfil those places in line with ratio requirements, as far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children).

In March, the Department published an early years workforce strategy, which set out a number of measures to support the sector to recruit, retain and develop staff. This included announcing that to support recruitment, from 3 April 2017 the English and maths qualification requirements for level 3 Early Years Educators would be broadened out to include other suitable level 2 qualifications, including functional skills.

We continue to support growth and the creation of new places to deliver the 30 hours funded entitlement. In 2016, we ran a £50 million early years capital bid round, for which local authorities, in partnership with providers, were invited to submit bids. This investment will create almost 9,000 additional places for eligible children to help meet demand. We are now going even further, making additional investment through the same capital bid round that will support even more providers to deliver 30 hours.

### Chongryon

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are aware of (1) members of Chongryon, formerly known as the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, entering or doing business in the United Kingdom, and (2) whether Chongryon members have had any interactions with diplomats from the DPRK Embassy in London, in the last five years. [HL6577]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not monitor the day to day activities of diplomatic missions in London nor do we have records of meetings and engagements arranged by those missions.

### Citizenship: Education

*Asked by Lord Blunkett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much funding has been provided in respect of citizenship education and related issues, including British values, over the last 12 months; to which bodies that funding was provided; how much has been specifically allocated to individual projects; what is the timetable for the spending of that funding; and how much funding is available for 2017-18. [HL6393]

**Lord Nash:** We trust schools to decide the funding and resources that they allocate to individual subjects within the curriculum, including citizenship.

The Association of Citizenship Teaching won a tender with the Department to produce high quality resources, including guidance regarding the teaching of fundamental British values. This will enable teachers to engage pupils in the importance of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different beliefs and those without faith, citizenship, and equality. The value of the contract is £50,000 and the first two resources are currently being piloted. The contract will conclude on 31 October 2018.

DfE and the Home Office are jointly funding the Educate Against Hate website ([www.educateagainsthate.com](http://www.educateagainsthate.com)), a comprehensive online resource for teachers, education professionals and parents, offering advice on how to keep young people safe from harmful influences that could lead to radicalisation as well as practical tools to engage with students on these matters and to enable them to discuss and debate issues. The total

amount spent in 2016/17 was £36,404.00; funding for 17/18 is not has not yet been agreed.

### Civil Proceedings: EU Law

*Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish a plan for how the Brussels regime on EU civil justice co-operation will apply post-Brexit. [HL6337]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** As made clear in the Government's White Paper, *The United Kingdom's exit from and new partnership with the European Union*, civil judicial cooperation is an important issue, which is being considered as part of the UK's preparations for EU exit negotiations.

We recognise that an effective system of civil judicial cooperation will provide certainty and protection for citizens and businesses, families and consumers. The UK intends to keep working with others, including stakeholders, in order to ensure a smooth transition to future arrangements.

### Climate Change Convention

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Chesterton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have discussed the objectives of the Paris Agreement with the government of the United States; and whether they intend to continue to work with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and other UN agencies to implement those objectives. [HL6321]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Her Majesty's Government is committed to tackling global climate change. We play a leading role internationally and we are delivering on our commitments to create a safer, more prosperous future for us all.

As he stated in the House of Commons on 28 March, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised climate change during his recent visit to Washington. My hon. Friend the Minister for Energy and Industry also raised it during his visit to the United States including during his meeting with Energy Secretary Rick Perry.

As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said in her speech in Philadelphia earlier this year, climate change does not respect national borders and so is a challenge best faced by leading together, including through multinational institutions, like the United Nations (UN), that encourage cooperation and partnership.

We remain committed to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change process, the Paris Agreement and the institutions that underpin it such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. These bodies are invaluable in coordinating global efforts to tackle climate change and ensuring that these efforts are based on robust scientific and economic analysis.

### Climate Change: Arctic

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Chesterton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will be making representations to the government of the US about reports of the elimination and non-disclosure of scientific data for the Arctic region; and whether they will make representations to UN agencies about the maintenance of this data collection as the Arctic climate changes. [HL6422]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Whilst this Government does recognise that countries will make their own judgments about how best to contribute to and maintain the scientific record, we fully acknowledge the importance of the integrity of the scientific record. We place significant value on science and evidence-based policy making and we will continue to advocate transparent and open scientific data sharing with our international partners.

At present, it would not be appropriate to comment on specifics without further evidence of the reports being made. The UK and the US do however have a long and successful history of working together on a wide range of scientific and technical disciplines. The UK-US scientific partnership is one of the world's strongest - nearly 30% of the UK's international co-authored papers are with the US, producing an impact 50% higher than the UK research base average. We expect this collaboration to continue long into the future.

### Coal

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much of the energy consumed in the UK is generated by coal. [HL6716]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** In 2016, 9.1 per cent of UK electricity generation was from coal <sup>(1)</sup> (30.7 TWh coal-fired generation of 338.6 TWh total generation).

Source: Energy Trends table 5.1, March 2017, available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/electricity-section-5-energy-trends>

(1) Figures for 2016 are provisional. Final figures for 2016 will be published in the 2017 Digest of UK Energy Statistics (DUKES), on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Energy Trends section 5: electricity [Electricity - HL 6716.pdf]

Fuel used in electricity generation and electricit [Table 5.1. Fuel used in electricity generation and electricity supplied.xls]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-04-06/HL6716>



## Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

*Asked by Baroness Sugg*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to capitalise on the opportunities for public engagement, trade and tourism presented by hosting the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 2018, both in London and across the UK. [[HL6725](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are delighted to be hosting the Commonwealth Summit in London and Windsor in April 2018. Strengthening our relationship with the Commonwealth and all its members is a priority for the Government. No final decisions have yet been taken on the agenda or structure but through collaborating with a broad range of stakeholders, we plan to deliver an ambitious, creative and innovative Summit that engages the British public and makes the most of all the Commonwealth has to offer.

## Commonwealth: Disease Control

*Asked by Lord Chidgey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are taking steps to ensure that Commonwealth countries do more to tackle global health threats, such as malaria. [[HL6446](#)]

**Lord Bates:** The UK is a leader in accelerating malaria control through our contribution to the Global Fund, direct support to countries to develop and implement malaria policies, and our extensive research programme for new drugs, diagnostic and insecticides. Since it started work, the Global Fund has spent over £13.6bn in Commonwealth countries.

In addition, DFID supports a number of Commonwealth countries, for instance Ghana, to tackle health threats by strengthening their health systems – one of the most important methods to prevent, detect and respond to emerging and existing health threats.

## Commonwealth: Overseas Trade

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for the UK to re-connect with the economies of Commonwealth countries. [[HL6435](#)]

**Lord Price:** The UK has maintained, and continues to build, close economic links with all Commonwealth partners. The Commonwealth Trade Ministers Meeting which I co-chaired last month produced a number of action points to encourage trade between all member countries, these points include support SMEs, infrastructure development and access to finance, amongst other measures. We are developing this work in advance of the Commonwealth Summit in 2018 where trade will be an important part of the agenda.

## Company Law

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the operation of the UK Corporate Governance Code. [[HL6714](#)]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Since 2011, the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) has published on its website an annual report on the implementation of the UK Corporate Governance Code. In addition, the Government recently published a Green Paper initiating a public consultation on how to upgrade the UK's corporate governance framework, which included certain aspects of the Code. In February the FRC announced its plans for a fundamental review of the Code building on its globally recognised strengths while considering the appropriate balance between its principles and provisions and the growing demands on the corporate governance framework.

## Conditions of Employment

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of Santander's reported use of employment contracts guaranteeing one hour of work per month, what is their estimate of the number of people who are currently employed on such contracts in the UK. [[HL6631](#)]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government does not collect information on specific short hour contracts.

The Government believes everyone deserves to be treated fairly at work regardless of the type of contract they are on and what their working pattern is, and is absolutely clear that employers must take their employment law responsibilities seriously.

This is why we have asked Matthew Taylor to look at employment practices in the modern economy which is considering the impact of non-standard working arrangements on employment status and employment rights.

## Construction: Fraud

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effectiveness of legislation in protecting consumers from fraudulent activity by builders. [[HL6624](#)]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 (CPRs) prohibit traders, including builders, from engaging in unfair commercial practices against consumers. The regulations apply across all business sectors and set out a framework for how businesses must deal with consumers. Enforcement of the CPRs is by local authority trading standards services.

The Government amended the CPRs in 2014 to give consumers a new private right, making it simpler to bring

their own civil actions for certain breaches. The Government also enhanced consumer protection through the Consumer Rights Act 2015, which clarifies consumer rights and remedies when contracting with traders for the provision of services. Traders are required to carry out a service with reasonable care and skill, within a reasonable time and at a reasonable cost where the price has not been agreed upfront. Where a service is not carried out in compliance with these requirements, the consumer is entitled to ask for a repeat performance of the service, or if appropriate, get a price reduction up to the full amount paid.

### Consumers: Protection

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the request in the letter of 22 March from Citizens Advice, MoneySavingExpert.com and Which to the Prime Minister, whether they will establish a high-level working group to focus on securing the best possible deal for UK consumers as the UK exits the EU. [HL6400]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** We plan to follow up the roundtable hosted at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on 19 December 2016 that involved representatives from a range of consumer bodies, charities and academics. This will provide an opportunity to discuss the best way to maintain close contact with consumer groups in the future.

### Côte d'Ivoire: Human Rights

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their latest assessment of the human rights situation in Côte d'Ivoire. [HL6499]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government of Cote d'Ivoire is committed to making progress in the field of human rights with the support of UN technical assistance. We are aware of the positive work of the National Commission for Human Rights in Côte d'Ivoire (CNDHCI), especially on national reconciliation, an area which remains important for community and social cohesion. The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) mission is coming to an end later this year with work being handed over to the Government of Cote d'Ivoire. We expect the Government to maintain a strong focus on the promotion and protection of human rights, and on the process of reforming the security sector.

### Council Housing

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the reduction in council housing rents on (1) the maintenance and improvement of the existing council housing stock, and

(2) the building of new council houses between now and 2022. [HL6379]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** I refer the noble Lord to my previous answer to him on 27 March - PQ HL6120.

As stated in the Housing White Paper, the Government will in due course set out a rent policy for social landlords for the period beyond 2020 to help them to borrow against future income. Our aim is to ensure that they have the confidence they need about their future income in order to plan ahead.

### Council Housing: Greater London

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their most recent assessment of the financial implications for London borough councils of housing families without access to public funds, and what plans they have to make additional funds available to these authorities. [I] [HL6533]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Our 2015 Spending Review took account of the costs to councils of supporting families with no recourse to public funds, and set out a sustainable basis for local authorities to discharge their functions. Councils in England will receive more than £200 billion for local services over this Parliament.

### Counter-terrorism

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have conducted any cost-benefit analysis of the counter-terrorism security measures put in place over the last 20 years; and if so, what are the results of that analysis, who carried it out, and whether they will make it publicly available. [HL6652]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Government and the police undertake extensive work to assess terrorist threats and to ensure effective mitigations are in place. These measures are wide ranging and are implemented by numerous organisations, including across the private sector. The Government seeks to ensure that all appropriate and proportionate measures are implemented, and whilst mindful of cost-effectiveness, does not seek to put a price on the safety and security of the public.

### Courts: Fees and Charges

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish the details of each court fee charged to businesses for money claims in each year since 2013. [HL6666]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** The fees charged for money claims are specified in the Civil Proceedings Fees Order 2008, as amended from time to time. The relevant statutory

instruments prescribing fees for money claims over this period are:

<i>Coming into force</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Reference</i>
4 April 2011	The Civil Proceedings Fees (Amendment) Order 2011	2011 No 586 (L. 2)
22 April 2014	The Civil Proceedings (Amendment) Order 2014	2014 No. 874 (L.17)
9 March 2015	The Civil Proceedings and Family Proceedings Fees (Amendment) Order 2015	2015 No 576 (L. 7)

The statutory instruments can be found at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/>

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of court fee increases for money claims brought by small and medium-sized businesses since 2015. [HL6667]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** In January 2015, we published an Impact Assessment setting out the estimated costs and benefits of the planned increases to the fees to commence proceedings for the recovery of money: <https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/court-fees-proposals-for-reform/results/impact-assessment-enhanced-fees-for-money-claims.pdf>

We continue to keep court and tribunal fees under review.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Impact Assessment [impact-assessment-enhanced-fees-for-money-claims.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-04-05/HL6667>

## Credit Cards: Debts

*Asked by Baroness Manzoor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they will ensure that credit card companies give more help to those with debt problems following the introduction of new rules by the Financial Conduct Authority. [HL6560]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** This question has been passed on to the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). The FCA will reply to directly to the noble Baroness by letter. A copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

## Crime: Rural Areas

*Asked by Baroness Quin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what initiatives they are currently pursuing to tackle rural crime. [HL6740]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government has ensured that, through the election of Police and Crime Commissioners, all communities, including those in rural areas, have a strong voice in determining how police resources are allocated. It is for Police and Crime Commissioners to hold their forces to account on how they tackle the crimes that matter most in rural areas.

In addition, in support of the Government's Modern Crime Prevention Strategy, we continue to work with the police, industry and others and consider the evidence on what more can be done to prevent criminals committing crime.

## Cyprus: Politics and Government

*Asked by Lord Maginnis of Drumglass*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their policy towards the new legislation passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Cyprus officially commemorating the 1950 Enosis referendum; what assessment they have made of the impact of that legislation on the Cyprus Talks process; and what representations they have made to President Anastasiades. [HL6476]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government takes every opportunity to support the Leaders of both communities in their efforts to seek a solution to the Cyprus issue. This includes encouraging them to overcome potential setbacks such as this. The Foreign Secretary discussed this and other issues relating to a Cyprus settlement with both Leaders last month. We are therefore encouraged by the Leaders' joint statement of 2 April reconfirming their commitment to finding a solution taking into account the concerns of both communities, and we welcome the announcement that talks will resume on 11 April.

## Dairy Farming: Job Creation

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the dairy industry's labour requirements, and of the opportunities for job creation in that sector. [HL6525]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The UK dairy sector provides an array of jobs to an 80,000 strong workforce across the country, including farming, manufacturing, research and marketing.

The Government and the wider agri-food industry work closely together to develop a strong talent pipeline, including through planned reforms to post-16 technical and vocational education. Skills are a key pillar of the Industrial Strategy and an important strand of the work on future farming productivity.

## Dartmoor Prison

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to replace Dartmoor Prison since the publication of the report of the House of Commons Justice Committee, Prisons: planning and policies, of March 2015. [HL6383]

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the need to give ten years' notice to the Duchy of Cornwall to vacate Dartmoor Prison, whether and when they intend (1) to give such notice, and (2) to replace it with a new prison. [HL6384]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** We are investing £1.3bn to build up to 10,000 new prison places which will replace places in ageing and ineffective prisons, such as HMP Dartmoor, providing buildings fit for today's demands and able to support effective rehabilitation.

HMP Berwyn, a new rehabilitative male prison in North Wales, opened week beginning 27 February 2017, providing 2,106 modern and efficient prison places.

We have applied for planning permission to redevelop the sites at the former HMP Wellingborough and at HMP & YOI Glen Parva.

We intend to apply for planning permission on the sites of HMP & YOI Rochester and HMP & YOI Hindley, on land adjacent to HMP Full Sutton and a new site in Port Talbot.

Notice to terminate the lease for Dartmoor prison was served to the Duchy of Cornwall in November 2013.

## Defence: Expenditure

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate, in pounds sterling, of the difference between (1) the amount spent by each NATO member state which has failed to spend two per cent of GDP on defence, and (2) the amount which would be spent if that target had been reached, for the last year for which GDP figures are available for each member state. [HL6648]

**Earl Howe:** NATO publishes defence investment statistics on the expenditure of Allies, with the most recent figures published in March 2017. These figures are available at:

[http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics\\_49198.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_49198.htm).

The attached table contains defence spending by NATO Allies in US dollars at current and 2010 exchange rates. NATO determines the definitions for categorising defence spending. All NATO members are assessed using the same guidelines so that NATO Allies' defence spending can be compared accurately.

Neither NATO, nor the UK, produces analysis on potential defence spending by Allies.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

NATO Defence Spending in US Dollars [20170407 - NATO Defence Spending Table in USD.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-04-04/HL6648>

## Developing Countries: Diseases

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the response by Lord Bates on 3 April (HL Deb, cols 930–1) concerning neglected tropical diseases, what study the Department for International Development has made of the use of technologies to map neglected tropical diseases using remote sensing technologies and mobile smartphone technologies. [HL6578]

**Lord Bates:** DFID funded the Global Trachoma Mapping Project, the largest infectious disease survey ever undertaken using mobile smartphones. DFID is also supporting disease mapping using mobile phones through the Tropical Data initiative. The first phase of this initiative is focussing on impact and surgery surveys for trachoma with mapping of other diseases added at a later date.

## Developing Countries: Sleeping Sickness

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the response by Lord Bates on 3 April (HL Deb, cols 930–1) concerning neglected tropical diseases, what further progress they expect to make in the elimination of sleeping sickness. [HL6580]

**Lord Bates:** The World Health Organization aims to eliminate sleeping sickness as a public health problem by 2020, building on the reduction from 300,000 new cases per year in 1995 to fewer than 3,000 in 2015. The UK supports this effort through research into better ways to diagnose and treat sleeping sickness, for example development of the first ever rapid diagnostic test through the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi), and an improved, less toxic new treatment through the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND).

## Diesel Vehicles: Exhaust Emissions

*Asked by Baroness McGregor-Smith*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the new powers for cities to adopt charges to tackle vehicle pollution, what plans they have to give financial help to drivers of diesel cars. [HL6719]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** In light of both updated information on real world emissions from diesel vehicles and the High Court judgement last year, we are developing a revised air quality plan for nitrogen dioxide.



The consultation will address the measures needed to reduce nitrogen dioxide concentrations.

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will initiate a public inquiry into the information available to HM Government between 1997 and 2005 on the dangers of diesel engines. [HL6749]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** There are no plans to initiate a public inquiry at this time.

We have been open about the difference between real world and laboratory testing for diesel cars. Our modelling takes into account the gap between laboratory testing and real world emissions. The UK government is committed to taking action on emissions testing. We see real world testing as the ultimate solution and a vital step in tackling air pollution. The vote to introduce real driving emissions in 2017 is an important milestone but we will continue to press for a comprehensive approach to emissions testing to restore consumer confidence and deliver our wider air quality and climate objectives.

Last year, the Government published the conclusions to its Vehicle Emissions Testing Programme, which provided a valuable insight into diesel car emissions on our roads. In addition, an assessment of the scale of the air quality problem and its sources within specific regions across the UK was set out in the Government's 2015 national air quality plan for nitrogen dioxide and accompanying zone plans.

In light of both updated information on real world emissions from diesel vehicles and the High Court judgement last year, we are developing a revised air quality plan for consultation.

## Digital Technology: Migrant Workers

*Asked by Lord Cromwell*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the oral answer by Lord Ashton of Hyde on 27 March (HL Deb, col 355), and in the light of the call by the Coalition for a Digital Economy in its report *Global Britain: From local startups to international markets*, published in February, to allow the highly skilled into the country through a minimum six-month visa to enter the UK and seek work, whether they intend to take steps to provide visas more quickly for such workers who are invited to work in the UK; and if so, what are those steps, and what is the proposed timescale for the implementation of any necessary changes to the visa application process. [HL6557]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The current Points Based System already provides for ways in which highly skilled migrants from outside the European Economic Area can work in the UK. The Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) route allows leading digital technology talent endorsed by Tech City UK to enter the UK without needing a job offer from a sponsoring employer.

The Government is committed to ensuring that the UK remains open for business and continues to grow and thrive – and ensuring our new relationship with the EU works for employees and employers will be important in the months ahead.

For individual skilled migrant workers invited by an employer to work in the UK, their visas are routinely processed within three weeks, with premium services available for applicants who need faster decisions. Some jobs in digital technology, as identified by the independent Migration Advisory Committee, are recognised shortage occupations and are exempt from the Resident Labour Market Test.

*Asked by Lord Cromwell*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the oral answer by Lord Ashton of Hyde on 27 March (HL Deb, col 355), whether they intend to address the need for people from overseas with the requisite digital technology skills to be able to come to work in the UK during the Brexit negotiation process; if not, what assessment they have made of the impact of failing to address that need in the short-term on the UK economy; and if so, what steps they are taking to support access to the skills required in that sector. [HL6558]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** We seek to guarantee the rights of EU citizens who are already living in Britain, and the rights of British nationals in other member states as early as we can. This remains an early priority for the forthcoming negotiations. We will control immigration so that we continue to attract the brightest and the best to work or study in Britain, but manage the process properly so that our immigration system serves the national interest. As part of that it is important that we understand the impacts of different options on different sectors of the economy and the labour market. We are taking action across the entire education and training pipeline to ensure we have the digital skills to maintain our world leading digital economy.

## Digital Technology: Skilled Workers

*Asked by Lord Cromwell*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the oral answer by Lord Ashton of Hyde on 27 March (HL Deb, col 355), and in the light of the finding by the Coalition for a Digital Economy in its report *Global Britain: From local startups to international markets*, published in February, that one third of technology start-ups' first ten hires came from outside the UK, what is their estimate of the shortage of specialist technical staff needed by the digital technology sector in the UK; and what estimate they have made of future staffing needs in that sector. [HL6556]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** DCMS is leading a review focused on identifying the current and future advanced and specialist digital skills gaps in the UK's digital technology sector and wider economy. This work will give DCMS a greater understanding of the characteristics

of the existing advanced and digital specialist workforce in the UK, current and future advanced and specialist digital skills needs in the UK, and will inform how to focus efforts on developing the UK digital skills pipeline. We anticipate the review will be completed by summer 2017.

### Driverless Vehicles

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the Amsterdam Declaration 2016, what international role they intend to take in setting and developing agreed communications standards for connected vehicles; and how they intend to do this once the UK has left the EU. [HL6477]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Department for Transport and its partners (Highways England, Kent County Council and TfL) are developing the A2/M2 Connected Vehicle Corridor between London and Dover. This is the national pilot and forms part of a network of European connected vehicle corridors ("Intercoor") to deliver interoperable standards.

The Department will continue to review the development of communication standards for connected vehicles, as they develop over time, to ensure that these standards meet the UK's best interests and deliver interoperability.

### Drugs: Intellectual Property

*Asked by Lord Clement-Jones*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to incorporate EU regulations affecting pharmaceutical intellectual property into UK law; and if so, how. [HL6517]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Pharmaceutical intellectual property is affected by various pieces of EU law. As the White Paper says, to ensure there is maximum clarity as to the law that applies in the UK when we leave the EU, the Great Repeal Bill will convert EU law into UK law. It will also ensure the Government is equipped to make all the necessary corrections to the statute book to ensure a smooth and orderly withdrawal.

### East Africa: Human Rights

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their most recent assessment of the human rights situation in (1) Sudan, and (2) South Sudan. [HL6473]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The human rights situation in Sudan remains concerning. In particular, incidences of sexual and gender based violence carried out with impunity, and restrictions on freedom of religion or belief and freedom of expression, including the detention of human rights defenders and confiscations of newspaper runs, continue to be key issues that we raise

with the government of Sudan. Most recently, we raised our human rights concerns during the UK-Sudan Strategic Dialogue in Khartoum on 29 March.

The human rights situation in South Sudan is deeply troubling, and continued reports of human rights violations and abuses, especially in the area of sexual violence, are appalling. Together with our Troika partners, we continue to urge the African Union and the Government of South Sudan to make progress on the establishment of the Hybrid Court to ensure that perpetrators of the most serious crimes are held to account.

### East Coast Railway Line

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 22 March (HL6061), what assessment they have made of the adequacy of the small diesel engine to get an electric Inter City Express train from Newark to Doncaster over the 51-mile diversionary route via Swinderby; and how long it would take to complete that journey. [HL6590]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The small engine installed on the electric Intercity Express trains is intended as a means of moving the train to the nearest station in the event of disruption. As such, journey times between Newark and Doncaster via Swinderby have not been assessed. It is planned that the Bi mode trains in the fleet will operate on the diversionary route via Lincoln during times of perturbation and engineering works. Bi mode trains are capable of reaching line speed.

### Education: Leadership

*Asked by The Earl of Dundee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the possible benefits of encouraging good leadership and psychological wellbeing in education, adult and childcare services. [HL6496]

**Lord Nash:** School employers are responsible for the health and wellbeing of their workforce, and it is vital that they have systems in place that promote wellbeing, identify and tackle the cause of any stress in their staff, and provide appropriate support. We know that good leadership, together with high quality teaching, is essential to improving pupil outcomes. We have several initiatives and programmes in place to improve the supply of high quality leaders at all levels and phases, from middle and senior leaders to head teachers and system leaders.

With regard to early years, the Early Years Workforce Strategy (published 3 March 2017) supports the development of a well qualified workforce. We know that graduate leaders with specialist early years training have a positive effect on children's outcomes. Leadership at graduate level is associated with narrowing the quality

gap between settings in deprived and more advantaged areas. The strategy is attached.

We want to expand the graduate early years workforce and are undertaking a feasibility study into developing a programme that specifically seeks to grow the graduate workforce in disadvantaged areas.

With regard to adult social care, the Care Act 2014 promotes people's wellbeing and is intended to support people to live independently, including supporting them with employment, education and volunteering, that will help them to fulfil their potential.

Wellbeing is a legal duty of councils when carrying out any of their care and support functions in respect of a person.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Workforce\_Strategy\_02\_02\_2017 [Workforce\_strategy\_02-03-2017.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-30/HL6496>

## Egypt: Christianity

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assistance they have offered the government of Egypt to protect Egypt's Coptic population from ISIS, following reports of targeted attacks, killings, and forced conversions. [HL6512]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are concerned about recent attacks in both Cairo and North Sinai against the Coptic Christian community, claimed by Daesh. The Government of Egypt has reaffirmed its commitment to protecting the rights of minorities and to the need for religious tolerance. We welcome President Sisi's consistent calls for peaceful coexistence and the Government of Egypt's expression of support for the rights of Christians and for religious tolerance.

As part of our UK-funded projects and programmes in Egypt we are providing counter-terrorism assistance to the Egyptian authorities and counter-IED training for the Egyptian security forces. We are committed to supporting the Egyptian Government's fight against terrorist groups, including those who seek to target minority groups such as Coptic Christians.

## Electricity Generation

*Asked by Viscount Ridley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish the original version of the Frontier Economics paper Whole Power System Impacts. [HL6644]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government has published the final report, as provided by Frontier Economics. The Government will consider the Freedom of Information requests that have been submitted in

relation to publishing draft material prepared by Frontier Economics.

## Electricity: Prices

*Asked by Viscount Ridley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to address rising electricity prices, in the light of data released by the Department of Energy and Climate Change showing that prices in the rest of the EU15 countries are not rising. [HL6645]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government wants to make sure that the cost of energy is affordable, fair and internationally competitive, both for businesses and households.

The recent Committee on Climate Change report on the impact of energy policies on consumers' energy bills found that energy efficiency policies bring down bills and outweigh the cost of other energy and climate change policies for households.

The Industrial Strategy Green Paper, published in January 2017, announced our intention to commission a review to look at the cost of energy and the opportunities to reduce the cost of achieving our decarbonisation goals in the power and industrial sectors.

The latest BEIS published international energy price comparison statistics show that medium-sized domestic electricity prices including taxes rose in most other EU15 countries in 2016 compared to 2015. The UK electricity price, however, fell over the same period. Prices are expressed in pounds sterling and the relative price increase across the rest of the EU15 is mainly due to pound/euro exchange rate changes.

Over the same period, electricity prices for industrial users increased across most EU15 countries but were broadly unchanged in the UK. As with domestic price comparisons, exchange rate movements will have contributed to increases in electricity prices for other EU countries when expressed in pounds sterling.

## Employment

*Asked by Lord Mawson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the cumulative effect of changes to laws and regulations relating to employment on (1) small and medium-sized enterprises, (2) charities, and (3) churches. [I] [HL6475]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** All such legislation and its associated impacts can be found on the Legislation.gov.uk website. Individual impact assessments will detail the expected impacts including, where relevant, those accruing to charities and churches. A Small and Micro Business Assessment is also mandatory within an impact assessment for most domestic measures that regulate business and come into force after 31 March 2014.

## Employment: Disability

*Asked by Lord Rea*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to improve the understanding of Jobcentre Plus staff and work coaches of the capabilities and support needs of disabled people who (1) are deafblind, and (2) have complex needs. [HL6566]

**Lord Henley:** The Department for Work and Pensions has a network of Disability Employment Advisers, who are experienced in helping deliver services to customers with all disabilities and health conditions. The role of the Disability Employment Adviser (DEA) is to share their expertise, provide support to enhance Work Coach capability in advising disabled people to help them find and retain employment.

Through up-skilling and support from the DEA, Work Coaches are equipped to deliver improved service to all our customers, including those who are deaf, blind or who have complex needs. Learning is available for all customer-facing staff on a wide range of areas, some of which specifically covers what to consider when supporting people with visual and hearing impairments and complex needs.

Community Partners are also being introduced in to Jobcentres to provide additional advice and support to Work Coaches in all areas of disability and the impact that this can have on a person's ability to finding or keep a job.

In addition, all DWP staff have recently been made aware of a new product - the Disability Passport. This can be completed by the customer and presented to staff at the Jobcentre. The content can be used to support communications between the Work Coach and the customer, ensuring any appropriate reasonable adjustments are put in place to support the individual.

Further information is available to all Jobcentre staff through the District Provision Tool, which will highlight any local organisations who provide support, help and advice to customers with disabilities and health conditions.

*Asked by Lord Rea*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will commit to working with charities, such as Sense, to tailor employment support for disabled people to maximise their chances of successfully joining the labour market. [HL6567]

**Lord Henley:** The Government is committed to continuing to engage with a wide range of stakeholders and partners, all of whom have an important part to play in making the transformative changes required to support disabled people and people with long-term health conditions to get into and stay in work.

For example, with the publication of the Work, Health and Disability Green Paper in October last year, the Government launched a three-month national consultation. During this time we engaged with a wide

range of individuals with disabilities and long-term conditions, as well as charities with an interest, including Sense, in order to hear their views on the actions that need to be taken to transform the prospects of disabled people and people with long-term health conditions

We organised a series of face-to-face consultation events, hosted by partners from disability charities and employers, to collectively explore the green paper's themes and questions. These were designed in close collaboration with a range of organisations, including Sense.

The consultation closed on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2017 and we are now carefully considering all the submissions we received as we develop our policy options and set out our next steps.

## Employment: Taxation

*Asked by Lord Mawson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on (1) small and medium-sized enterprises, and (2) charities, of having to comply with the requirements of the Employment Status Indicator when procuring services from individuals. [HL6534]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** At Budget 2016, the Government announced that from April 2017, where public sector workers are engaged through their own limited company, responsibility to operate the off-payroll working rules (often known as IR35) and deduct any associated tax and National Insurance will fall to the public sector body, agency or other third party paying the worker's company. The reform does not introduce a new liability, but aims to ensure that the current rules work as intended. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) published an assessment of the administrative burdens of this legislative reform at Budget 2016 and this was updated on 8 March 2017. This assessment also covers charities and small and medium sized businesses.

To help customers know when the off-payroll working in the public sector rules apply, HMRC has developed, after extensive consultation, an online "Check Employment Status for Tax" (CEST) advice service. CEST replaces the old Employment Status Indicator.

Affected businesses will incur one-off costs for familiarisation with the new rules and this includes using CEST. Ongoing costs for using CEST are expected to be negligible. It is an optional service which sits alongside detailed online guidance on employment status.

## Energy: Fraud

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment have they made of the risk to consumers from energy scams. [HL6622]



**Lord Prior of Brampton:** National Trading Standards (NTS) work with various bodies including the police to tackle mass marketing frauds across all sectors, including energy.

The NTS scams team works with local authorities to provide support to victims. The team currently has agreements with nearly two hundred local authorities to provide additional support for victims in their areas to them rebuild their lives.

### Energy: Prices

*Asked by Viscount Ridley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to publish energy and climate policy price impact tables for the years 2015 and 2016, which were last released in the Annual Energy Statement 2014, covering various types of consumer, and in the low, central and high fossil fuel price scenarios. [HL6643]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** In November 2016 the Government published the Consumer-Funded Policies Report, setting out expenditure and outcomes of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's consumer funded energy policies.

The Government recognises the importance of domestic consumers having regular, reliable data on the costs and impacts of Government energy policies and on energy prices and bills and we will be publishing our latest estimates in the near future.

### Environment Protection

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that appropriate enforcement mechanisms will be in position post-Brexit in place of those currently exercised by the European Commission and European Court of Justice, in relation to the environment. [HL6613]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Government is committed to being the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we found it.

The UK has always had a strong legal framework for environmental protections which predates our membership of the EU and oversight by its institutions. Our legislative framework already includes provisions for regulators to enforce existing environmental laws.

Parliament is responsible for holding the Government to account, and Parliament is ultimately accountable to the electorate. This will not change with our departure from the EU.

If there is an allegation that the Government has acted unlawfully, or has not complied with due process, interested parties may also bring legal action against the Government, in form of a claim for judicial review through the courts.

### Environment Protection: EU Law

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish a draft of the Great Repeal Bill and associated legislation during the Brexit negotiation process, to enable all interested parties to determine whether the UK will maintain levels of environmental protection. [HL6615]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** There are no plans to publish a draft Bill. The 'Legislating for the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union' White Paper sets out the detail of our approach to the Great Repeal Bill and how the domestic legal system will work once we have left the EU.

The White Paper makes clear that this Government remains committed to being the first generation to leave the natural environment in a better state than that in which we found it.

The UK will continue to be a leader on international environmental co-operation, as demonstrated by the Prime Minister ratifying the Paris Commitment on Climate Change.

The Great Repeal Bill will provide certainty and stability by ensuring that the body of existing EU law, including environmental law, continues to be UK law. Any future changes in the law will be for Parliament to decide.

### Environment Protection: Finance

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to match, post-Brexit, the funding provided by the European Investment Bank for the environment and water industry within the UK; and what long-term plans they intend to have in place to guarantee future funding. [HL6617]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government is in the process of assessing the contribution the EIB makes in the UK, including in the water sector, but we are clear that the future relationship between the UK and the EIB will be a matter for the Article 50 negotiations.

### Equal Pay

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action will be taken against companies that fail to comply with the gender pay gap reporting rules. [HL6713]

**Lord Nash:** Employers with over 250 employees have 12 months to publish the required information from the relevant commencement date: 31 March for the public sector and 6 April for the private, voluntary and charity sectors.

The Government Equalities Office will proactively monitor the levels of compliance with the new

regulations, and will continue to work closely with the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) to ensure that employers in scope fulfil their obligations to increase transparency around gender pay differences. Failure to comply would be unlawful and fall within the existing enforcement powers of the EHRC under the Equality Act 2006.

### **Estate Agents Act 1979**

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they last reviewed the effectiveness of the Estate Agents Act 1979. [HL6623]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** In 2012, the then Government consulted on a proposal to amend the scope of the Estate Agents Act 1979 (EAA) to help businesses to innovate and grow and allow new business models to emerge.

The EAA regulates the conduct of estate agency work and lays down the duties agents owe to clients and third parties.

Enforcement is carried out by The National Trading Standards Estate Agency Team who regularly reviews the redress mechanisms.

### **EU Aid**

*Asked by The Earl of Sandwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what preliminary discussions they have held with the European Commission, and with other relevant EU bodies, on the impact of the UK's withdrawal from the EU on (1) the European Development Fund, (2) the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection, and (3) Humanitarian Aid Operations and other aid agencies. [HL6743]

**Lord Bates:** While the UK remains an EU member state we will continue to fulfil all the obligations of our membership. This includes taking full part in, and influencing, the EU's development policies and programmes. The question of the impact of the UK's withdrawal from the EU on those policies and programmes will form a key part of the exit negotiations: the EU will remain an important development partner for the UK.

*Asked by The Earl of Sandwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what preliminary discussions they have held with British aid agencies and research centres on the impact of the UK's withdrawal from the EU on their work with the poorest developing countries. [HL6744]

**Lord Bates:** The Government is engaging with stakeholders from every sector of the economy on the UK's withdrawal from the EU and will continue to

consult closely with stakeholders to review EU funding schemes.

### **EU Defence Policy**

*Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made on (1) the establishment of the EU Defence Union, (2) the development of European multilateral defence procurement, and (3) the establishment of the EU military planning and conduct capability. [HL6685]

**Earl Howe:** An EU Defence Union concept has been discussed in the European Parliament but is non-binding and has not been raised in the EU Council. At the March European Council, member states agreed to some limited proposals to improve the effectiveness of the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy, including a Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) to improve oversight and coordination of the three EU non-executive military missions. We have limited the size and scope of the MPCC, ensuring that it is responsible for these non-executive missions only and that its Director will only exercise Operational Control - there is no increase in command authority over and above what already exists.

There are no finalised proposals for multilateral defence procurement, but the European Defence Agency is engaged in projects across the defence spectrum to help deliver the results and capabilities of member states through increased coordination. 'Permanent Structured Cooperation' has been proposed by some as a way of giving further impetus to European capability development but we continue to make clear that the starting point should be for member states to spend more nationally; that military capabilities remain owned by member states; and that any proposals should be considered in light of work underway at NATO.

### **EU Nationals**

*Asked by Lord Green of Deddington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Neville-Rolfe on 23 March 2017 (HL5996), what estimate they have made of the contribution of non-UK EU nationals living in the UK to the UK's gross domestic product per head; and what assessment they have made of that contribution. [HL6310]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Productivity is a key determinant of GDP per head. As noted in the 2012 report by the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC), the empirical literature suggests that the impact of migration on aggregate productivity may be mixed and heavily dependent on the type of migrant coming to the UK. Migrants may increase productivity either through a simple 'batting average' effect if they work in higher productivity roles relative to the average for non-migrants, or through increasing the productivity of UK

workers through greater specialisation and knowledge transfer.

In this report, the MAC established the key role played by skilled migrants in raising productivity. Further, the 2014 MAC report, 'Migrants in low-skilled work', found low skilled migrants have a neutral impact on UK-born employment rates, GDP per head and productivity.

### European Gendarmerie Force

*Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made on the development of the EU Gendarmerie Force. [HL6686]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The European Gendarmerie Force (EUROGENDFOR) was established in 2004. Representatives from the police forces of Spain, France, Italy, The Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, and Poland participate in the organisation. The UK does not. The EUROGENDFOR is not part of the European Union framework.

Further information on the organisation and its latest activities can be found at <http://www.eurogendfor.org/>

### European Network of Defence-related Regions

*Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the purpose of the European Network of Defence-related Regions; and what part the UK plays in it. [HL6687]

**Earl Howe:** The European Network of Defence-related Regions (ENDR) brings together regional authorities and industrial clusters with the intention of sharing information, experiences and best practices in both building dual-use strategies and accessing EU funding. The ENDR is particularly aimed at supporting small and medium sized enterprises that are working in the dual use area.

The UK Government has no official role within the ENDR but will when appropriate highlight funding opportunities to UK industry and organisations. Marine South East, the Solent-region based cluster, was recently successful in bidding and received funding from the ENDR for hosting the ENDR's second conference on 4 April in Southampton, which focused on marine and maritime-based technologies.

### European Security and Defence College

*Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what benefits the UK derives from membership of the European Defence and Security College. [HL6688]

**Earl Howe:** The European Security and Defence College (ESDC) is a virtual network of national training institutions that helps promote a common understanding

of the EU Common Security and Defence Policy. Many UK civilian and military personnel have attended ESDC courses to better equip them with the knowledge and skills needed to carry out their work. This expertise and engagement in turn helps to ensure that the UK maintains influence in EU security and defence policy.

### European Union Intellectual Property Office

*Asked by Lord Cromwell*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the UK will continue to participate in the EU Intellectual Property Office following Brexit; and if so, what will be the mechanism by which this will be achieved. [HL6596]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The UK's future relationship with the European Union Intellectual Property Office is a matter for negotiations with the EU. It would be inappropriate to set out unilateral positions in advance.

Officials in the Intellectual Property Office, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and the Department for Exiting the European Union are considering the options available to us with the aim of achieving the best outcome for UK right holders and the UK as a whole.

Meanwhile, UK businesses will continue to be able to apply to the European Union Intellectual Property Office for EU Trade Marks and Registered Community Designs covering the member states of the EU.

### Flexible Working: Males

*Asked by Baroness Manzoor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to tackle workplace discrimination; in particular, what assessment they have made of the case for more flexible working for men; and what steps they are taking to address issues which prevent men from undertaking a greater share of care work in the home. [HL6563]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government believes that increased opportunities for flexible working, including for men, will help to achieve full employment, increasing labour market participation among under-represented groups, and to close the gender pay gap. Flexible working can help families to achieve the right balance between the demands of work and home life and to decide how they will share responsibilities at home and at work.

Government has taken a number of steps to promote greater opportunities for flexible working. The Right to Request Flexible Working entitles employees with 26 weeks' service to request a working pattern which suits them and their employer. Shared Parental Leave enables working parents to share up to 50 weeks of leave including up to 37 weeks of paid leave in the first year of their child's life. We are committed to reviewing the impact of these policies in 2019 and 2018 respectively,

once they have had a chance to bed in. In the meantime, as set out in the Government's response to the Women and Equalities Select Committee's report on the Gender Pay Gap, we will explore options for increasing communications activity around flexible working.

### **Flood Re**

*Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there are arrangements by which the Flood Re scheme may be disappplied to private residences which exceed a certain number of bedrooms. [[HL6706](#)]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** There are no arrangements for the Scheme to be disappplied to homes which exceed a certain number of bedrooms.

There are no restrictions on the number of bedrooms a private residential property can have in relation to its eligibility for Flood Re. Insurers decide whether or not to cede a policy to Flood Re based on their assessment of a residential property's flood risk, any commercial considerations relevant to the insurer and the eligibility criteria for the Scheme.

It remains important to obtain a number of quotes to get the best deal.

### **Fly-tipping: Fines**

*Asked by Baroness Quin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the increase in the number of fines for fly-tipping which have been issued since the introduction of on-the-spot penalty notices on 9 May 2016. [[HL6741](#)]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Data on fly-tipping is reported to Defra by all local authorities in England. This data includes all Fixed Penalty Notices issued for fly-tipping offences. It is not currently possible to separate out information for on-the-spot penalty notices alone. We hope to publish the data for 2016/17 before the end of the year.

### **G20**

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Chesterton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the non-inclusion in the recent G20 communiqué of any reference to climate change, what measures they will take to ensure that a report on progress on climate change will be included in the final communiqué issued by future G20 meetings. [[HL6420](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The G20 Finance Ministers' communiqué was the result of negotiation between all G20 members and invited organisations, and is one in a series of statements being issued by G20 members this year. The UK remains firmly committed to taking action to tackle climate change and to the Paris

Agreement. We will continue to engage in G20 discussions in the lead up to the G20 Leaders' Summit on 8 July.

### **Gambling: Children**

*Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the Written Answer by Lord Ashton of Hyde on 2 March (HL5634), what measures they use in assessing whether the Gambling Commission is effective in preventing underage gambling. [[HL6601](#)]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The Gambling Commission has a statutory duty to advise government on the regulation of gambling.

The Department meets regularly with the Gambling Commission both at ministerial and official level to discuss a wide range of issues relating to the regulation of gambling in Great Britain.

The Department and the Gambling Commission have a management agreement in place which sets out ways of working. The Gambling Commission Management Agreement sets out its performance measures which include "reducing levels of children and young people gaining access to age-restricted gambling products".

### **Gareth Malachy Doris**

*Asked by Lord Morrow*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the conviction of Gareth Malachy Doris for fuel laundering offences, whether the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland will revoke his licence in accordance with the terms of the Good Friday Agreement. [[HL6325](#)]

**Lord Dunlop:** Protecting the safety and security of the people of Northern Ireland will always be our first priority.

Prisoners released under the terms of The Northern Ireland (Sentences) Act 1998 will have been released on either a Life or a Determinate licence, depending on the sentence handed down by the courts at the time of conviction. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland may suspend the licence of an individual released under the terms of this Act if he believes that the person concerned has broken or is likely to break a condition of the licence, providing the licence handed down by the courts has not expired. Individuals released by the courts on a Determinate licence would be eligible for a licence suspension until the date their licence expires and those released on a life licence will remain eligible for a licence suspension for the remainder of their lives.

### **Gaza: Cancer**

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding increasing rates of cancer in Gaza since



2008, and claims by Dr Khalid Thabet, head of the Oncology Department at the Shifa Hospital, that that increase may be linked to Israel's reported use of depleted uranium in 2008. [HL6547]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** While we have not raised this specific issue with the Israeli authorities, we continue to press for measures that will help relieve the humanitarian suffering of those in Gaza.

It is not clear whether Israeli forces have used Depleted Uranium munitions in Gaza. We are conscious that there is some concern about a possible link between the use of Depleted Uranium (DU) ammunition and medical problems such as cancers and birth defects. Environmental monitoring in areas where DU munitions have been used has confirmed the presence of DU at levels far too low to have any detectable health impact. These observations are consistent with the findings of many agencies and with the recent World Health Organisation statement, that, "for the general population, neither civilian nor military use of DU is likely to produce radiation doses significantly above normal background levels".

### General Practitioners: Inspections

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Chesterton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the professional qualifications of the Care Quality Commissioners who inspect NHS general practitioners' practices; whether they are required to inspect the premises and the work in those practices and to meet patients, as well as inspecting written and IT procedures; and what assessment they have made of the costs of such inspections to general practices which are assessed to be operating satisfactorily. [HL6425]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The Care Quality Commission's (CQC) inspection teams for general practitioner (GP) practices will always include a GP who is on the General Medical Council GP register and may include other specialist inspectors, such as practice nurses and/or practice managers. All of the CQC's inspectors must also have experience of the health and social care sector.

Detailed information regarding the scope of the CQC's inspections of GP practices and the personnel involved can be found in the GP Provider handbook. A copy of the handbook, *How CQC regulates: NHS GP practices and GP out-of-hours services Provider handbook*, is attached. Inspections of GP practices usually involve one day on site. Lines of enquiry focus on whether services are safe, effective, caring, responsive and well-led. During the visit, the inspection team speak to both people who use the service and staff.

The calculations for the regulation of National Health Service GPs for 2016/17 indicated a cost of £37.6 million. £20.9 million of the 2016/17 costs was made up of registration fees with the remainder coming from Government funding. Fees are calculated and charged on the basis of the size of a GP practice based on locations or

patient list size rather than any rating awarded after an inspection by the CQC. As a result, we are unable to extrapolate the cost of inspections based on any awarded ratings as this information is not centrally collated.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

How CQC regulates

[20160127\_gp\_practices\_provider\_handbook\_jan16.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-29/HL6425>

### Glyphosate

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the risks to British farming of the withdrawal of glyphosate. [HL6524]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Glyphosate is important to British farming, as well as to other sectors such as transport infrastructure. In the farming context, alternative means of weed control are limited in a number of situations. Even where there are alternatives, these are likely to require other changes in practices and to carry significant costs.

There would be real difficulties if glyphosate were to be withdrawn. However, the Government does not believe that this should happen. Effective pesticides should be authorised where the scientific evidence shows they do not pose unacceptable risks to human health or the environment. In the case of glyphosate, UK and EU experts have identified no safety concerns arising from its continuing use. The EU is due to decide later this year whether or not to continue to allow the use of glyphosate.

### Government Departments: Crimes of Violence

*Asked by Baroness Uddin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the attack on Nishat Ayman in the Department for Work and Pensions building at Caxton House on 24 March, what steps they are taking to prevent attacks against staff within government buildings. [HL6726]

**Lord Henley:** DWP treats the safety of individuals on its premises as paramount and as such has comprehensive physical and personnel security, as well as staff safety policies and procedures in place. Site security is reviewed and tested on a regular basis to help protect staff, buildings and assets from attack or compromise.

### Government Departments: Mobile Phones

*Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the Written Answer by Lord Young of Cookham on 21 March (HL5826), what messaging applications are specifically approved for use on Cabinet Office-issued

official smartphones issued to Ministers and Civil Servants; whether they will publish the acceptable use guidelines and departmental records management policy; and if so, when. [HL6602]

**Viscount Younger of Leckie:** The departmental records policy, which is in line with the requirements set out in the Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice and the Civil Service Code, is currently subject to its annual review and, in the interests of transparency, will be published in due course.

In the interests of departmental security, the Cabinet Office does not publish details of applications that are authorised for use on Government smartphones.

Guidelines on use of social media have been published on GOV.UK and can be found at the following: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/social-media-guidance-for-civil-servants/social-media-guidance-for-civil-servants>

*Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the Written Answer by Lord Young of Cookham on 21 March (HL5825), whether the information requested would be available from the Departments concerned under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; if not, why not; and if so, why it cannot be provided in answer to a Question for Written Answer. [HL6603]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** Requests for information are processed in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act. It will be a matter for individual departments as to whether they hold this information. The Cabinet Office does not hold records of the number of mobile phones allocated by other government departments.

## Government Departments: Pay

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Chesterton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what data they collect regarding salaries and fees paid by government departments and agencies to professional engineers and scientists; and what assessment they have made of the comparison between these salaries and fees and those paid by government departments and agencies to financial and legal professionals. [HL6662]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** Data on government scientist and engineer salaries are currently held by departmental HR teams. The data on salaries have not been collated centrally, and no such assessment has been made.

In October 2016, the GSE profession published its five year plan. This includes an action plan on Reward and Recognition that will include comparison between departmental practices which will be taken forward by a cross-government working group. They will be working closely with the Cabinet Office Civil Service Employment & Pay (CSEP) team, who will assist with

the data collection involved and any benchmarking against industry and academia.

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Chesterton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the difference in salaries and fees between different professions on the number of professional engineering and science students choosing to work for government departments and agencies; and whether they intend to revise their policy in the light of that impact. [HL6663]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** The government do not currently collect this information and so has not made an assessment of this kind.

## Health Services and Social Services

*Asked by Lord Bradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to ensure that there are no legislative barriers to the integration of health and social care services and budgets. [I] [HL6669]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The Government is committed to supporting further integration of health and social care. This includes giving due consideration to the need for changes to the legislative framework where this is identified as a barrier to effective integration, and when these changes are in the best interests of the wider health and care system.

## Heart Diseases: Surgery

*Asked by Baroness Gardner of Parkes*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many operations treating congenital heart conditions were conducted by the Royal Brompton Hospital in London in each of the last three years for (1) adults, and (2) children; and which other hospitals in England and Wales conducted as many, or more, such operations during that period. [HL6735]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The Royal Brompton Hospital conducted a total of 522 operations for congenital heart disease (CHD) conditions in 2015/16, comprising 390 operations for children and 132 operations for adults. In 2014/15, the Royal Brompton's surgical activity comprised 512 operations for CHD conditions, which included 370 operations for children and 142 operations for adults. Surgical activity in 2013/14 at the Royal Brompton comprised 412 CHD operations for children and 125 CHD operations for adults, which gives a total of 537 CHD operations for that year.

The hospitals in England and Wales which conducted as many, or more, congenital heart disease operations for children and adults between 2013 and 2016 are Great Ormond Street Hospital, Birmingham Children's Hospital, Evelina London Children's Hospital, Leeds Children's Hospital, Alder Hey Children's Hospital, University College Hospital London, Queen Elizabeth

Hospital Birmingham and St Bartholomew's Hospital in London.

### Help to Buy Scheme

*Asked by Lord Cooper of Windrush*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what has been the total cost of the Help to Buy mortgage guarantee scheme since its introduction. [HL6466]

*Asked by Lord Cooper of Windrush*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) individuals, and (2) families, have bought homes through the Help to Buy mortgage guarantee scheme. [HL6467]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Help to Buy mortgage guarantee scheme was designed to be self-financing through the commercial fee that lenders paid for the provision of the Government guarantee. The fee was set to cover the administration cost, the cost of capital of providing the guarantee and expected losses from loans guaranteed under the scheme.

The total cost of running the Help to Buy mortgage guarantee scheme from its introduction in 13 October to 31 March 2016 was £11.9 million. This has been paid in full with the commercial fees collected from lenders.

The Treasury routinely publishes Official Statistics on the performance of the Help to Buy: mortgage guarantee scheme. The most recent publication was on 30 March 2017. This showed 101,960 mortgages had been completed with the support of the scheme. We do not record whether mortgage applications submitted to the scheme are made by a single individual or jointly.

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of households with an income over £100,000 per annum that have received mortgage assistance through the Help to Buy Scheme. [HL6528]

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the numbers of households with an income under £30,000 per annum that have received mortgage assistance through the Help to Buy Scheme. [HL6529]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government routinely publishes Official Statistics on the performances of the Help to Buy schemes. The most recent publications were on 30 March 2017.

For the Help to Buy: mortgage guarantee and Equity Loan schemes, breakdowns of completions supported under the scheme by total household income is published. For the Help to Buy: ISA, the equivalent data is not collected. Total household income is defined as the total income for all individuals who are party to an application made under the scheme.

Under the Help to Buy: mortgage guarantee scheme, from October 2013 to December 2016, 22,062 (22% of

total completions) completions were by applicants that had a total household income of £30,000 or less and 3,031(3%) had a total household income greater than £100,000.

Under the Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme, from April 2013 to December 2016, 19,336 (17%) completions were by applicants that had a total household income of £30,000 or less and 3,952(4%) had a total household income greater than £100,000.

### Hercules Aircraft

*Asked by Lord Robathan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Earl Howe on 3 April (HL6359), what was the average cost per flying hour for the C130 fleet for each year since 2005–06; and what was the total cost of running the C130 fleet for each of those years. [HL6742]

**Earl Howe:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### High Speed 2 Railway Line

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 21 March (HL6081), what is their estimate of the cost of constructing the Handsacre connection to the West Coast Main Line compared with a straight connection to HS2 Phase 2A towards Crewe. [HL6300]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The total budget for High Speed 2 is £55.7bn. HS2 Ltd is currently procuring contractors to deliver the first Phase of HS2. The Department for Transport does not release details of the estimated cost of constructing individual components of the scheme as this information is commercially sensitive.

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the likely time delay and cost to HS2 of CH2M withdrawing their bid for the £170m design contract for Phase 2B; what were the reasons for the withdrawal; and whether any penalty or compensation payment has been applied by HS2 to CH2M. [HL6489]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Secretary of State for Transport still expects to make a decision later this year on Phase 2b of HS2, further to the recently closed consultation (*HS2 Crewe to Manchester, West Midlands to Leeds: Route Refinement Consultation 2016*).

HS2 Ltd does not expect any material time or cost delay, following the CH2M decision, to the planned deposit of its hybrid bill for Phase 2b in 2019.

CH2M chose to withdraw their bid and issued a press statement explaining their reasons for that decision.

The HS2 Ltd invitation to tender did not have a penalty provision.

## High Speed Two

*Asked by Lord Allen of Kensington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to appoint a successor to David Prout as Director General of the HS2 Group; and what the selection process will be. [HL6507]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The recruitment and selection process for the Director General for High Speed Rail Group will be agreed following the appointment of the new Permanent Secretary, which is expected to be announced by late April 2017.

## Highways England: Land

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the recently announced cost escalation of new or enhanced road projects by Highways England, whether any discussions have taken place between Highways England and the Treasury about (1) the sale of operational land, (2) whether such sales would be leasehold or freehold, (3) what conditions would be applied to ensure the continuing use of such land for road user purposes, and (4) how much money is estimated could be raised from the sale of (a) motorway service stations, (b) motorways, and (c) trunk roads. [HL6491]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** I understand that no discussions have taken place between Highways England and the Treasury about the sale of operational land.

Highways England own 21 Motorway Service Area sites and are currently looking at how to secure best value for the taxpayer from these sites.

No estimates have been made from the sale of motorways or trunk roads.

## Homelessness: Statistics

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made in implementing the recommendations made by the UK Statistics Authority following the 2015 review of the statistics in relation to homelessness and rough sleeping. [HL6382]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Since the UK Statistics Authority report on homelessness statistics was published DCLG have engaged in detailed discussions with UK Statistics Authority officials. We have met the requirements set out below, and will continue to work with the UK Statistics Authority to make our homelessness statistics as robust and accessible as possible.

We have implemented the key requirement to combine the publication of statistics on statutory homelessness and prevention and relief. We have also enhanced our user engagement structures, and based on user discussions have embarked on a project to redesign the form which collects homelessness data. We have also added harmonised region codes to local authority datasets to allow users to easily re-use the data for regional analysis and have published demographic and time series data on rough sleepers for the first time.

## Hong Kong: Politics and Government

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of the People's Republic of China concerning political developments in Hong Kong; and whether they have called for undertakings in the Basic Law to be honoured. [HL6407]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government regularly discusses the importance of the principal of 'One Country, Two Systems' with the Chinese Government. The Minister for Asia and the Pacific discussed Hong Kong issues with his Chinese counterpart in Beijing on 16 February and with the Secretary-General of the Central Commission for Politics and Law in London on 17 February. The Foreign Secretary also discussed Hong Kong with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on 16 February.

The Foreign Secretary's six-monthly report to the House published on 24 February (HCWS499), sets out the Government's latest assessment on developments in Hong Kong. A copy of this report has been placed in the Library of the House.

## Hotels: Internet

*Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to regulate the online hotel booking market, in particular in respect of the level of commission which may be charged. [HL6707]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** Online travel agencies are an important component of the broader tourism sector. Whilst we will continue to monitor the online travel agency market, there are no plans to regulate the level of commission which is charged. The sector must already comply with relevant competition and consumer protection regulations.

## Hotels: Planning Permission

*Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have issued guidelines to those local authorities that are able



to impose local occupancy conditions on grants of planning permission, relating to the application of local occupancy conditions in cases where private residences which previously had planning permission to operate as guest houses now wish to reapply for planning permission to become guest houses again. [HL6705]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The National Planning Policy Framework and guidance on use of planning conditions sets out clearly the circumstances and way in which the Government considers planning conditions should be used.

Local authorities are best placed to decide whether to impose particular types of conditions, such as local occupancy conditions, taking into account local housing needs and other relevant considerations. Use of such conditions should be regularly reviewed in the light of changing circumstances.

### Housing: Construction

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of homes that could be built on brownfield sites. [HL6502]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Up-to-date information on brownfield land that is suitable for housing is not currently available. Legislation to require local authorities to publish registers of brownfield land suitable for housing by 31st December 2017 will come into force on 16 April 2017.

### Housing: Finance

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many local authorities they estimate will reduce their Housing Related Support programme budgets in 2017–18 by (1) 30 to 40 per cent, and (2) 50 to 100 per cent. [HL6410]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Government has not made an estimate but expects local authorities to take on the challenge of making public expenditure savings in order to tackle the deficit while continuing to provide excellent public services to local communities. This includes housing-related support services to the most vulnerable in society. We have already taken several steps during this Parliament to help secure a strong and sustainable adult social care system. The recent Budget contained £2 billion of new funding to support adult social care in the short term. Taken all together, councils have access to £9.25 billion more dedicated funding for adult social care over the next three years, as a result of the measures introduced by the Government since 2015.

Supported housing supports hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people across the country and the Government is committed to protecting this vital provision, and to ensuring it provides value for money as well as individual quality outcomes for residents. As announced by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on 15

September 2016 (attached), we will be introducing a new reformed funding model from April 2019 to cover rent and service charges for supported housing, see:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2016-09-15/HCWS154/>.

Following recent consultation, we will bring forward more detail in a Green paper to be published later in this year.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Housing Benefit (HCWS154) [170411 HCWS154.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-29/HL6410>

### Imagination Technologies

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to give financial or other support to Imagination Technologies Group plc in order to protect jobs, following the announcement by Apple Inc that it intends to stop using Imagination's technology; if so, what form that support will take; and what assessment they have made of the impact of that announcement on the UK's digital technology sector. [HL6649]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** It would not be appropriate to comment on this specific announcement which remains a commercial matter for the Imagination Technologies Group and Apple.

More widely, through our recently published Digital Strategy, we have set out our commitment to create the best possible environment for our digital firms to thrive and to make the UK the best place in the world to start and grow a digital business. The digital sector is already worth £118bn a year to the UK economy, accounting for over 7 per cent of UK GVA, and employing 1.6 million people.

### Immigration: Appeals

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of individuals pursuing appeals in (1) the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber), and (2) the Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber), did not have representation, for each year, since December 2012. [HL6559]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** The proportions of individuals pursuing appeals that did not have representation are:

	2013	2014	2015	2016
(1) the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber)	25%	21%	21%	20%

	2013	2014	2015	2016
(2) the Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber)	12%	12%	10%	10%

The data are based on the number of disposals recorded as not represented and are reported in calendar years.

### Immigration: North Korea

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what steps they are taking to ensure that North Korean nationals who enter UK territories are not involved in any unlawful activities. [HL6514]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** All citizens of North Korea require a visa to visit the UK.

Applicants are assessed against the requirements of the Immigration Rules and will be refused where we are not satisfied that they meet these requirements. The biographic and biometric data supplied with visa applications is checked against Home Office databases to identify subjects of interest or persons who are not admissible to the UK.

We carry out 100% checks on passengers arriving on scheduled services at the border in order to identify any criminal, security and immigration concerns. Where we believe someone poses a risk, Border Force officers can — and do — refuse them entry.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of North Korean nationals who have entered UK territories in the last five years, other than those accredited as diplomatic staff working for the DPRK Embassy in London. [HL6581]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** North Korean nationals must have a visa to travel to the UK. Information on North Korean nationals who have entered the UK is published in the Home Office's 'Immigration Statistics, October - December 2016', visa data tables volume 1, table v\_05, available via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2016/list-of-tables#visas>

These data shows the number of entry clearance visas issued to North Korean nationals since 2005.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Oct-Dec 2016 - Visa Data Tables vol 1 table v\_05 [Entry visas 1 - vi - 05 table.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-04-04/HL6581>

### Inflation

*Asked by Lord Shipley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are planning to harmonise the various indices used to calculate inflation. [HL6417]

**Viscount Younger of Leckie:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply and will place a copy of their letter in the House library.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

UKSA Response to HL6417 [PQHL6417.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-29/HL6417>

*Asked by Lord Shipley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, given their use of the Consumer Price Index to calculate increases in pensions and benefits, what assessment they have made of the impact on consumers of the Retail Price Index being used by private companies to determine price increases. [HL6418]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The government has not made an assessment of the impact on consumers of the Retail Prices Index being used by private companies.

### Insolvency

*Asked by Lord Myners*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 20 March (HL5833), what criteria they will employ to assess the impact of the voluntary package of pre-pack administration reforms for the body that will make the assessment as to whether further regulation of pre-pack administration is needed. [HL6540]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The 2015 voluntary reforms were based on recommendations made by the independent Graham Review into Pre-pack Administration in 2014. The assessment of those reforms will focus on the suboptimal behaviour in some pre-packs described in the Graham Review's report - that they lacked transparency and that their marketing and valuation methods could be improved - and whether the voluntary reforms have had an impact on their effect.

### Insolvency Service

*Asked by Lord Myners*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the criteria and principles for deciding whether to publish a report by the Insolvency Service; and who makes that decision. [HL6538]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Insolvency Service undertakes investigations under a variety of legislative provisions. In some of these investigations there are legal restrictions on disclosure of the information obtained.

Where an application, whether to wind up a company or disqualify a director, is made to the court then the disclosure of any report filed in support of the application is a matter for the court.

In all cases, if any directors are disqualified the Insolvency Service publishes the details of the disqualification on its website (for three months).

### **Iraq: Refugees**

*Asked by Lord McInnes of Kilwinning*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Iraq regarding the return of refugees from religious minorities to Iraq. [HL6641]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We engage regularly with the Government of Iraq at all levels on ensuring the safe return of refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), including those from religious and ethnic minorities. We are working with the Government of Iraq and local authorities to improve the situation on the ground so that it is safe for people to return. That includes clearing Daesh from all remaining territory and addressing the threat from Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

### **Israel and Palestinians: Suicide**

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of suicides in (1) Gaza, (2) the West Bank, and (3) Israel, in the year ending 31 December 2016. [HL6544]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have not made any estimate of the number of suicides in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and Israel for 2016.

### **Israel: Elections**

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel regarding the amendment to the basic law passed by the Knesset on 14 March disqualifying candidates from running in a parliamentary election if they deny Israel's existence as a Jewish and democratic state. [HL6341]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have not raised this issue with the Israeli authorities. Whilst we are clear that politics requires a range of voices and free debate, the UK will continue to reject any efforts to de-legitimise or undermine Israel.

### **Israel: Gaza**

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding lifting the Israeli blockade of Gaza. [HL6339]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have frequent discussions with the Government of Israel about the need to ease restrictions on Gaza. We most recently raised the issue of movement and access restrictions in the Occupied Palestinian Territories with the Israeli authorities on 13 March.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations are they making to the government of Israel regarding the reported contamination of water in the Gaza Strip. [HL6543]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** While we have not raised with the Israeli authorities any specific issue of contamination of water in the Gaza Strip, we do raise with them our concerns about the quality of water in the Occupied Territories. We have noted that the World Health Organisation has assessed that 90-95% of water in Gaza is undrinkable. UK technical assistance has aided the feasibility study of a proposed Gaza desalination plant.

### **Israel: Palestinians**

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 23 March (HL6002), and in the light of reports by Amnesty International and Defence for Children International–Palestine drawing attention to the treatment of Palestinian children following their arrest by Israeli forces, what action they intend to take to protect those children. [HL6389]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We will continue to raise our concerns over the treatment of Palestinian minors, particularly those in Israeli military detention, with the Israeli authorities on a regular basis.

*Asked by Baroness Sheehan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will make representations to the government of Israel about registering more Palestinian, or Palestine Red Crescent Society, ambulances with the Jerusalem Municipality to enable back-to-back ambulance transfers at checkpoints to become unnecessary. [HL6455]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** While we have not raised this specific issue, we have consistently called on the Israeli Government to ease restrictions that reduce access to medical care for Palestinians. The Palestine Red Crescent Society reported in 2015 that 84% of transfers

from West Bank to East Jerusalem hospitals underwent back-to-back transfers.

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations are they making to the government of Israel following the release of a video by B'Tselem on 19 March, allegedly showing Israeli forces using a young Palestinian child as a human shield. [[HL6545](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** On 27 March, our Embassy in Tel Aviv asked the Israeli authorities for clarification about the incident.

*Asked by **Baroness Afshar***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 3 April (HL Deb, col 844), what representations they have made to the government of Israel to respect the terms of the Balfour Declaration, and to cease the illegal occupation of Palestinian lands. [[HL6575](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** It has long been the Government's view that Israel's presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territories is governed by the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, to which Israel is a state party. We repeatedly call on Israel to abide by its obligations under international law and have a regular dialogue with Israel on legal issues relating to the occupation, including settlements and the treatment of Palestinian children in military custody.

### **Israel: West Bank**

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel regarding the increased number of days of closure of the checkpoints between Israel and the West Bank for the Jewish Festival of Purim. [[HL6340](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** While we have not raised this specific issue, we have consistently urged the Israeli government to ease movement and access restrictions in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, most recently on 13 March.

### **Israeli Settlements**

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the decision by the government of Israel to approve the construction of a new settlement in the occupied West Bank. [[HL6548](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Foreign Secretary issued a statement on 31 March strongly condemning the Israeli Government's decision to found a new settlement deep in the West Bank. The construction of this settlement is contrary to international law and seriously undermines the prospects of two states for two peoples.

Our Ambassador to Tel Aviv also raised the UK's grave concerns with the Israeli authorities on 31 March.

### **Israeli Settlements: Crimes of Violence**

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations are they making to the government of Israel regarding the report from Rabbis for Human Rights, that Palestinian farmers from Burin and Madma were attacked on 22 March by Israeli settlers during a ploughing day co-ordinated with the Israeli forces which was then cancelled. [[HL6343](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** While we have not raised this specific issue with the Israeli authorities, we have repeatedly raised our concerns about incidents of settler violence and intimidation, and have stressed the importance of thorough investigations and accountability, as well as the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population.

### **Khalida Ghosheh**

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding the arrest of Palestinian novelist Khalida Ghosheh. [[HL6342](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** While we have not raised this specific issue with the Israeli authorities, we understand that Khalida Ghosheh was released on bail on 11 March.

### **Large Goods Vehicle Drivers: Road Traffic Offences**

*Asked by **Lord Bradshaw***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 24 March (HL6007), how many penalties for breaches of the EU drivers' hours regulations involving lorry drivers sleeping in their cabs during breaks they estimate will be (1) issued, and (2) paid annually; and where the call for stakeholder views is published. [[HL6591](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** It is not possible to accurately estimate the number of penalties that would be issued if the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) started issuing penalties to drivers unlawfully taking their regular 45 hour weekly rest in their vehicle. However, the vast majority of penalties issued by the DVSA are paid (98.7% for April 2016 to March 2017).

The issue was raised at the Road Haulage Forum (comprising of members representing both trade associations and trade unions in the road freight industry). Following that meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> February the members were asked to provide their views in writing. These



responses are being considered and will inform the government's policy on how to enforce in this area.

## Large Goods Vehicles

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what lessons have been learned from the trials that have taken place on the use of longer semi-trailers for articulated goods vehicles. [HL6385]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The trial is now in its fifth year and the evidence so far suggests that these vehicles are proving to be a more efficient way of moving the same volume of freight, using fewer vehicles, mainly on trunking routes. The trial has demonstrated that longer semi-trailers (LSTs) have reduced the number of journeys and vehicles on the road, saving an estimated 75-90,000 lorry journeys and 10 million km, to the end of 2015. This represents an average of 1 in 19 journeys saved compared to using regular semi-trailers. All the evidence to date indicates LSTs on the trial are operating as safely as standard length semi-trailers. The latest year of trial data is currently being processed and that the Department for Transport anticipates publishing a 2016 annual report in due course.

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effect on highway surfaces and street furniture, such as roundabouts, of the use of longer semi-trailers for articulated goods vehicles. [HL6386]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We asked the trial evaluators to assess all incidents including reported damage only events. The damage-only incidents logged on the trial are summarised in the annual report. The majority of the events involved only minor damage. We have no record of incidents involving longer semi-trailers (LSTs) regularly causing significant damage to street furniture or buildings.

LSTs operate within existing weight restrictions and have reduced the number of journeys and therefore are unlikely to have had any effect on highway surfaces through extra overall or axle weight. LSTs are required to meet current Construction and Use turning circle requirements by physical tests being conducted and witnessed by Vehicle Certification Agency engineers. During these witness test the trailers demonstrate less tyre side scrub and less apparent damage to the test surface.

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are their plans for the future use of longer semi-trailers for articulated goods vehicles. [HL6387]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The trial is now in its fifth year and the evidence so far suggests that these vehicles are proving to be a more efficient way of moving the same volume of freight, using fewer vehicles, mainly

on our trunking routes. A decision will be made on the future of longer semi-trailers (LSTs) when we have sufficient evidence from the trial. Officials anticipate stating discussions with interested external organisations in the next few months about the potential future use of LSTs.

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend longer semi-trailers for articulated goods vehicles to have unfettered use of the entire highway network or be confined to trunk roads and motorways. [HL6388]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** A decision has not been taken whether (and if so how) to allow longer semi-trailers (LSTs) outside the trial. In the trial LSTs have access to the general highway network. We will use the evidence from the ongoing trial to inform any decisions about future use. The evidence from the trial to date demonstrates that the majority of LST operations take place on motorways. However these vehicles need ready access to depots, supplier sites and larger retail sites, in many cases near but not on motorways or trunk roads. Local Authorities have powers to restrict or prohibit the use of heavy goods vehicles on specific roads. These restrictions could also apply to LSTs.

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, as part of their decision to extend the trial of longer lorries on UK roads for a further five years, they will take specific account of the impact of those lorries on the non-strategic road network. [HL6722]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Many of the effects of longer semi-trailers (LSTs), such as the overall reduction in journeys compared to normal length semi-trailers, are assessed across the whole network. LSTs are mainly operating on trunking journeys, but need ready access to depots, supplier sites and larger retail sites, in many cases near, but not on, motorways or trunk roads. There is ongoing work being carried out about where the LSTs operate, including their use on urban roads.

The vehicles have the same weight limits as normal length semi-trailers. They are no longer than some lorries drawing full trailers allowed in general circulation.

## Leadership

*Asked by The Earl of Dundee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the possible benefits of establishing standards of best practice for good leadership and psychological wellbeing for organisations across the UK. [HL6493]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills published a number of reports on GOV.UK, which complement the broader

academic literature on the subject of leadership and wellbeing. These reports can be found on GOV.UK.

Firstly, the report “Leadership and Management in the UK - the Key to Sustainable Growth” was published in 2012. This summarised the key evidence and set out the benefits of business investment in leadership and management skills.

The research report “Does Worker Wellbeing Affect Workplace Performance?” was published in October 2014. The analysis suggested that well-being is also positively associated with workplace financial performance, labour productivity and the quality of output or service.

Most recently, the research report, “Leadership and management skills in small and medium-sized businesses” was published in 2015. The research suggested that entrepreneurship skills and leadership skills were most consistently and strongly associated with good management practice and performance of small and medium-sized enterprises.

In many areas, existing industry supported standards play an important role for businesses in establishing an effective quality infrastructure to embed best practices and further enable productivity.

### Lesotho: Education

*Asked by Lord German*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether they will consider admitting Lesotho to the Connecting Classrooms programme which is funded by the Department for International Development. [\[HL6736\]](#)

**Lord Bates:** We currently have no plans to extend the operating footprint of Connecting Classrooms to Lesotho during the current phase of the programme, which runs from June 2015 to June 2018. However, schools in Lesotho can still access online resources and support through the British Council’s Schools Online service. This includes guidance and teaching materials, online teacher forums and access to online professional development modules.

### Lesotho: Politics and Government

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Durham*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what support they are providing to Lesotho as a Commonwealth partner in establishing a stable elected government. [\[HL6497\]](#)

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK has regularly encouraged the Lesotho Government to implement recommendations of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) for public sector, security, judicial and constitutional reform, including through a recent joint UN and EU statement, a copy of which has been laid in the library of the House. The UK High Commissioner also emphasised the importance of free and fair elections when she met with the Lesotho Government last month, ahead of the scheduled elections in June. We continue to

provide development assistance, including humanitarian aid, to Lesotho through regional programmes and multilateral organisations including the EU, World Bank and UN.

### Life

*Asked by Baroness Barker*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government who made the decision to award the charity Life £250,000 from the Tampon Tax Fund. [\[HL6582\]](#)

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** We will shortly finalise the specifics of the grant agreements for each of the 70 projects that successfully applied to the Tampon Tax Fund this year, to ensure that taxpayers’ money is put to the best use. We will only make grants where we are 100% certain that they align fully with the aims of the fund. The Minister for Civil Society will make the final decision on the grant award.

*Asked by Baroness Barker*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what outcomes the charity Life is required to deliver through its use of the £250,000 grant from the Tampon Tax Fund. [\[HL6583\]](#)

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** We will shortly finalise the specifics of the grant agreements for each of the 70 projects that successfully applied to the Tampon Tax Fund this year, to ensure that taxpayers’ money is put to the best use. We will only make grants where we are 100% certain that they fully align with the aims of the fund.

*Asked by Baroness Barker*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether the counselling service run by the charity Life will be funded by the £250,000 grant from the Tampon Tax Fund. [\[HL6584\]](#)

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** We will shortly finalise the specifics of the grant agreements for each of the 70 projects that successfully applied to the Tampon Tax Fund this year, to ensure that taxpayers’ money is put to the best use. We will only make grants where we are 100% certain that they fully align with the aims of the fund. The Minister for Civil Society will make the final decision on the grant award.

*Asked by Baroness Barker*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether the £250,000 grant from the Tampon Tax Fund to the charity Life can be used to lobby HM Government. [\[HL6585\]](#)

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** No. In line with Government’s Standards for Grants, none of the grants made under the Tampon Tax Fund can be used to lobby HM Government. We will shortly finalise the specifics of the grant agreements for each of the 70 projects that successfully applied to the Tampon Tax Fund this year, to ensure that taxpayers’ money is put to best use. We will only make

grants where we are 100% certain that they align with the aims of the fund.

### Local Government

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the role of parish and community councils in local government. [HL6500]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Parish councils, as the first tier of local government, have an important role to play and the activities they undertake should be shaped by the needs of their communities. That is why the Government has given parish councils greater freedoms and powers to serve those communities more effectively, and made it easier for communities in areas without a parish council to trigger the process of creating one.

### London-Brighton Railway Line

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they received the report by Chris Gibb into the performance failures on the Brighton Main Line, and when they intend to publish it unredacted. [HL6571]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Chris Gibb provided his technical advice to the Secretary of State for Transport on 30 December 2016. The advice will be published shortly, with limited redactions to protect legal and commercially sensitive information.

### Marines

*Asked by Lord Burnett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the estimated savings in (1) manpower, and (2) cash, of the cuts proposed for the Royal Marines. [HL6704]

**Earl Howe:** The changes planned to the size and structure of the Royal Marines will allow approximately 200 positions to be re-allocated within the Naval Service. These changes are expected to be broadly cost neutral within the overall headcount of the Naval Service.

### Maritime Patrol Aircraft

*Asked by Lord Campbell of Pittenweem*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what anti-submarine capability they will deploy when the P-8A maritime patrol aircraft are brought into service. [HL6655]

**Earl Howe:** The P-8A will be equipped with state of the art anti-submarine tracking and targeting equipment, together with air-launched anti-submarine torpedoes.

### Mazen Faqha

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the killing of a senior Hamas member, Mazen Faqha, in Gaza; and what assessment they have made of the repercussions of that killing. [HL6546]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has received reports of the killing. There remains an urgent need for all the parties to reach an agreement that addresses the underlying causes of the conflict in Gaza and to take the necessary steps to ensure Gaza's reconstruction and economic recovery. Any agreement should ensure that Hamas and other militant groups permanently end rocket and other attacks against Israel; the Palestinian Authority resumes control of Gaza and restores effective governance; and that Israel lifts its restrictions to ease the suffering of ordinary Palestinians.

### Mesothelioma

*Asked by Lord Wills*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord O'Shaughnessy on 5 April (HL6371), whether anyone collects any data on the cost of mesothelioma to the NHS; and if so, who. [HL6745]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** While information is not held centrally, individual trusts may capture data relating to the cost of treating mesothelioma patients. However, this information could only be collected at disproportionate cost.

*Asked by Lord Wills*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord O'Shaughnessy on 5 April (HL6371), whether they have made any estimate of the cost of mesothelioma to the NHS; and if so, what. [HL6746]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** Neither the Department or its arm's length bodies have made any formal assessment or estimate about the cost of mesothelioma to the National Health Service.

### Ministers: Correspondence

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Young of Cookham on 28 March (HL6075), when Baroness Mobarik expects to follow up her commitment made in her answer on 24 January (HL Deb, col 551) to provide written information on the percentage of companies in the UK that the Department for International Trade has been dealing with which are owned outside the UK. [HL6447]

**Lord Price:** The Department for International Trade supports companies exporting products from the UK. The ownership structure of those companies is not recorded.

### Music

*Asked by **The Earl of Sandwich***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the report by Arts Council England, The arts and culture sector and exit from the European Union, what assessment they have made of the impact of leaving the EU on music. [HL6698]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The Government is working closely with the Arts and Culture sector and the music industry to understand the possible impacts and opportunities of the UK's decision to leave the European Union (EU). The Government is focussed on securing the right deal for Britain and the music industry as a whole.

### MV Seaman Guard Ohio

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the Somalia pirates' hijacking of an Indian vessel on 1 April, whether they intend to further press the government of India regarding the release of the British ex-servicemen known as the Chennai Six who were arrested while on anti-piracy duties in October 2013; and what representations they have made to the government of India about the proportion of the five-year sentences which should be served. [HL6628]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and the Minister for Asia and the Pacific have all raised this case in meetings with counterparts during recent visits to India and made clear the importance of seeing progress. Most recently the Foreign Secretary raised the case with Minister of State for External Affairs M J Akbar during his visit in January.

While we do not seek to interfere in the legal process of another country, we continue to urge swift due process and await the verdict of the men's appeal.

### Nabeel Rajab

*Asked by **Lord Scriven***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have called on the government of Bahrain to drop charges against Nabeel Rajab relating to the making of public statements, on the grounds of human rights, including freedom of the press. [HL6634]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government has raised concerns over the case of Nabeel Rajab with the Bahraini Government at senior levels. The judicial process is ongoing and we continue to monitor the case closely, with officials attending every hearing.

### National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service

*Asked by **Lord Robathan***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the report from the Prime Minister's Holocaust Commission, published in January 2015, which identified three prospective sites for the intended Holocaust Memorial, for what reasons, and by what means, was a different site in Victoria Tower Gardens chosen. [HL6479]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Holocaust Commission's report was clear that the three potential sites it identified were "not the only possible sites". As the cross-party body advising Government on taking forward the recommendations of the Holocaust Commission, the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation was tasked with finding the most appropriate location for a national memorial to the Holocaust and an accompanying education centre. The Government agrees with the Foundation's recommendation that Victoria Tower Gardens, next to Parliament, is considered the most appropriate of the almost 50 sites examined, including those identified by the Commission in Lambeth and at Millbank. The option of locating at Potters Field referred to in the Holocaust Commission report no longer exists.

### National Insurance Contributions: Self-employed

*Asked by **Baroness Lister of Burtersett***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the gender analysis undertaken by the Women's Budget Group of the proposed national insurance changes relating to the self-employed, published on 20 March in their report Gender impact assessment of the Spring Budget 2017. [HL6627]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** As the Chancellor set out in his statement to Parliament on 15 March, the Government will no longer be proceeding with the changes announced at Spring Budget 2017 to increase Class 4 National NICs in April 2018 and April 2019.

### National Insurance Credits

*Asked by **Baroness Drake***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to increase the number of mothers claiming their full entitlement to NI credits towards their state pension. [HL6454]

**Lord Henley:** Parents who are not working can safeguard their State Pension by claiming Child Benefit. National insurance credits are automatically awarded to people claiming Child Benefit for a child under age 12.

Since 2013, new parents and carers with household income above £50,000 are liable to pay a High Income



Child Benefit Charge. Individuals can choose to receive Child Benefit and pay the charge or not receive Child Benefit and not pay the charge, and will receive credits under either option.

Information on what parents should do to protect their State Pension is included in the Bounty packs available to new parents and on GOV.UK.

### **Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe**

*Asked by Lord Bird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Iran about the provision of appropriate medical treatment for Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and about ensuring her general welfare. [HL6378]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Ministers and officials have repeatedly made representations to the Iranian Government on all consular cases involving British nationals in Iran, including Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's. On 17 February, the Foreign Secretary discussed Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's case, including her health, with the Iranian Foreign Minister. Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's family confirmed that a specialist visited her on 19 February. The Iranian authorities have given us their assurances that Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe will receive medical treatment if appropriate. We have repeatedly requested consular access so that we can be assured of her welfare, however the Iranian position on dual nationality makes progress difficult. We urge the Iranian authorities to ensure action is taken on the specialist's assessment and will pursue this at every opportunity.

### **Network Rail: Land**

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions have taken place between Network Rail and the Treasury regarding (1) the sale of operational land, (2) whether such sales would be leasehold or freehold, (3) what conditions would be applied to ensure the continuing use of such land for railway purposes, and (4) how much money is estimated could be raised from the sale of (a) rail freight terminals, (b) rail passenger stations, (c) commercial arches, and (d) operational rail tracks and lines. [HL6490]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The government holds regular discussions with Network Rail to discuss a wide range of topics, including the asset disposal programme. This programme is ongoing and the detail of any future sales are commercially sensitive.

HM Treasury is engaged in these asset sales discussions, working through the Department for Transport, who manage the relationship between Network Rail and central government alongside UK Government Investments. Specifically, HM Treasury is represented on

a Network Rail chaired meeting where potential sales of assets are discussed and where its input can be sought.

### **NHS: Drugs**

*Asked by Lord Warner*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord O'Shaughnessy on 28 March (HL6071), how much of the 20 per cent increase in NHS expenditure on medicines between 2010–11 and 2015–16 related to the introduction of medicines approved by NICE. [HL6638]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The information requested is not available.

NHS Digital has advised that estimated National Health Service spend on medicines recommended in National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE) technology appraisals increased by £758.9 million between 2014/15 and 2015/16, which compares to an overall increase in estimated NHS medicines spend of £1,247.1 million over the same period. Information on NHS spend on medicines recommended in NICE technology appraisals is not available for 2010/11 to 2013/14.

This represents the cost of the medicines at NHS list price and not necessarily the price paid. It does not take account of discounts, dispensing costs, fees or prescription charges income.

*Asked by Lord Warner*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord O'Shaughnessy on 28 March (HL6071), whether it is the responsibility of NICE to take the decision to extend the implementation period of a new drug technology under the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (Constitution and Functions) and the Health and Social Care Information Centre (Functions) Regulations 2013; and to what extent representations are entertained by (1) the Secretary of State for Health, and (2) NHS England in respect of such decisions. [HL6639]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** National Health Service commissioners are legally required to fund drugs and treatments recommended in National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) technology appraisal guidance. NICE is responsible for specifying the period within which NHS commissioners are required to make funding available for a NICE recommended treatment, and the regulations provide that the funding period will normally be three months from the point of final guidance.

The regulations make provision for NICE to specify a longer funding period where there are significant barriers to implementation of a NICE-recommended technology within three months. In such cases, NICE must consult the Secretary of State, NHS England and other relevant bodies about the appropriate funding period.

## NHS: Empty Property

*Asked by **Baroness Redfern***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many NHS estate properties are currently vacant, and what is their total value; and what are the NHS's plans for disposal of vacant estate properties. [[HL6428](#)]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The last National Health Service surplus land annual data collection, published in June 2016, reported there were 418 plots of land in the NHS identified as surplus to requirements. Our current assessment is that around a quarter of these, 121 sites, are vacant. We are in the process of collecting updated information about the market values of these sites as part of this year's annual data collection, to be published in June 2017.

The Department is working with the NHS to ensure that property is used in a way that ensures the best possible services for patients, best value for taxpayers in freeing additional resources for reinvestment in new facilities and services and which supports wider housing objectives, including by releasing surplus NHS land sufficient for 26,000 homes by March 2020.

The recently published independent review of the NHS estate by Sir Robert Naylor highlights the opportunities available to the NHS to support Sustainability and Transformation Plans and deliver best value, by optimising the use of NHS land and buildings. Work is already underway by the Government to take forward some of the recommendations including the design of a new NHS property body which will build strategic estates capabilities at a national and local level and support the identification and disposal of surplus NHS land.

## NHS: Finance

*Asked by **Baroness Wheeler***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress NHS Improvement and NHS England have made in developing new (1) outcomes-based, and (2) capitated budget, reimbursement models for the provision of specialised services. [[HL6444](#)]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** NHS England and NHS Improvement are working on a number of different reimbursement models for specialised services. The actual payment model will depend on the characteristics of the service, and an assessment of the approach likely to be most conducive to improved patient outcomes. NHS England and NHS Improvement are exploring models built on payment based on episodes of care, on the fixed costs of providing a service, or on the adoption of a pathway or year of care payment model.

NHS England and NHS Improvement are also working with the New Care Model Vanguard to develop a capitation-type payment model, called a Whole Population Budget, which could also be used to reimburse specialised services.

## North Korea: British Nationals Abroad

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking, including through the British Embassy in Pyongyang, to ensure that the government of North Korea does not breach the Vienna Convention; and what advice they are offering to British nationals in, and travelling to, North Korea regarding their safety, in the light of the temporary ban imposed on Malaysian diplomats from leaving the country. [[HL6513](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We expect any State who has signed and ratified the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations to abide by its provisions.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office keeps travel advice under constant review and updates country specific advice if we are aware of an incident that might significantly affect British nationals travelling to that country. The purpose of our travel advice is to provide objective information and guidance to help British nationals make informed decisions regarding foreign travel. As our travel advice for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) states, we do not assess that the temporary restriction on Malaysian diplomats leaving the DPRK will affect the safety of British nationals travelling to DPRK.

## North Korea: Human Rights

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of reports of human rights violations committed by the government of North Korea against its exiled citizens, and of some exiled North Koreans having become UK citizens, what is their response to the recommendation by the UNHCR group of independent experts on accountability in their report to the 34th session published on 24 February that UN Member States "enact legislation with extraterritorial effect for gross violations of human rights and, for those States that recognize the principle of universal jurisdiction, consider how they can contribute to securing accountability for human rights violations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea"; and whether they intend to enact such legislation. [[HL6576](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We welcome the UN Group of Independent Experts Report which is an important milestone in the process of developing a viable framework for accountability for those who commit human rights violations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). At the UN Human Rights Council in March, the UK strongly supported a new resolution on DPRK human rights which drew on the recommendations in the report. The adoption of the resolution demonstrated that there is broad consensus among the international community on strengthening the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Seoul. This provides OHCHR with

additional resources to gather and evaluate evidence and consult legal professionals about how this evidence could be used in any future internationally agreed framework for accountability. Legislation already exists in the UK which covers extraterritoriality. War crimes under the Geneva Conventions Act 1957, and a small number of other grave offences, including torture, are already subject to universal jurisdiction.

### **North Korea: Politics and Government**

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their latest assessment of the political and human rights situation in North Korea. [[HL6498](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK continues to be deeply concerned about the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) aggressive and threatening behaviour, including two nuclear tests in 2016 and numerous ballistic missile tests. These tests are a violation of multiple UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) and demonstrate the DPRK's flagrant disregard for its international obligations. In response to the DPRK's nuclear tests, the UK strongly supported UNSCRs 2270 and 2321 which aim to restrict the DPRK's ability to fund its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes. More recently, we have been at the forefront of efforts within the EU to adopt additional measures to further disrupt the DPRK's proliferation activity.

As I stated in my response to written question HL1917, the UK has grave concerns about the serious and systemic human rights violations in the DPRK. We raise these concerns with the DPRK through our Embassy in Pyongyang and in international fora. The UK recently supported a new resolution at the UN Human Rights Council which aims to take forward the recommendations of the UN Group of Independent Experts Report on accountability. This is an important step forward in ensuring those responsible for human rights violations in North Korea are held to account. We will continue to work closely with partners to maintain international attention on the DPRK's appalling human rights record.

Our most recent assessment of the human rights situation in DPRK can be found in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Human Rights Report 2015. The 2016 FCO Human Rights Report will be published in late spring 2017.

### **Northern Ireland Government**

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Dunlop on 24 March (HL6168) concerning undertakings given to the government of the Republic of Ireland that direct-rule would not be imposed as part of the current discussions, whether they can confirm that no agreement on the imposition of direct rule was made. [[HL6356](#)]

**Lord Dunlop:** The UK Government is focused on securing the resumption of devolved government in Northern Ireland. We do not want to see a return to direct rule. If talks between the parties fail in their objectives, however, we will have to consider all options, as it is the UK Government which is ultimately responsible for political stability and good governance in Northern Ireland. We have made no agreements about the imposition of direct rule with the Irish Government.

*Asked by Lord Eames*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have for the governing of Northern Ireland in the event of failure to reach an agreement in the present inter-party talks conducted by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. [[HL6673](#)]

**Lord Dunlop:** We remain focused on securing the resumption of devolved government in Northern Ireland. However in its absence it is ultimately for the UK Government to provide for political stability and good governance in Northern Ireland. If talks fail in their objectives and no agreement is reached following the Easter recess, we will have to consider a range of options. The Government has, however, been clear that when considering the options available, any form of joint authority would be incompatible with the consent principle committed to in the 1998 Belfast Agreement.

As the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland made clear in his statement to the House of Commons on 28 March, at a minimum we would seek to bring forward legislation to set a regional rate to enable collection of the rates to go ahead, and to take steps to provide further assurance around the budget for Northern Ireland.

### **Nuclear Power Stations: Cumbria**

*Asked by Lord Myners*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether ministers have had discussions with NuGen concerning the impact of the placing into administration of Westinghouse on the development of the Moorside nuclear power station; and whether they plan to offer state funding to ensure that that station is completed on time. [[HL6539](#)]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Ministers and officials are in regular contact with NuGen and other developers of proposed new nuclear projects about a range of issues, including financing.

### **Nuclear Power: Regulation**

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the decision to withdraw from Euratom, what is their timetable for implementation of alternative arrangements for the regulation of civil nuclear power generation and radioactive waste management in the UK. [[HL6629](#)]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government remains absolutely committed to the highest standards of safety, safeguards and support for the civil nuclear industry and will continue to comply with international standards once we leave Euratom.

We will work to ensure that there is no interruption in the quality and robustness of our civil nuclear regime and that we achieve a smooth and orderly exit from Euratom. The nuclear industry remains of key strategic importance to the UK and we have been clear that this does not affect our clear aim of seeking and maintaining close and effective arrangements relating to civil nuclear cooperation with Europe and the rest of the world.

### Occupational Pensions: Pension Funds

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to introduce legislation (1) prohibiting companies withdrawing moneys from their pension funds for any reason, or (2) requiring them to keep their funds topped up to the level recommended by actuaries. [HL6650]

**Lord Henley:** Current legislation already requires schemes to have sufficient and appropriate assets to cover the cost of paying future pensions when they fall due, or to put in place a recovery plan to ensure that the scheme returns to full funding within a reasonable period. It also prohibits the transfer of funds from the scheme to the employer apart from some limited circumstances and where there is a surplus.

The Government's Security and Sustainability in Defined Benefit Pension Schemes Green Paper explores a number of aspects of defined benefit pensions, including scheme funding arrangements and invites views. This paper was laid before Parliament on 20 February 2017.

The closing date for comments is 14 May 2017; responses can be submitted to the following postal address:

DB Consultation Private Pensions  
First Floor  
Caxton House  
6-12 Tothill Street  
London  
SW1A 9NA

### Offences against Children: Internet

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the Internet Watch Foundation has the necessary legal powers and authority to remove non-photographic child sexual abuse images, in particular Manga and CGI-based material, as defined by the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, on (1) UK hosted, and (2) non-UK hosted, internet sites. [HL6522]

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what actions UK police have taken to (1) restrict access to, or (2) remove, non-photographic child sexual abuse material on (a) UK hosted, and (b) non-UK hosted, internet sites. [HL6523]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** This Government is committed to eradicating online child sexual exploitation and that includes working with organisations like the Internet Watch Foundation. The IWF has no legal powers. It is a self-regulatory body but is the recognised UK authority in issuing notices to remove criminal child sexual abuse content.

The IWF addresses reports concerning non-photographic images when they are hosted on UK websites where such images are believed to be criminal and are depicted on a website hosted in the UK, they will work in partnership with the hosting provider and NCA-CEOP to remove the content and provide information to assist investigations into its distribution.

The IWF operates as a point of expertise for advice to their members on whether such images on their networks are potentially criminal and should be considered for investigation by the police.

If the site is outside the UK, it is reported by the NCA to the host country via Interpol channels to take appropriate action.

### Opportunity and Integration Review

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what programmes are being run as a result of The Casey Review: A review into opportunity and integration, published in December 2016; and, in the light of the report by The Challenge, Understanding School Segregation in England: 2011 to 2016, published in March, whether those programmes are appropriate or require new consideration. [HL6570]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Rt. Hon Friend, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, has made clear that he is studying Dame Louise Casey's review of opportunity and integration closely. The Government intends to bring forward a new integration strategy in the coming months.

As part of that process, we will carefully consider Dame Louise's recommendations for promoting greater integration in our schools. My advisers have met with The Challenge and this will help to inform our approach.

### Overseas Aid

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to either repeal or amend the International Development (Official Development Assistance Target) Act 2015. [HL6731]



**Lord Bates:** There are no plans to repeal or amend the International Development (Official Development Assistance Target) Act 2015.

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what additional measures they will put in place to ensure that international development spending is properly targeted and delivered to those whose need is greatest. [HL6732]

**Lord Bates:** As set out in the Bilateral Development Review, DFID will reach the poorest and most excluded groups by improving disaggregated data, evidence and understanding of what works in different contexts. For example, excluded girls and women are often 'invisible' and there is need for better data that is disaggregated by sex, age, disability and geography. This approach compliments our robust systems which protect the Department for International Development's aid budget throughout the project cycle and ensure that it is directed to those who need it.

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are satisfied that contractors engaged by them to deliver international development programmes are providing value for money. [HL6733]

**Lord Bates:** DFID achieves value for money in its contracted work through effective procurement practices, robust contracts, active market engagement and its contract management processes, but we can do more.

The Department is conducting a Supplier Review which will (amongst other things) look at ways to broaden DFID's contractor base improving competition, and will also examine how to achieve greater cost transparency and scrutiny of costs to ensure further value for money in its programmes.

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are satisfied that all funds provided to countries where international development programmes are being supported are being directed to those in need. [HL6734]

**Lord Bates:** The Bilateral Development Review, published on 1 December 2016, sets out how DFID will focus aid where it is needed most, in particular by continuing to support the world's poorest countries, increasing our focus on fragile states and regions and intensifying our efforts to help countries transition from poverty. Once resources are allocated, robust systems are in place to protect aid budget throughout the project cycle and ensure that it is directed to those in need. Every project is subject to regular review to ensure that its objectives are being achieved. The Department has a comprehensive risk management framework which requires risk to be identified and managed at every stage of the project. Prior to the release of funding the Department undertakes rigorous due diligence on its delivery partners, with the findings re-tested annually.

Once funds have been dispersed, regular internal and external audits check that aid has been delivered to the intended beneficiaries.

## Overseas Students: EU Nationals

*Asked by Lord Cooper of Windrush*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many students enrolled at universities in England are citizens of other EU countries. [HL6465]

**Viscount Younger of Leckie:** The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) collects and publishes data on students enrolled at UK higher education institutions (HEIs).

The latest available statistics published by HESA refer to the 2015/16 academic year and, to the nearest five, show that there were 98,460 enrolments at English HEIs by students domiciled in other EU countries prior to their studies.

## Overseas Trade: Republic of Ireland

*Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to ensure that the principles of (1) non-discrimination, and (2) free movement of goods and services, apply to the exercise of powers relating to the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, after the UK has left the EU, equivalent to those principles which are currently enshrined in EU law; and if so, how. [HL6739]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** We are committed to negotiating an Exit deal that works for the whole of the UK. We want to work with the Irish Government and the Northern Ireland Executive to find a practical solution that keeps the border as seamless and frictionless as possible, recognising the unique economic, social and political context of the land border between Northern Ireland and Ireland.

We will work closely together with the Irish Government to ensure that, as the UK leaves the EU, we find shared solutions to the challenges and maximise the opportunities for both the UK and Ireland.

## Parachute Regiment

*Asked by Lord Robathan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many personnel serving in the Parachute Regiment or supporting arms attached to Parachute Regiment Battalions, are not qualified as military parachutists and have not completed the required parachute training. [HL6480]

**Earl Howe:** The table below sets out the number of Regular and Reserve personnel serving in the Parachute Regiment or supporting arms attached to the Parachute

Regiment Battalions who have not completed the Army Basic Parachute Course as of 1 April 2017.

	Part qualified	Not qualified
Parachute Regiment	180	230
Attached personnel	10	10

Part qualified personnel are those who have completed 90 per cent of the course and are therefore considered to be Limited Combat Ready. Unqualified personnel will have successfully completed the Pre-Parachute Selection process and await upload to parachute training.

Central information is not held to this level, therefore figures are locally produced management information. The figures provided have been rounded to the nearest 10 to limit disclosure and ensure confidentiality.

### Parish Councils: Greater London

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of some parts of London seeking to establish parish councils. [HL6501]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Government encourages all communities wishing to establish a parish council to petition their local authority to that effect, regardless of where they live. We are aware of several such petitions in London and hope to see more communities in urban areas, both in London and elsewhere, represented by a local council as the people of Queens Park are.

### Parking: Fees and Charges

*Asked by Lord Freyberg*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Workplace Parking Levy in Nottingham; and what discussions, if any, are taking place to introduce workplace parking levies in other cities to tackle problems associated with traffic congestion and air pollution. [HL6331]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government has not made an assessment of the Workplace Parking Levy in Nottingham. Nottingham City Council is undertaking ongoing evaluation of their scheme and Department for Transport officials have assisted them in developing this work.

Over previous years officials have had initial conversations with places that have shown an interest in the Workplace Parking Levy, but to date no formal application to implement a scheme has been received.

### Parks

*Asked by Baroness Whitaker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the proposed scheme by Islington Council under which businesses will be able to sponsor local parks, whether

they intend to encourage other local authorities to seek business sponsorship to protect the future of their parks. [HL6488]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Councils across the country are demonstrating that there are many ways to ensure great parks, and that there is no one size fits all solution. Local authorities are best placed to understand the needs and complexities of their communities use of their green spaces.

The Government remains committed to working with local government and the parks sector to encourage the sharing of best practice so that councils and communities can continue to innovate and find local solutions which ensure the future of public parks.

### Police: Reorganisation

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the interests of economy, what recent consideration they have given to amalgamating police services in England and Wales. [HL6694]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Decisions on whether to amalgamate with another police force are for individual Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and Chief Constables who are accountable to their local communities and best placed to determine what would be in local interests. PCCs and Chief Constables up and down the country are demonstrating that they can deliver more efficient and effective policing through collaboration without sacrificing local accountability and identity.

Requests for voluntary mergers would be considered only where they are supported by a robust business case and have community consent.

### Premium Bonds

*Asked by Lord Lee of Trafford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Neville-Rolfe on 23 March (HL Deb, col 267), why clubs, societies and charities are barred from owning premium bonds. [HL6335]

*Asked by Lord Lee of Trafford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their latest calculation of the total value of unclaimed premium bond prizes. [HL6336]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** National Savings and Investment (NS&I) consider a prize as unclaimed when it has not been paid or cashed in to the bond holder within 18 months of the prize being issued. NS&I proactively encourage customers to find funds and accounts they have lost track of. They do this in a number of ways, including regular media campaigns and their continued support for the My Lost Account service.

Since the first prize draw in July 1957, 364 million prizes have been awarded with a total value of £17.2 billion. To date, there are 1,353,438 unclaimed Premium Bonds prizes worth a total of £55.2 million, just over 0.3% of total prizes awarded.

The legislation under which Premium Bonds are offered states that Premium Bonds can only be purchased or held by an individual.

Changing this legislation to allow charities, clubs and societies to purchase Premium Bonds would have significant operational implications for NS&I. It would require systems to be put in place to allow multiple authorised signatories to each account and ensure that any instructions received come from authorised individuals. This would result in a large operational cost relative to the likely scale of deposits, and would therefore not be cost-effective for the taxpayer.

### Pre-school Education

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to safeguard the future of nursery schools in the UK and ensure that they can continue to provide the education and social skills needed for early years development, whilst offering a safe environment for children. [HL6519]

**Lord Nash:** Maintained nursery schools make a valuable contribution to improving the lives of some of our most disadvantaged children.

We are providing local authorities with supplementary funding of £55 million per year to enable them to maintain existing levels of nursery school funding at least to the end of this Parliament. Details of the funding can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-national-funding-formula-allocations-and-guidance>

We have recently completed a data assurance exercise that will ensure that local authorities receive the correct amount of supplementary funding, and we will consult on the future of maintained nursery schools in due course.

### Prisoners: Suicide

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the conclusion of the Prison and Probation Ombudsman in the bulletin published on 28 March that there has been a "lack of concerted and sustained action" to deal with the rise in the number of suicides by female prisoners, what steps they have taken to implement recommendations made in the Corston Report published in 2007, and since, to address that. [HL6380]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** The rise in the level of self-inflicted deaths is complex and there is no simple solution. We are committed to driving improvement across the system to bring the rate down by increasing the

support available to vulnerable offenders during the first 24 hours in custody. We have invested more in mental health training for prison officers and are delivering a suicide and self-harm reduction project to address the rise in self-inflicted deaths and self-harm in female prisons. This year, we will publish a strategy for female offenders that will focus on how we improve outcomes for female offenders in the community as well as in custody.

### Prisons: Capital Investment

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they continue to hold the view, as expressed to the House of Commons Justice Committee inquiry, Prisons: planning and policies, 9th report of 2014–15 (HC309), by the then Minister for Prisons, that a higher degree of capital investment is possible in the private sector than in the public sector; and if so, what the basis is for this assertion. [HL6411]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** Since the publication of the "Prisons: planning and policies" report, the government has announced that we will invest £1.3bn to build up to 10,000 modern prison places.

We cannot expect to make any significant impact in safety and reform without upfront investment. We have a robust mechanism for making capital expenditure decisions which monitors investment against outcomes and benefits - our work in digitising prisons is subject to this process alongside all of our other work in the Prison Safety and Reform programme.

### Prisons: Overcrowding

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they continue to share the view of the then Secretary of State, as cited in the House of Commons Justice Committee report, Prisons: planning and policies, 9th report of 2014–15 (HC309), that overcrowding leading to prisoners sharing cells is not a major problem; and if not, by what date they anticipate that prisoners will not be required to share cells. [HL6412]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** We will build up to 10,000 modern prison places which will replace places in ageing and ineffective prisons reducing the current levels of crowding as we will be providing buildings fit for today's demands and able to support effective rehabilitation. This new accommodation is designed to have predominantly single cells.

### Productivity

*Asked by The Earl of Dundee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the beneficial effects of good leadership and psychological wellbeing upon

productivity and output in the national economy. [HL6492]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills published a number of reports on Gov.uk, which complement the broader academic literature on this subject. These reports can be found on GOV.UK.

Firstly, the report “Leadership and Management in the UK - the Key to Sustainable Growth” was published in 2012. This summarised the key evidence and set out the benefits of business investment in leadership and management skills.

The research report “Does Worker Wellbeing Affect Workplace Performance?” was published in October 2014. The analysis suggested that well-being is also positively associated with workplace financial performance, labour productivity and the quality of output or service.

Most recently, the research report, “Leadership and management skills in small and medium-sized businesses” was published in 2015. The research suggested that entrepreneurship skills and leadership skills were most consistently and strongly associated with good management practice and performance of small and medium-sized enterprises.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Does worker wellbeing affect workplace performance [bis-14-1120-does-worker-wellbeing-affect-workplace-performance-final.pdf]

Leadership & management skills development report [12-923-leadership-management-key-to-sustainable-growth-evidence.pdf]

Leadership and management skills in SMEs [bis-15-204-leadership-and-management-skills-in-sme.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-30/HL6492>

*Asked by The Earl of Dundee*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what assessment they have made of the possible benefits to the national economy of encouraging good leadership and psychological wellbeing. [HL6494]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** In 2015 the UK government published its productivity plan ‘Fixing the Foundations: Creating a more prosperous nation’, which acknowledged the importance of management and leadership performance in improving productivity performance.

At the Autumn Statement 2016 the government announced that will it provide £13 million to support firms’ plans to improve their management skills and leadership by implementing Sir Charlie Mayfield’s review of business productivity.

In 2014 the government supported the creation of a new What Works Centre for Wellbeing. The centre brings together evidence on different aspects of wellbeing and

work, looking at the impact that different interventions and services have on wellbeing.

## Pupil Exclusions

*Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what procedures are in place to enable the reporting of unlawful exclusions from state-funded schools. [HL6441]

**Lord Nash:** A pupil can only lawfully be deleted from the admission register in accordance with the grounds prescribed in legislation. These are set out in Regulation 8 of the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 as amended, which includes where a child has been permanently excluded. Where the name of a pupil is to be deleted from the admission register, the school must inform their local authority of the deletion.

As part of their legal duties in relation to exclusion, schools must have regard to the statutory guidance issued by the Department.

Parents approaching the Department with concerns about an unlawful exclusion or removal from the admission register are informed about the formal routes of challenge available to them and directed to sources of free and impartial advice. If the Department identified that a governing body had acted unlawfully or unreasonably in carrying out its legal duties in relation to exclusion, and it would be expedient to so, then the Secretary of State could issue a direction. The Department would also pass to Ofsted any relevant evidence that fell within the inspectorate’s remit.

*Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government how many unlawful exclusions from state-funded schools were reported to the Department for Education in each of the last five academic years. [HL6442]

**Lord Nash:** The Department for Education does not routinely collect data on unlawful exclusions.

There is a statutory process to follow when pupils are formally excluded from their school. Where an exclusion decision is challenged and an independent review panel (IRP) is appointed, the Department collects and publishes data on whether panels decide to uphold the exclusion decision, recommend that the governing body reconsiders their decision, or quash the decision and direct that the governing body/academy trust considers the exclusion again:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/permanent-and-fixed-period-exclusions-in-england-2014-to-2015> (table 13). One of the reasons that an IRP could direct the governing body/academy trust to reconsider is if they believe the exclusion to be illegal, but we do not collect data on the reason for an IRPs decision.

We do not collect data on pupils who are prevented from attending a school outside of the formal exclusion process.



## Racially Aggravated Offences

*Asked by Baroness Manzoor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to tackle racially motivated attacks against (1) ethnic minority women, and (2) asylum seekers and refugees. [HL6561]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government deplores all racially motivated attacks. A strong legal framework is in place to tackle hate crime including criminal offences of incitement to racial hatred and racially or religiously aggravated assault and criminal damage. This Government published a new hate crime action plan in July 2016. The Government supports a range of programmes including Tell MAMA, True Vision and Stop Hate UK that focus on encouraging victims including ethnic minority women, asylum seekers and refugees to report hate crime and signposting them to services that provide support for victims.

The Government's Building a Stronger Britain Together (BSBT) programme includes a range of organisations working with different communities across England and Wales that support women and girls from ethnic minorities.

## Railways: Compensation

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether their plans to improve compensation for rail travellers include the establishment of a Rail Ombudsman, with powers similar to those of the Energy Ombudsman. [HL6723]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Under existing arrangements, if a rail passenger is not happy with a train operator's response to a complaint they can contact either Transport Focus (TF) or London TravelWatch (LTW) who work to resolve the issue with the train operator on their behalf. We are considering how to strengthen these arrangements, taking account of arrangements in other sectors. This has included discussions led by the Rail Minister with TF, LTW, the Office of Rail and Road and the Rail Delivery Group.

## Railways: Huntingdon

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Chesterton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the benefits of increasing rail traffic through the Huntingdon area; and whether this would avoid increasing air pollution at the proposed A14 Bampton interchange. [HL6320]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The significant investment in the East Coast Main Line will enable capacity for two additional trains per hour between Kings Cross and Doncaster as well as allowing for the introduction of new electric and bi-mode Intercity

Express Trains. These are planned to replace older diesel trains and enable reduced journey times. No specific assessment has been made of the impact on air pollution at the A14 interchange as part of the investment in rail infrastructure, however electric trains have far lower carbon emissions and offer better environmental performance. From 2018 Thameslink services comprised of 12 coaches will link Peterborough and Huntingdon with St Pancras, the City and Gatwick Airport offering more capacity for passengers and easier journeys to a wider range of destinations.

## Railways: Safety

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the current legislation regarding endangering passenger safety on trains; and what assessment they have made of whether the current legislation regarding the safe operation of trains adequately protects the guard from legal action related to reckless actions by passengers. [HL6419]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** There is a range of legislation in place aimed at rail operators, to ensure the safety of the travelling public and workers, which is reviewed periodically. For example, The Railways and Other Guided Transport Systems (Safety) Regulations 2006 (ROGS) provide the regulatory regime for rail safety, including the mainline railway, metros (including London Underground), tramways, light rail and heritage railways. These regulations were recently subject to a periodic implementation review (PIR), which found they were working well.

Any allegations about the conduct of rail staff, including in response to actions by passengers, would be subject to the appropriate civil or criminal law.

## Refugees

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the reasons for the fall in the number of people who have been resettled to the UK under the Mandate resettlement scheme, from 90 in 2009 to eight in 2016. [HL6684]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Mandate plays an important part in facilitating the resettlement of refugees in various locations across the world. There is no specific quota or target for the number of people resettled via Mandate. The referral of cases (and the corresponding numbers of arrivals) under Mandate is dependent on the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) identifying cases which meet its criteria.

Mandate operates in addition to the Gateway programme which resettles 750 people a year. This is in addition to our commitment to resettle 20,000 people under the Syrian Vulnerable Person's Resettlement scheme and 3,000 people under the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement scheme.

## Refugees: Overseas Aid

*Asked by Lord McInnes of Kilwinning*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of UK aid to refugee camps in Turkey, Jordan, and the Lebanon is focused on minority communities from Syria and Iraq. [HL6640]

**Lord Bates:** The UK is at the forefront of the humanitarian response to the crises in this region. UK aid is helping people in desperate need inside Syria and Iraq, as well as supporting refugees in host countries in the region, and host countries to accommodate them. Our aid is distributed on the basis of need, to ensure civilians are not discriminated against on the grounds of race, religion, or ethnicity. We prioritise reaching the most vulnerable, which often includes minority communities. To avoid the risk of discrimination, information on the ethnicity and religion of those receiving UK aid is not sought or recorded. The vast majority of refugees in Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon are hosted within communities, and are not in camps.

## Regional Growth Fund

*Asked by Lord Allen of Kensington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much of the expected £16 billion of private sector investment for the Regional Growth Fund has already been secured; and from which industry sectors that investment has been received. [HL6504]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Private sector investment secured by the Regional Growth Fund to date stands at £8.5 billion. Private leverage has been secured from the following sectors:

- Access to finance
- Business support
- Development - Commercial
- Development - Housing
- Manufacturing - Aerospace
- Manufacturing - Automotive
- Manufacturing - Chemical
- Manufacturing - Electronics
- Manufacturing - Food
- Manufacturing - Low carbon/renewables/energy
- Manufacturing - Materials
- Manufacturing - Materials/chemicals/pharma
- Manufacturing - Pharma/ Life Sciences
- Manufacturing - Transport/telecoms/utilities/port
- Manufacturing
- Transport/telecoms/utilities/ports/infrastructure
- Manufacturing - Waste
- Services - Consumer services
- Services - Finance & business
- Services - Media/Technology

Services - Tourism

Skills

*Asked by Lord Allen of Kensington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many of the expected 550,000 jobs have been (1) safeguarded, and (2) created, to date, as a result of the Regional Growth Fund. [HL6505]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** 229,677 monitored jobs have been created and safeguarded to date.

*Asked by Lord Allen of Kensington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which Local Enterprise Partnerships were unsuccessful in bids for funding from the Regional Growth Fund; and what is the breakdown of reasons for those bids not succeeding. [HL6506]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The six rounds of the Regional Growth Fund were run on a competitive basis. The bids submitted in each of the various rounds were made in confidence due to the commercially sensitive information specific to the bid. We therefore do not disclose information on unsuccessful bids.

## Research

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Chesterton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they will ensure that, following Brexit, UK research groups will receive appropriate funding and organisational assistance to enable them to collaborate with EU research programmes and networks, in the same manner in which research groups in non-EU countries undertake such collaboration. [HL6421]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** In the Autumn Statement 2016 the Government announced that we will make Britain the global go-to nation for scientists, innovators and tech investors, by investing an extra £2 billion a year in R&D by 2020/21.

This Government intends to secure the best possible outcome for the UK research base as we exit the European Union. We would welcome an agreement to continue to collaborate with our European partners on major science, research, and technology initiatives. However, whatever happens in the future, the Government is committed to ensuring the UK remains a world leader in international research and innovation.

## Retail Trade: Prices

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the extent to which dynamic pricing is operated within the UK retail sector. [HL6471]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The UK Retail Sector is fiercely competitive – competition underpins consumer

confidence, creates wider choice, increases quality and ensures transparency.

The Government believes consumers are best served by the operation of open competition between companies and, as part of this, businesses will set prices according to their assessment of the prevailing market conditions.

### Road Traffic

*Asked by Lord Freyberg*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether smartphone mapping apps are contributing to the rise of levels of pollution and traffic in residential areas; and if so, what action they plan to take. [HL6695]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government has not carried out an assessment of whether or not there is an impact from smartphones mapping apps on pollution and traffic in residential areas.

### Road Works

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the level of co-operation between local authorities and utility companies to minimise disruption to the public when undertaking work. [I] [HL6619]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Under sections 59 and 60 of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991, highway authorities have a general duty to co-ordinate all street and road works on their networks and undertakers have a general duty to use their best endeavours to co-operate with such actions. The Traffic Management Act 2004 also places a Network Management Duty on local highway authorities to manage roads effectively to keep traffic moving.

We have not carried out a formal assessment, but although we consider that existing legislation is sufficient to enable effective co-operation to take place, it is clear that there is scope for reducing the impact on road users of works needed to deliver infrastructure and local services.

To this end we are engaged in a project that is looking to improve the way that data is collected and shared, how we can use this data to co-ordinate activities on the highway more effectively, and how the data can be used to inform the public about planned and live works.

To enable more proactive management of the local road network, the majority of highway authorities have introduced Permit Schemes, which enable the authority to stipulate conditions under which works can take place on the highway. We are currently undertaking an evaluation of permit schemes which concludes in November, and we expect the outcome to demonstrate that such schemes provide a clear reduction in works duration. We are keen for the remaining authorities to develop such schemes.

We have also published statutory guidance entitled 'Code of Practice for the Co-ordination of Street Works and Works for Road Purposes and Related Matters'. This can be found at:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/street-works-co-ordination](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/street-works-co-ordination)

### Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the Annual Local Authority Road Maintenance Survey published in March, whether they intend to review the highways maintenance funding formula allocations which have been established for the financial years to 2020–21. [HL6516]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Department for Transport undertook a review of and consultation on the Highways Maintenance capital block grant formula in 2015. A data refresh will take place in consultation with local highway authorities in 2018.

The Department for Transport published its latest assessment, Road Conditions in England in March 2017. This assessment shows that local classified roads are improving, with fewer local roads needing to be considered for maintenance.

The Department is making available over £6 billion to local highway authorities in England, outside London, between 2015 and 2021 for local highways maintenance. This includes £250 million from the Pothole Action Fund.

### Royal Fleet Auxiliary

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to encourage UK shipbuilders to bid for the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Solid Support Ships. [HL6552]

**Earl Howe:** UK and international shipbuilders were invited through the official channels of the Ministry of Defence's (MOD) Defence Contracts Bulletin and the Official Journal of the EU (OJEU), to attend a MOD Project Team Industry Day held in July 2016, which advertised the Assessment Phase contract opportunities available to industry. We hope that UK industry will produce a robust and competitive bid for the Royal Fleet Auxiliary's Fleet Solid Support ships.

As a non-complex warship, any related future events and contracting opportunities will be advertised through these same channels, to ensure we meet the requirements of EU commercial regulations and UK procurement law, to ensure all potential bidders are treated equally.

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in relation to the procurement of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Solid Support Ships, what consideration they have given to the challenges of overseas shipbuilding noted by Sir John

Parker in his Independent Report to inform the National Shipbuilding Strategy about potential denial of opportunities for the UK supply chain. [HL6553]

**Earl Howe:** The procurement strategy under development for the Fleet Solid Support ships will draw lessons from the approach taken by the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability (MARS) tanker programme. Highly classified and skilled elements will remain in the UK, while commercial economies of scale will be exploited by competing for the main build contract internationally. At every stage of the process UK companies will have the opportunity to compete for contracts and we encourage them to do so.

There are clear cost advantages from maximising competition, which remains the cornerstone of defence procurement. This is consistent with the requirement to obtain value for money for the UK taxpayer in major contracts, and enables the Ministry of Defence to take advantage of the strong competitive international shipbuilding market.

While the MARS tanker build was undertaken overseas, the UK supply chain was still able to benefit from around £120 million worth of orders from this contract. The customisation and support of the MARS tankers is bringing further economic benefits to the UK, in the order of £30 million.

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in relation to the procurement of the new Royal Fleet Auxiliary Solid Support Ships, what consideration they have given to the recommendation by Sir John Parker in his Independent Report to inform the National Shipbuilding Strategy that the UK should block-build military ships; and whether they plan to implement this recommendation. [HL6554]

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans are in place to secure the future of Rosyth Dockyard, in the light of the recommendation by Sir John Parker in his Independent Report to inform the National Shipbuilding Strategy that the block-build model used by the Aircraft Carrier Alliance should be used more extensively in the construction of UK military shipping. [HL6555]

**Earl Howe:** We are considering Sir John's recommendations on block-building, which he described as the virtual shipbuilding model, along with the other recommendations in his report.

The Ministry of Defence has not prescribed a build strategy for the Fleet Solid Support ships and it will be for potential bidders to consider how the construction of the ships might be optimised.

The National Shipbuilding Strategy is intended to lay the foundation for a modern and efficient sector capable of meeting the country's future defence and security needs. This will be published in the spring.

## RRS James Cook

*Asked by Lord Steel of Aikwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the RRS James Cook has been operating in the coastal waters of the Western Sahara; what was the nature of its research; and what instruments it deployed. [HL6696]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The RRS James Cook is part of the Government funded national sustained observational programme called RAPID. This long-term programme's aim is to monitor the meridional overturning circulation (MOC) in the North Atlantic at the latitude of 26 degrees north. The MOC determines the Atlantic ocean's transport of heat, freshwater, carbon, and other environmental properties. It is central to understanding the role of the thermohaline circulation in global climate change. The RRS James Cook recovered and redeployed a number of oceanographic moorings fitted with conductivity and temperature sensors, which were distributed at a range of depths on moorings.

*Asked by Lord Steel of Aikwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Saharawi authorities have made enquiries about the activities of the RRS James Cook in their territorial waters; if so when they will receive replies; and whether scientific data obtained by the vessel will be shared with the Saharawi authorities, pursuant to the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. [HL6697]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Sahrawi representatives contacted the National Oceanography Centre (NOC) on 3 March 2017 about the work of RRS James Cook in the eastern Atlantic. The UK regards the status of Western Sahara as undetermined and supports UN-led efforts to find a mutually acceptable solution to all parties, which provides self-determination for the Sahrawi people. As a non-self governing territory under Article 73 of the UN Charter, rights under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea should be provided by the administering power and for the benefit of the people of the territory with a view to promoting their well being and development. The NOC will share information with Morocco, who are the de facto administering power.

## Russia: Theatre Nuclear Weapons

*Asked by Lord Campbell of Pittenweem*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Russia about Russia's alleged violation of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. [HL6357]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The INF Treaty is a Treaty between the US, Russia and other successor States of the Soviet Union, so it would be for those countries in the first instance to determine any breaches. The Treaty plays a vital role in maintaining Euro-Atlantic security, and we urge Russia to ensure full and verifiable compliance.



## Sanctions

*Asked by Lord Horam*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by the Foreign Secretary on 28 March (HC Deb, col 117), whether the forthcoming White Paper will concern (1) their policy approach to sanctions co-operation with the EU after Brexit, (2) the implementation of such measures, or (3) both; and when that White Paper will be published. [HL6711]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The White Paper is to be published very soon. As the Prime Minister has said, we will continue to work closely with our European allies in foreign and security policy. This includes our approach to sanctions, which are an important foreign policy tool.

## Saudi Arabia: Human Rights

*Asked by Lord Hoyle*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Prime Minister's visit to Saudi Arabia included discussions about (1) executions of dissidents and gays, (2) inferior treatment of women, and (3) human rights. [HL6712]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Prime Minister discussed human rights during her visit to Saudi Arabia (4-5 April). On the death penalty our position is clear. The British Government is firmly opposed to the death penalty in all circumstances and in every country. We do not hesitate to express our views and the Government of Saudi Arabia is well aware of our position.

Saudi Arabia remains a Foreign and Commonwealth Office human rights priority country, because of the use of the death penalty, women's issues and restrictions on other freedoms.

## Sayed Alwadaei

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action the British Embassy in Bahrain is taking in relation to reports of reprisals against family members of Sayed Ahmed Alwadaei, who has refugee status in the UK, including the reported arrest of his mother-in-law and brother-in-law on 2 March and allegations that they were tortured and interrogated in response to his activities in the UK. [HL6635]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and our Embassy in Bahrain are monitoring this issue. We encourage all those with concerns about their treatment in detention to report these directly to the Ombudsman, and we urge the Bahraini Ombudsman to carry out thorough investigations into any such allegations.

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have received since March any reports of torture used against, or ill-treatment of, family members of Sayed

Ahmed Alwadaei, who has refugee status in the UK; and if so, whether those reports were recorded in accordance with the FCO's guidance on reporting torture and mistreatment. [HL6636]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and our Embassy in Bahrain are monitoring this issue. They have received and logged one report in accordance with the FCO's guidance on reporting torture and mistreatment. We encourage all those with concerns about their treatment in detention to report these directly to the Bahraini Ombudsman, and we urge the Ombudsman to carry out thorough investigations into any such allegations.

## School Milk

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to promote the benefits of school and nursery milk as part of their childhood obesity strategy. [HL6689]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** As part of the Childhood Obesity Plan, the Government will publish and promote example menus for early years settings in England later this year. This will help settings to meet the latest Government dietary recommendations.

Where the school food standards apply, milk must be available during school hours and offered free to disadvantaged pupils, and free milk is also available to infants if served as part of their lunch.

## Sea Level

*Asked by Viscount Ridley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether increases in the global mean sea level are inconsistent with reasonably expected natural variability; and whether there is any evidence for such inconsistency that is not based on computer simulations of the climate. [HL6647]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Evidence that increases in the global mean sea level are inconsistent with natural variability can be found in the 5<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC AR5). This states that it is very likely (> 90% probability) that human activities contributed substantially to global average sea level rise since the 1970s.

Instrumental and proxy data reveal that global average sea level began to rise above the long-term natural background rate in the early twentieth century. Our physical understanding of these observations and their attribution to human activity does not require computer simulations: the oceans have absorbed over 90% of the excess energy that has accumulated in the climate system from human greenhouse gas emissions, and the resulting thermal expansion of seawater accounts for 40% of observed sea level rise. Computer simulations of the

climate provide further evidence that human influences, and not natural variability alone, explain these changes.

### Social Mobility

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Minister of State for Work and Pensions on 8 December 2016 (HC56144) stating that they intended to bring forward a social justice green paper in the new year, whether that remains their intention following publication on 4 April of *Improving Lives: Helping Workless Families*; and if so, when they expect that that green paper will be published. [HL6625]

**Lord Henley:** *Improving Lives: Helping Workless Families* forms part of the Government's ambitious agenda for social reform. It sets out indicators and evidence that will provide a framework for continued action to drive improved outcomes for disadvantaged families and children, now and over time.

### Social Security Benefits: Children

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Durham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many families will be affected by the introduction of the two-child limit on Child Tax Credit and the child element of Universal Credit in (1) 2017–18, (2) 2018–19, and (3) 2019–20. [HL6344]

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Durham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what projections they have made of the effect of introducing the two-child limit on Child Tax Credits and the child element of Universal Credit on the number of children in poverty, according to the income-based measures used in the official Households Below Average Income statistics. [HL6345]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** From 6 April 2017 families will no longer be able to claim additional support of up to £2,780 per child per year for third and subsequent children born on or after this date through Child Tax Credit or Universal Credit. Families on benefits should have to make the same financial decisions as families supporting themselves solely through work. All households should think carefully about whether they are financially prepared to support a new child without relying on means-tested benefits.

There will be no cash losers as a result of the Government's policy to limit support to two children in Child Tax Credit and Universal Credit.

An impact assessment of Tax Credits and Universal Credit changes to Child Element and Family Element was published in July 2015. It can be found on the Parliament website[1].

[1] <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/impact-assessments/ia15-006e.pdf>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Impact assessment [impactassessment.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-27/HL6344>

### Social Security: Expenditure

*Asked by Earl Attlee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the total expenditure on social security in 2016–17; and what were the ten largest heads of expenditure. [HL6653]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The total expenditure on social security in the UK in 2016–17 was forecast to be £217.9bn by the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), in their Spring Budget 2017 forecast. Table 4.24 of the OBR's March 2017 Economic and Fiscal Outlook [1] provides more detail, including a breakdown by benefit area.

[1] Office for Budget Responsibility, *Economic and Fiscal Outlook*, March 2017, Table 4.24 (<http://cdn.budgetresponsibility.org.uk/March2017EFO-231.pdf>).

### Social Services: Finance

*Asked by Lord Porter of Spalding*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the allocation of £2 billion of new money for adult social care to be released by 2019–20, what steps they will take to ensure that (1) local government, and (2) representatives of local government, are fully engaged in the preparation of the Green Paper on the funding of adult social care, so that those responsible for social care locally are able to contribute to the creation of long-term solutions. [I] [HL6720]

*Asked by Lord Porter of Spalding*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what will be the terms of reference for the Green Paper on the funding of adult social care; whether those terms of reference will include all adults who require social care; and when they expect to launch the consultation. [I] [HL6721]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** Following the announcement of the General Election on 8 June, decisions on the future reform and funding of adult social care will be taken by the new Government.

### Southern

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have been officially informed by Southern Rail that they have withdrawn "turn up and go" access for disabled passengers from 33 stations; and if so, whether they

intend to intervene to ensure that this service is restored. [HL6724]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) have advised the Department for Transport that passengers do not have to book assistance before travelling with them; GTR only recommend this to ensure they have staff prepared with ramps or that alternative travel is in place if a station is not accessible.

We take the issue of accessibility on our railways extremely seriously. It is vital that all passengers, including disabled passengers, are able to use public transport and we look to train operators to make reasonable adjustments to facilitate unbooked assistance.

### State Retirement Pensions: British Nationals Abroad

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with pensioner organisations regarding the impact of the reduction in the exchange rate of the pound sterling on the incomes of citizens in receipt of the UK state pension who live outside the UK in (1) the EU, (2) the Overseas Territories, and (3) elsewhere in the world. [HL6609]

**Lord Henley:** The DWP does not hold information on pensioner incomes overseas. The exchange rate is always subject to fluctuation and as a result State Pension payments in other currencies will change depending on the exchange rate at the time.

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many citizens living in each EU member state, other than the UK, are in receipt of the UK state pension. [HL6611]

**Lord Henley:** The UK State Pension is a contributory based pension payable worldwide regardless of nationality to those who meet the eligibility criteria. The table below shows the number of State Pension recipients resident in each EU country.

Recipients of the State Pension resident in EU countries, August 2016

Country	Caseload
Ireland	134,950
Spain	108,442
France	66,556
Germany	42,862
Italy	37,135
Cyprus	18,768
Netherlands	13,008
Portugal	10,675

Country	Caseload
Malta	6,491
Greece	5,998
Sweden	5,726
Belgium	5,407
Austria	5,255
Denmark	3,414
Poland	2,853
Finland	1,559
Bulgaria	1,182
Hungary	905
The Czech Republic	655
Luxembourg	600
Croatia	587
Lithuania	485
Slovakia	373
Slovenia	302
Latvia	259
Romania	174
Estonia	100

Source: Department for Work and Pensions

i) Statistical disclosure control has been applied to this table to avoid the release of confidential data. Totals may not sum due to the disclosure control applied. August 2016 is the latest data available.

ii) Note that the DWP does not administer State Pensions for Northern Ireland. The figures above relate solely to those that are administered by the DWP.

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which EU member states have individual reciprocal agreements with the UK regarding annual increases in the state pension. [HL6612]

**Lord Henley:** The United Kingdom's reciprocal social security agreements with EU Member States as well as Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland are generally superseded by EU law. The reciprocal agreements with Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland all made provision regarding annual increases in the state pension.

## Syria: Armed Conflict

*Asked by Baroness Cox*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that fighters in East Ghouta in rural Damascus, in their 'Worshippers of God, Remain Steadfast' campaign, are supported by the Hay'at Tahrir A-Sham group; and whether they have provided political or practical support to those fighters. [HL6709]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We remain seriously concerned by ongoing regime military activity, particularly in eastern Ghouta. We are aware of clashes between pro-regime forces and opposition groups, following heavy bombardment and the imposition of starvation sieges by the regime in the area. Although the majority of fighters are from non-extremist groups, we are aware of reports of involvement of Hayat Tahrir al Sham (HTS) in these clashes. In all our engagement with the opposition we urge them to adhere to the ceasefire, adhere to international humanitarian law and to avoid cooperation with HTS.

The UK's political and practical support to the opposition is provided to those moderate groups who are standing up to both the tyranny of Asad and terrorist threat of Daesh, and have made clear their commitment to a negotiated settlement to the conflict. The UK provides no support to HTS and does not provide weapons to any party in Syria.

## Syria: Chemical Weapons

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Chesterton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are taking steps, in collaboration with UK allies, to use the latest technologies to provide early warnings to communities in Syria of chemical attacks; and whether those early warnings systems could be used by allied forces for aerial release of equipment such as medicines and face masks where appropriate. [HL6679]

**Earl Howe:** The UK Government fully supports the US military action on 7 April 2017 against the Syrian air force base at Shayrat, from which it is assessed that the Syrian regime launched a chemical weapons attack against its own population. The US action reinforces the internationally-held red line that the use of chemical weapons is barbaric and illegal. It is not practicable to provide protection in advance against specific chemical weapons attacks, which take place indiscriminately and without warning. The UK has provided support to the White Helmets, which helps to ensure that they are among the first to respond to any attack and are able to save lives. In the face of continued intransigence by the Syrian regime and its backers, the UK will continue to work through options with our international partners to overcome the challenges before us.

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of chemical weapons attacks that have been perpetrated against the people of Syria in the present conflict. [HL6715]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** There have been numerous allegations of chemical weapons use in Syria in the present conflict, with over 250 attacks alleged since the chemical weapons attack in Ghouta in August 2013. The Joint Investigative Mechanism, a joint UN-Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons body established by the UN Security Council, looked at nine specific cases from 2014 and 2015 in detail. It attributed responsibility to the Syrian regime in three cases and to Daesh in one. The vast majority of reported chemical weapons use involves allegations of attacks by the Syrian regime, largely consistent with regime capabilities and with incidents the Joint Investigation Mechanism has attributed to the regime.

## Syria: Military Intervention

*Asked by Baroness Cox*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 20 March (HL Deb, col 10), what estimate they have made of the cost of providing practical support to rebel fighters in Syria since 1 January 2015. [HL6592]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK has delivered over £100 million in non-humanitarian support to Syria, Jordan and Lebanon since the start of 2015 from the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund. This has focussed on strengthening the moderate opposition, which includes the High Negotiations Committee, civil society, local councils, human rights and media activists. This support is building resilience against extremists; fostering civil society in besieged areas; promoting human rights; delivering basic governance; and laying the foundations for a more peaceful and inclusive future for the people of Syria.

*Asked by Baroness Cox*

To ask Her Majesty's Government in what ways they provide communications equipment or other practical support to the Free Syrian Army; and what assurance they can give that such support is not utilised by extremist groups. [HL6594]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have provided life-saving equipment, including communications, medical and logistics equipment, and equipment to protect against chemical weapons attacks to some groups. All recipients of such assistance are rigorously and regularly assessed to make sure that they are not involved in any extremist activity or human rights abuses. Many of the groups fighting the Asad regime are affiliated to the opposition umbrella organisation the High Negotiations Committee, which has set out a moderate and constructive vision for



political transition, including respect for human rights and protection of all components of Syrian society.

### Syria: Minority Groups

*Asked by Lord McInnes of Kilwinning*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they have provided to religious minorities in areas of Syria (1) controlled by the Free Syrian Army, and (2) under Kurdish control. [HL6642]

**Lord Bates:** The UK has pledged £2.46 billion since the crisis began, our largest ever response to a single humanitarian crisis. Inside Syria, UK aid has provided 19.7 million food rations that feed one person for a month, over 8.5 million relief packages and over 6.7 million health consultations. UK aid is distributed on the basis of need, to ensure civilians are not discriminated against on the grounds of race, religion, or ethnicity. We prioritise reaching the most vulnerable – which often includes minority communities – regardless of their location. To avoid the risk of discrimination, information on the religion of those receiving UK aid is not sought or recorded

### Syria: Overseas Aid

*Asked by Baroness Manzoor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to help solve the humanitarian and political crisis in Syria, and to help in the redevelopment of its infrastructure. [HL6562]

**Lord Bates:** The UK is at the forefront of the humanitarian response to the Syria crisis, providing lifesaving aid to millions of Syrians, helping Syrian refugees to remain in host countries in the region and enabling host countries to accommodate them. The UK has pledged £2.46 billion since the crisis began, our largest ever response to a single humanitarian crisis. We have helped to provide nearly 25 million food rations, over 9.5 million relief packages and over 7 million health consultations.

The UK supports fully the Syrian peace talks under the auspices of the UN Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura in Geneva. A negotiated political transition is the only way to end this terrible conflict. While the conflict is ongoing, our priority is to deliver lifesaving humanitarian aid those affected by the crisis. Support to reconstruction can only take place when a comprehensive, genuine and inclusive political transition is firmly under way.

### Taxation: Domicil

*Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the announcement in the Summer Budget 2015 that non-doms who have been resident in the UK for at least 15 of the last 20 years would in future be deemed to be domiciled in the UK for tax purposes, how many non-

doms have since left the UK; and what is their estimate of the reduction in tax and annual charges under the remittance basis regime which has resulted from those departures. [HL6535]

*Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether it is their policy to encourage non-doms to continue to be resident in the UK in order to increase tax revenues. [HL6536]

*Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether it is their policy to eliminate investment barriers which discourage remittances into the UK. [HL6537]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The reforms announced at Summer Budget 2015 to the way that non-domiciled individuals are taxed in the UK did not take effect until April 2017, and the Government does not hold data on the effect of the announcements. In addition, the Business Investment Relief has been expanded to encourage further investment in UK business by non-domiciled individuals.

The reforms will be legislated for in the current Finance Bill and are carefully targeted to make the UK's tax system fairer whilst ensuring that the UK remains an attractive destination for those people who want to live, work and invest here.

### Taxis: Greater London

*Asked by Lord Higgins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 31 January (HL4755), whether the range of tools available to Transport for London to deal with congestion and vehicle pollution includes the power to limit the number of private hire vehicles which it licenses; and if not, why not. [HL6365]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** As indicated in the answer of 31 January, the Government's view is that although Transport for London (TfL) do not have the power to limit the number of private hire vehicles (PHVs), other mechanisms are available to address concerns regarding the operation of the taxi and private hire sector. Therefore there are no current plans to amend primary legislation in order to permit any licensing authority, including TfL, to cap the number of PHVs licensed.

*Asked by Lord Higgins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 31 January (HL4755), whether any authority has the power to limit the number of private hire vehicles licensed to operate in London; and whether they have received any representations from the Mayor of London on the need for such powers. [HL6366]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government supports choice for consumers, and wants to see both

taxis and private hire vehicles prosper in London and across the country. As indicated in the answer of 31 January, the Government's view is that although powers to limit the number of private hire vehicles do not exist, other mechanisms are available to address concerns regarding the operation of the taxi and private hire sector.

The Government has met with representatives of the Mayor on this issue.

## Telephone Tapping: Members and Peers

*Asked by Lord Eames*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidelines are in place for the Security Services relating to the monitoring of personal phone calls by Members of Parliament and members of the House of Lords; and how frequently such guidelines are reviewed, and by whom. [HL6674]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government's position on the Wilson Doctrine was set out by the then Prime Minister in a written ministerial statement made on 4 November 2015.

Since then the Government has passed the Investigatory Powers Act, which strengthens the protections for Parliamentarians and places the protections of the Wilson Doctrine into statute for the first time. The Investigatory Powers Act provides that an application for a targeted warrant to intercept or examine the communications of a Parliamentarian must be approved by the Secretary of State, a Judicial Commissioner and the Prime Minister.

## Terrorism

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what definition of "terrorism" they use. [HL6572]

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they distinguish between terrorism and other criminal acts. [HL6574]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The UK definition of terrorism is set out at section 1 of the Terrorism Act 2000. There are a range of criminal offences contained in the Terrorism Acts which may apply in cases where that definition is met. Section 30 of the Counter Terrorism Act 2008 also places a duty on judges, when sentencing for other specified offences, to consider whether there is a terrorist connection. Charging and prosecution decisions in individual cases are a matter for the police and the Crown Prosecution Service.

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they assess the risk of terrorist attacks in the UK. [HL6573]

**Viscount Younger of Leckie:** The Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre produces regular detailed assessments of

the international terrorist threat to both the UK and its interests abroad, which inform the UK's threat levels. Information on the UK's threat levels is available online.

More generally, the Government assesses the most significant risks facing the UK over the next five years, including terrorism, through the National Risk Assessment (NRA). The National Risk Register of Civil Emergencies, the public version of the NRA (copy attached), is available online and has been placed in the House of Lords Library. This in turn helps Government and emergency responders to prepare for and respond to potential incidents.

In order to assess the risk of a terrorist attack, Government works with the intelligence community to gather information about the intent and capability of potential adversaries. Together with information about potential targets, this enables the Government to assess how plausible an attack might be and what effects it may have.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

National Risk Register [20150331\_2015-NRR-WA\_Final.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-04-03/HL6573>

## Terrorism: British Nationals Abroad

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the withdrawal of the passport of Sufiyan Mustapha Hamza, whether they will withdraw passports from all other British jihadis currently in Iraq and Syria and fighting with ISIL or other terrorist forces. [HL6651]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government does not routinely comment on individual cases.

However the Government has made its position on the withdrawal of passports on public interest grounds clear. In a Written Ministerial Statement on 25 April 2013 (Hansard Column 69WS) the Secretary of State for the Home Department set out the terms under which the Royal Prerogative will be exercised to refuse or withdraw passports under the public interest criteria. All such cases are assessed on their merits and consider the rights of the individual balanced against the public interest criteria.

The Government may also deprive individuals of their British citizenship if it is conducive to the public good to do so. As a consequence of this their access to passport facilities is also withdrawn.

## Terrorism: Northern Ireland

*Asked by Lord Tebbit*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Dunlop on 27 March concerning the amnesty against prosecution for members of the IRA, whether the administrative

scheme of comfort letters sent to on-the-runs has been terminated; and if so, when. [[HL6542](#)]

**Lord Dunlop:** In March 2014, the then Secretary of State for Northern Ireland first announced that the administrative scheme established by the former Labour Government into the so-called ‘on the runs’ was at an end. This was repeated in a statement to the House of Commons following publication of a detailed report into the scheme by Lady Justice Hallett in July 2014 (HC Deb 17 July 2014 Col 1040). It was further confirmed in a statement to the Commons on 9 September (HC Deb 9 September 2014, columns 779-789). In her report, Lady Justice Hallett concluded that “The administrative scheme did not amount to an amnesty for terrorists...Suspected terrorists were not handed a ‘get out of jail free’ card”. This Government has always been clear. In May 2010, had we at any time been presented with a scheme that we thought amounted to an amnesty, immunity or exemption from prosecution, we would have stopped it immediately. As far as those who received letters are concerned, the Government made very clear in the statement on 9 September 2014 that “Those who received individual or composite letters, or any other form of indication, stating that they were “not wanted” and who derived comfort from that should cease to derive any such comfort. In short, the recipients should cease to place any reliance on those letters” (Col 779). This Government believes in the application of the rule of law without fear or favour - where there is evidence sufficient to warrant prosecution people will be prosecuted.

*Asked by Lord Tebbit*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government how many prosecutions for acts of terrorism in Northern Ireland were made (1) in each of the five years prior to the making of the Good Friday Agreement on 10 April 1998, and (2) in each year from the making of that Agreement until the devolution of policing and criminal justice on 12 April 2010. [[HL6690](#)]

*Asked by Lord Tebbit*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government how many persons convicted of acts of Northern Ireland-related terrorism have been granted early release from prison since 10 April 1998. [[HL6691](#)]

**Lord Dunlop:** Northern Ireland Office officials are currently undertaking a consolidation exercise to confirm the answer to these questions. I will write to my Noble Friend once this exercise has been completed.

*Asked by Lord Tebbit*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government how many letters of comfort were issued to on-the-runs (1) in the five years before 10 April 1998, and (2) between that date and 12 April 2010. [[HL6692](#)]

**Lord Dunlop:** It is assumed that by ‘letters of comfort’ my Noble Friend means those letters issued under the administrative scheme introduced by the previous Labour

Government which were intended to inform individuals that, as at the date of the letter, the recipient was ‘not wanted’ for questioning or prosecution in Northern Ireland or the rest of the UK.

Prior to 10 April 1998, no such letters were issued. The first such letters were signed by Mr Jonathan Powell (the then Prime Minister’s Chief of Staff) and were sent to Sinn Féin on 15 June 2000. A total of 156 individual such letters were issued during the scheme, 144 were issued prior to 12 April 2010.

The following table provides more detail of all letters that were issued.

2000	During the year: (a) 2 individuals received the above mentioned letters from Jonathan Powell, the Prime Minister’s Chief of Staff; (b) 0 individuals informed in writing by the Northern Ireland Office via Sinn Féin that they “would face arrest and questioning if they returned to Northern Ireland”
2001	During the year: (a) 16 individuals received the above mentioned letters from the Northern Ireland Office; (b) 0 individuals informed in writing by the Northern Ireland Office via Sinn Féin that they “would face arrest and questioning if they returned to Northern Ireland”.
2002	During the year: (a) 17 individuals received the above mentioned letters from the Northern Ireland Office; (b) 19 individuals informed in writing by the Northern Ireland Office via Sinn Féin that they “would face arrest and questioning if they returned to Northern Ireland”.
2003	During the year: (a) 9 individuals received the above mentioned letters from the Northern Ireland Office; (b) 23 individuals informed in writing by the Northern Ireland Office via Sinn Féin that they “would face arrest and questioning if they returned to Northern Ireland”.
2004	During the year: (a) 0 individuals received the above mentioned letters from the Northern Ireland Office; (b) 0 individuals informed in writing by the Northern Ireland Office via Sinn Féin that they “would face arrest and questioning if they returned to Northern Ireland”.
2005	During the year: (a) 4 individuals received the above mentioned letters from the Northern Ireland Office (1 of whom had previously been informed that they were ‘wanted’); (b) 17 individuals informed in writing by the Northern Ireland Office via Sinn Féin for the first time that they “would face arrest and questioning if they returned to Northern Ireland” (in the cases of 12 of those individuals it appears that Sinn Féin had already been notified of that fact at a meeting). A further 46 are similarly informed during the year and had been also advised as such at an earlier time by the Northern Ireland Office.
2006	During the year: (a) 8 individuals received the above mentioned letters from the Northern Ireland Office (2 of whom had previously been informed that they were ‘wanted’); (b) 5 individuals informed in writing by the Northern Ireland Office via Sinn Féin that they “would face arrest and questioning if they returned to Northern Ireland”.
2007	During the year: (a) 58 individuals received the above mentioned letters from the Northern Ireland Office (35 of whom had previously been informed that they were ‘wanted’); (b) 0 individuals informed in writing by the Northern Ireland Office via Sinn Féin that they “would face arrest and questioning if they returned to Northern Ireland”.
2008	During the year: (a) 6 individuals received the above mentioned letters from the Northern Ireland Office (2 of them were on the Irish Government List and 1 had previously been informed that they were ‘wanted’); (b) 1

individual informed in writing for the first time by the Northern Ireland Office via Sinn Féin that they “would face arrest and questioning if they returned to Northern Ireland”; a further 7 individuals are similarly informed during the year and had also been advised as such at an earlier time by the Northern Ireland Office.

- 2009 During the year: (a) 21 individuals received the above mentioned letters from the Northern Ireland Office (2 of whom receive the same letter on two separate occasions, and 10 others of whom had previously been informed that they were ‘wanted’); (b) 5 individuals informed by the Northern Ireland Office via Sinn Féin that they “would face arrest and questioning if they returned to Northern Ireland”.
- 2010 During the year: (a) 11 individuals received the above mentioned letters from the Northern Ireland Office (4 of whom had previously been informed that they were ‘wanted’); (b) 5 individuals informed in writing by the Northern Ireland Office via Sinn Féin for the first time that they “would face arrest and questioning if they returned to Northern Ireland”. A further 29 individuals are similarly informed during the year and had also been advised as such at an earlier time by the Northern Ireland Office. In addition, 4 individuals are informed in writing by the Northern Ireland Office via Sinn Féin for the first time that they were “wanted for return to prison in Northern Ireland” but were “eligible to apply to the Sentence Review Commissioners for early release”. 2 of those 4 individuals had previously been informed that they “would face arrest and questioning if they returned to Northern Ireland”.
- 2011 During the year: (a) 1 individual received an above mentioned letter from the Northern Ireland Office (the individual had previously been informed that they were ‘wanted’); (b) 1 individual informed in writing by the Northern Ireland Office via Sinn Féin that they “would face arrest and questioning if they returned to Northern Ireland”.
- 2012 During the year: (a) 3 individuals received the above mentioned letters from the Northern Ireland Office (1 of whom had previously been informed that they were ‘wanted’); (b) 0 individuals informed in writing by the Northern Ireland Office via Sinn Féin that they “would face arrest and questioning if they returned to Northern Ireland”.

## Trade

*Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether they intend to impose any legislative requirement on the devolved administrations to comply with the principles of (1) non-discrimination, and (2) free movement of goods and services between the constituent parts of the UK, in the exercise of their powers after the UK has left the EU, equivalent to those principles which are currently enshrined in EU law; and if so, how. [HL6738]

**Lord Price:** As the UK leaves the EU our guiding principle will be to ensure that no new barriers to living and doing business within our own Union are created. We will maintain the necessary standards and frameworks to empower the UK as an open, trading nation to strike the best deals around the world.

On the basis of these principles, we will work with the devolved administrations on an approach to returning powers from the EU that works for the whole of the UK

and reflects the interests of Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England.

## Trade Agreements: Commonwealth

*Asked by Lord Chidgey*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government how many specialist personnel, expert in international trade agreements within the Commonwealth, they have engaged by outsourcing to the private sector as part of the Brexit process; and how many of those have been engaged to deal specifically with trade agreements with South Africa. [HL6445]

**Lord Price:** The Department for International trade has not engaged any trade specialists, including for trade agreements with South Africa, via private sector outsourcing.

## Trade Agreements: South Africa

*Asked by Lord Steel of Aikwood*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what plans they have for ministerial or other visits to South Africa to establish trade deals after Brexit. [HL6431]

**Lord Price:** Secretary of State Fox and Lord Price have both met with Rob Davies, Minister of Trade and Industry in South Africa, and DIT Ministers are keen to visit South Africa in the near future. We are committed to strengthening ties as the UK prepares to leave the European Union and to work together to identify trade and investment opportunities that will benefit not only the UK and South Africa, but across the wider southern Africa and Africa region.

## Trade Missions

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government how many trade missions they have organised since 2010; and what is their estimate of the added value to the UK economy of each one. [HL6530]

**Lord Price:** The Department for International Trade, formerly UKTI, has supported 7,181 unique businesses through outward missions and 4,333 unique businesses through inward missions since the financial year 2010-11 through to end FY2015-16.

The estimate for the total anticipated value of outward missions since FY2010-11, based on firm-level data collected through our internal DIT (UKTI) client survey, is £6.42 billion in additional sales. This equates to an average of £893,000 in additional sales per unique business supported.

The comparable estimate for inward missions is £2.64 billion in additional sales since 2010-11. This equates to an average of £609,000 in additional sales per unique business supported.



**Turkey: Armed Forces**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will call on the government of Turkey to pay compensation in cases of death or serious injury caused by Turkish forces, and, in particular, to the parents of Rozerin Cukurs who was allegedly killed by an army sniper in January 2016. [HL6607]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The question of compensation is a matter for the Turkish courts. We have emphasised to the Turkish government the need to respect human rights and avoid civilian casualties in the course of military operations.

**Turkey: Emergency Powers**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have been notified that the state of emergency in Turkey has been lifted; and if not, when they expect that this will happen. [HL6605]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The current state of emergency in Turkey is still in force and it is uncertain when it is likely to be lifted.

**Turkey: NATO**

*Asked by Lord Campbell of Pittenweem*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Turkey following reports that it has been blocking partner programmes with countries which are not members of NATO. [HL6654]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** At NATO, the UK and Turkey regularly discuss the importance of the Alliance's cooperation with partners to project stability beyond its borders, such as by helping to build resilience and capacity in partner countries, as agreed at the Warsaw Summit last year.

**Turkey: Politics and Government**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Final Report of the Third Imrali Peace Delegation published in March by the EU-Turkey Civic Commission concerning events in Turkey since November 2015; and what is their response to the Commission's call for action by the European Court of Human Rights and the Committee for the Prevention of Torture. [HL6604]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have taken note of the report by the EU-Turkey Civil Commission and its concerns. The European Court of Human Rights is

heavily engaged on issues related to Turkey, which accounts for 20% of its pending cases. The Committee for the Prevention of Torture is also very engaged on Turkey and visited the country twice in 2016. We continue to urge the Turkish authorities to engage with the Council of Europe and other human rights mechanisms to address international concerns about human rights in Turkey.

**Turkey: Prisons**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of reports of hunger strikes in Turkish prisons, what representations, if any, they have made to the government of Turkey about prison conditions and the treatment of political prisoners; and whether they will call for full access to prisoners for delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross. [HL6606]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have called for Turkey to engage with the recommendations by the Council of Europe and other international bodies, including addressing allegations of mistreatment in detention. We have no plans to ask the Turkish government whether it will invite the International Committee of the Red Cross to have access to its prisons.

**UK Border Force: Maritime Volunteer Service**

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to utilise the Maritime Volunteer Service to assist the UK Border Force in patrolling and ensuring the security of UK inshore waters. [HL6730]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Border Force is maximising the security of the UK's coastline and inshore waterways through a variety of means. For example, the Project KRAKEN network is directed at public spirited volunteers who provide 'intelligence' based on any unusual activity observed. Border Force is extending Kraken's reach and will work with the Maritime Volunteer Service to ensure that they are fully engaged.

Border security is a priority for this Government. We are committed to countering threats to the UK coastline using an intelligence-led approach and through working with the wider law enforcement community. Border Force has long-standing working relationships and intelligence-sharing practices in place, and is increasing interaction with key partners as well as undertaking joint operations in order to disrupt organised criminal gangs who will seek to exploit any border weaknesses. Whilst training and duty of care issues mean that it might not be appropriate for Border Force to directly task the Maritime Volunteer Service their voluntary participation within these existing programs is very welcome.

## UK Border Force: Northern Ireland

*Asked by Lord Eames*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the adequacy of the numerical strength of the Border Force in Northern Ireland; what plans they have for recruitment; and how frequently that numerical strength is reviewed, and by whom. [HL6675]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** This Government has ensured that sufficient resources are available to ensure the security of the border is not compromised. Security of the border cannot be measured by numbers of staff. Border Force uses a sophisticated combination of experienced officers, intelligence, data, technology and partnership working. Border Force resources within Northern Ireland are reviewed on regular basis as part of the wider Border Force business planning process which is led by the Director General of Border Force. There is currently an ongoing recruitment campaign within Northern Ireland.

## UK Trade with EU

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to ensure that higher tariffs are not imposed on the UK in response to leaving the single market. [HL6434]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** We will pursue a bold and ambitious free trade agreement with the European Union that allows for the freest possible trade in goods and services between Britain and the EU's member states; that gives British companies the maximum freedom to trade with and operate within European markets; and that lets European businesses do the same in Britain. It is in the mutual interest of the UK and the EU to maintain the freest trade possible.

## UN Agencies

*Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many appointments to UN committees and agencies are held by representatives or citizens of the UK; and what are those positions. [HL6520]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UN only publishes broad statistical data about the nationality of its employees. As of 31 December 2016, there were 866 UK citizens employed by the UN Secretariat. The last published data covering the UN system including the Secretariat plus UN funds, programmes and specialised agencies dates back to 31 December 2012 and shows a total of 2454 UK citizens employed at the time.

*Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government to which UN committees and agencies they will nominate candidates in the coming year. [HL6521]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Her Majesty's Government has nominated two candidates for UN appointments to be decided in the coming year. These are Dr David Nabarro standing for Director General at the World Health Organisation; and Sir Christopher Greenwood, standing for re-election as a judge at the International Courts of Justice.

## UN Conference to Negotiate Ban on Nuclear Weapons

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether their officials attended the UN Conference to negotiate a ban on nuclear weapons held in New York on 27 March; and if not, why not. [HL6462]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government did not attend the negotiations on a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons that began on 27 March in New York as we do not believe these negotiations will lead to effective progress on global nuclear disarmament. The best way to achieve this goal is through gradual multilateral disarmament negotiated using a step-by-step approach and within existing international frameworks.

## Unified Patent Court

*Asked by Lord Cromwell*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of Brexit, whether the UK will continue to participate in the Unified Patent Court; and whether the central division dealing with pharmaceuticals and life sciences will continue to be based in London, in accordance with the announcement by Baroness Neville-Rolfe at the October 2015 EU Competitiveness Council. [HL6595]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government confirmed in November 2016 that the UK will proceed with preparations to ratify the Unified Patent Court Agreement. Those preparations are progressing. No decision has been taken on our future involvement in the court once we have left the EU. That will be part of the negotiations which have not yet begun. It would be wrong to set out unilateral positions in advance but the Government's efforts will be focussed on seeking the best deal possible in the negotiations with our European partners.

## Unitary Councils

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their policy towards the creation of large unitary authorities in English counties where there is significant opposition to that approach. [HL6332]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Government has made clear that it will carefully consider any proposal made by one or more councils in an area for reorganising that area's local government, and reach a judgement in the round as to whether the proposal, if implemented, is likely

to improve the area's local government, commands a good deal of local support in the area, and whether the area itself is a credible geography for the proposed new structures; that judgement will inform the decision as to whether or not to implement the proposal.

*Asked by **Baroness Kennedy of Cradley***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proposals for large county-based unitary authorities they are considering. [HL6333]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Government has received proposals involving county based unitary authorities from Buckinghamshire County Council, from three Oxfordshire Councils, and from six Dorset Councils, which the Government is carefully considering.

*Asked by **Baroness Kennedy of Cradley***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many proposals to create new unitary authorities in England they have agreed since 2010; and what will be the names of those new authorities. [HL6334]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Neither this Government, nor the Coalition Government following the election in May 2010, has agreed any proposal to create new unitary authorities in England.

### Unmanned Air Vehicles

*Asked by **Lord Harris of Haringey***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many complaints about UAVs have been recorded by (1) the police, and (2) the aviation authorities, in each of the last three years. [HL6676]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The number of complaints about unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) is not collated across police forces.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) does not maintain a record of all complaints of drone misuse it has received, as in some cases, such as where advice was provided by telephone or where the complainant was referred to the police, records are not kept. Nevertheless, 213 complaints were recorded in 2014, 441 in 2015 and 291 in 2016. The Military Aviation Authority does not hold records of any complaints about UAVs.

The Department for Transport, the Home Office, the National Police Chiefs Council and the CAA signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 17 May 2016 to identify the roles and responsibilities of the signatories with respect to the investigation and prosecution of drone offences. Under the Memorandum, it is for the Police Service to carry out an assessment of reports of drone misuse and to decide whether or not to investigate; it is for the CAA to investigate and prosecute breach of aerial work permissions or offences relating to aviation safety.

*Asked by **Lord Harris of Haringey***

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to publish proposals to regulate and control the use of

UAVs, following the recent consultation by the Department for Transport. [HL6677]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government's consultation on the safe use of drones in the UK closed on 15th March. The Government will publish its response to the consultation in the summer of this year.

*Asked by **Lord Harris of Haringey***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of technical solutions to the enforcement around sensitive locations and sensitive events of no-fly zones relating to UAVs. [HL6678]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Across government there are a number of strands of work aimed at improving our defences against the potential misuse of drones, with a focus on sensitive and important locations and events; this includes consideration of solutions for technical enforcement. We are engaging directly with manufacturers of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), academia and industry on technical solutions such as geo-fencing, and trials and demonstrations have already taken place to examine the applicability of technological options to detect and counter drones. Further trials and demonstrations will take place this year, with Government involvement being overseen by the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure.

### Urban Areas: Pests

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they last reviewed (1) the proliferation of pests in urban areas, and (2) the ability of local authorities to deal with those pests. [I] [HL6620]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The proliferation of pests in urban areas has not been reviewed by central Government, however there is a range of legislation in place to support local authorities in controlling urban pests.

Pest control is the responsibility of the owner or occupier of the property where the problem occurs. Where this is the local authority, they have the same powers to control pests as any other owner or occupier.

There is a range of legislation in place to support local authorities in managing rodent infestation and statutory nuisances, such as litter and refuse, where these are attracting pests.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 obliges local authorities to ensure that their districts are kept, as far as is practicable, free of rats and mice.

### VAT

*Asked by **Lord Mawson***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the cumulative effect of changes to laws and regulations relating to VAT on (1) small and

medium-sized enterprises, (2) charities, and (3) churches. [1] [HL6474]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government assesses the impact on businesses and civil society organisations of each change in VAT law and publishes these assessments in Tax Information and Impact Notes. This does not assess cumulative effects.

## Vocational Education: Qualifications

*Asked by Baroness Garden of Frognal*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Baroness Vere of Norbiton on 27 March (HL Deb, col 400), what criteria will be used to determine, on a case by case basis, whether qualifications which do not appear on the official Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education register will be funded. [HL6518]

**Lord Nash:** The new technical education courses will provide training for occupations that are within the scope of routes and are identified as such by their inclusion on an occupational map. As the new qualifications are introduced from 2019 onwards, we expect to remove funding for other similar qualifications. We will provide more information nearer the time about the criteria that will be used to determine whether individual qualifications will continue to attract public funding.

## Volkswagen

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration is being given to bringing charges of corporate manslaughter against VW executives who authorised the sale of diesel vehicles in the UK which did not meet the regulatory standards. [HL6747]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government wants to see Volkswagen face the appropriate legal consequences for its actions. Whilst we expect that the vast majority of the wrongdoing took place in Germany and so it is appropriate that the German authorities lead the investigation, the offence of corporate manslaughter would require clear evidence of a link between the actions of VW and the death of specific individuals and no such clear evidence exists at present. A decision on whether to pursue corporate manslaughter charges would be for the Crown Prosecution Service (England and Wales), the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (Scotland) or the Director of Public Prosecutions (Northern Ireland) to determine.

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made an estimate of the number of people in the UK who may die as a result of diesel emissions from VW cars above the regulatory limit; and if not, whether they will do so. [HL6748]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We are unable to estimate accurately the air quality impacts resulting from Volkswagen's actions as we cannot quantify the additional emissions of the affected vehicles under all conditions of operation.

However we have made a comparison of the old software to the new 'fix' software under test track conditions. The results from tests on two Skoda vehicles indicate 30-40% lower NOx emissions with the new 'fix' software.

## Welfare Assistance Schemes

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of local authorities that established a local welfare fund scheme following abolition of the Social Fund in August 2012 which have now ceased to operate those funds; and what data they collect in relation to the operation of such funds. [HL6626]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** No estimate has been made by Government regarding the number of local welfare fund schemes which have ceased to operate and no data is collected in relation to the operation of such funds. It is for local authorities to determine whether to continue to offer local welfare assistance from within their existing budgets, alongside a range of other services, if they consider it a priority in their area.

## West Coast Railway Line

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 23 March (HL5994), what are the minor line speed improvements on the West Coast Main Line, mainly North of Preston, that will enable non-tilt trains to go faster, but will not enable tilting trains to go faster. [HL6302]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The current West Coast Main Line (WCML) has been optimised for tilting trains which operate up to a maximum speed of 125 mph, whilst non-tilting trains are limited to operating at up to 110 mph.

However, north of the future Golborne Junction, track geometry on some sections of line may allow non-tilting passenger trains to operate up to 125 mph within the existing operational rules and without track changes. Further, minor infrastructure alternations could be made on the transitions between straight and curved sections of track to optimise the speed profile for non-tilting trains further, which would make no change to the speed profile of existing tilting trains. The journey time differential between a tilting train and non-tilting train would therefore be reduced.



*Asked by Viscount Waverley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what professional qualifications were held by the suspended civil servants responsible for the drafting and evaluation of the 2012 West Coast Main Line rail franchise. [[HL6727](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** To answer this question would entail the Department releasing information which may result in the identification of those staff members suspended in 2012. This would be in breach of Data Protection principles. It is therefore not possible to answer this question.

*Asked by Viscount Waverley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government who drafted the bidding documents for the 2012 West Coast Main Line rail franchise. [[HL6728](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The suite of bidding documents was drafted by civil servants in the Department for Transport.

*Asked by Viscount Waverley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether all bidders for the 2012 West Coast Main Line rail franchise were sent the identical bid documents at the same time. [[HL6729](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** No record was kept of the dispatch of bid documents.

## Wind Power

*Asked by Viscount Ridley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will instruct National Grid to review the system security rules specifying wind turbine Fault Ride Through, in the light of the final report by the Australian Energy Market Operator on the September 2016 blackout in South Australia. [[HL6646](#)]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** National Grid is responsible for specifying and reviewing the technical requirements for connection to, and use of, the National Electricity Transmission System. Wind turbine Fault Ride Through requirements were introduced by National Grid in June 2005 following consultation.

National Grid and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy continue to engage with the Australian Electricity Market Operator to understand the causes of the South Australia Blackout Event on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016 and identify any learning relevant to the GB National Electricity Transmission System.

## World War II: Wrecks

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Earl Howe on 27 March ([HL6154](#)), what appropriate action has been taken with regional governments and partners to prevent desecration of the wrecks of HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Repulse. [[HL6550](#)]

**Earl Howe:** Our Foreign and Commonwealth Office representatives continue to engage with the local and regional authorities to ensure that our position is made clear on the desecration of these sites and appropriate action is taken. We will provide support for any action against such activity when we are able to do so.

## Zimbabwe: Human Rights

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their most recent assessment of the human rights situation in Zimbabwe. [[HL6472](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We remain very concerned about the human rights situation in Zimbabwe. The Government continues to uphold its manifesto commitment to "stand up for human rights and the rule of law in Zimbabwe". We regularly urge the Government of Zimbabwe to honour its obligations; we monitor reports of human rights violations, including attending trials of activists; and invest in a wide range of programmes designed to improve access to justice and provide practical support for human rights defenders.

## Zimbabwe: Pensions

*Asked by Lord Goodlad*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the cost of proposals submitted by the Overseas Service Pension Association in December 2016 for assisting the government of Zimbabwe in meeting its obligations to Zimbabwe public service pensions. [I] [[HL6737](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government understands the hardship that lack of pension payments causes to former service-people and their families. The British Ambassador to Zimbabwe raises pensions frequently with the Zimbabwean Government and has secured written confirmation that it will resume payments when the economic situation improves. However, we have not made an estimate of the cost as these payments are the responsibility of the Government of Zimbabwe as set out in the Lancaster House Agreement in 1979.

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