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Monday
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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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Ministers and others who make Statements or answer Questions are referred to only by name, not their ministerial or other title. The current list of ministerial and other responsibilities is as follows.

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

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Written Statements

Monday, 17 July 2017

Digital Economy Act

[HLWS52]

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

In April this year, Her Majesty the Queen gave Royal Assent to the Digital Economy Act 2017. The Act introduced measures to help consumers access broadband, build digital infrastructure, protect children from online pornography and enable better public services using digital technologies.

A number of important provisions in the Act have already come into force. These include powers on broadband USO, switching, automatic compensation and information powers to help consumers accessing electronic communications services, protection for citizens from nuisance calls and others.

I can today inform the House that the Government has made the first commencement regulations to bring into force a considerable number of other sections of the Act.

We have taken steps to implement the new age verification requirement for online pornography as part of our continuing work to make the internet safer. The new scheme is complex and will not be fully in place until April 2018, but today we are bringing into force powers to designate the regulator and powers to allow guidance to be issued.

We are also bringing into force measures to improve digital connectivity across the UK, starting the implementation of the new electronic communications code to assist operators to develop new infrastructure, putting in place planning reforms and giving powers to allow Ofcom to make better use of radio spectrum to improve mobile connectivity.

We have also started the process of implementing the measures in the Act that allow the government to make better use of data. Powers to allow HMRC to share non-identifying information in the public interest will come into force and help deliver more effective and efficient public services. We will also bring into force the information sharing arrangement with the Employers' Liability Tracing Office to help those who have suffered personal injury as a result of employment to trace liability insurance policies. New provisions to enable public authorities to share information with the UK Statistics Authority will also commence.

Finally, to help consumers better manage their bills, we will commence powers to require mobile operators to offer bill limits to all their customers. To allow operators time to adapt their systems and processes, I am today announcing that the requirement will come into force from October 2018.

Commencing these provisions marks another significant milestone towards implementing the Digital Economy Act 2017 and delivering our Digital Strategy.

Electoral Commission Report on May 2016 Polls: Government Response

[HLWS51]

Lord Young of Cookham: The Minister for the Constitution has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The Government is today publishing its responses to the Electoral Commission's reports on the administration of the Mayor of London and London Assembly elections and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) elections for 2016.

We have combined our response to the report on the London elections with the recommendations made in the reports of the Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA) and the Greater London Authority (GLA) where they are relevant to those polls.

Similarly, our response to the report on the PCC elections also incorporates relevant recommendations by the Royal National Institute for the Blind and the AEA. In addition, we have provided an annex of responses to additional AEA recommendations from their 2016 report that are not relevant to these polls.

Where recommendations by the Electoral Commission in their two reports are identical, they have been addressed in our response to the PCC election.

We are grateful for the recommendations produced by all these organisations and thank them for their work. These reports aid the Government in monitoring the effectiveness of electoral legislation; help us to make improvements and to identify future policy challenges and possible resolutions.

The Government will continue to work with these organisations, as well as electoral administrators and other partners, to improve our electoral system and ensure the effective running of elections. We will take these recommendations into account in implementing the recommendations of Sir Eric Pickles' review of electoral fraud published last year.

Copies of these Government responses will be placed in the libraries of both Houses.

Foreign Affairs Council: 19 June 2017

[HLWS54]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: My right Honourable Friend, the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Sir Alan Duncan), has made the following written Ministerial statement:

My Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs attended the Foreign Affairs Council on 19 June. The Foreign Affairs Council was chaired by the High Representative of the European

Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini. The meeting was held in Luxembourg.

Foreign Affairs Council

The meeting covered discussions on the EU Global Strategy, EU-NATO, counter-terrorism, migration, Iraq and the Eastern Partnership Ministerial meeting.

EU Global Strategy

The Council had a discussion on the implementation on the EU Global Strategy. Foreign Ministers welcomed the report and highlighted the important work achieved over the year.

EU-NATO Cooperation

Foreign Ministers discussed EU-NATO cooperation with NATO Deputy Secretary General Rose Gottemoeller. The discussion was based on a joint progress report by the EU High Representative and the Secretary General of NATO. The Council adopted conclusions on the report, welcoming progress in the implementation of the common set of proposals and calling for further steps in the same direction. Foreign Ministers agreed to support more work, including on counter-terrorism, cyber security, hybrid threats and strategic communications.

Counter-Terrorism

The discussion began with condolences for the recent attacks in London, Manchester, and Mali. Foreign Ministers debated the external aspects of counter-terrorism, a timely discussion in view of the recent attacks in the EU and beyond. They underlined that counter-terrorism is the highest security priority for the EU. The Council adopted conclusions on counter-terrorism. The UK set out four areas to confront: risk of radicalisation in domestic communities; external conflicts in Iraq, Syria, and Libya attracting foreign fighters; overseas financing of extremist groups; and online radicalisation.

Migration

Foreign Ministers discussed the external aspects of migration in preparation for the European Council of 22-23 June. They took stock of the progress made on the Partnership Framework. They discussed pressure on transit and origin countries, and the impact of EU efforts in the Mediterranean.

Iraq

The Council discussed Iraq, focussing on the latest developments, in particular in Mosul and Nineveh province, and on the future stabilisation of the country. The Council adopted conclusions.

Gulf Crisis

Foreign Ministers discussed the current crisis in the Gulf region. They urged de-escalation of the crisis through dialogue and negotiation, and welcomed the mediation efforts of Kuwait. Ministers agreed on the importance of being seen to be impartial in the dispute. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs shared the UK's analysis on the situation in the Gulf.

Eastern Partnership Ministerial

Ministers discussed anti-corruption, strategic communication, rule of law, and human rights reform in Eastern Partnership countries. They welcomed the progress made on all of these issues and stressed their continued importance.

Ministers agreed a number of measures without discussion:

- The Council adopted Conclusions on climate change following the United States Administration's decision to leave the Paris Agreement.

- The Council adopted Conclusions on a framework for a joint EU diplomatic response to malicious cyber activities ('cyber diplomacy toolbox').

- The Council adopted Conclusions on a renewed impetus for the Africa-EU partnership.

- The Council adopted Conclusions on Mali and the Sahel.

- The Council adopted Conclusions on the EU strategy for Central Asia.

- The Council adopted Conclusions welcoming the Court of Auditors' Special Report on 'EU Assistance to Tunisia'.

- The Council adopted Conclusions on EU engagement with Civil Society.

- The Council extended the restrictive measures in response to the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by Russia until 23 June 2018.

- The Council extended the restrictive measures on sanctions on Guinea-Bissau for a further 12 months.

- Member states participating in the European Defence Agency (EDA) adopted a declaration reaffirming their commitment to strengthen European defence cooperation by improving security of supply.

- The Council endorsed a Joint Declaration between the EU, Germany, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Slovakia, Spain, the UK and Vietnam on reinforced cooperation in the field of sustainable energy.

Foreign Affairs Council: 17 July 2017

[HLWS53]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: My right Honourable Friend, the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Sir Alan Duncan), has made the following written Ministerial statement:

My Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs will attend the Foreign Affairs Council on 17 July. The Foreign Affairs Council will be chaired by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini. The meeting will be held in Brussels.

Foreign Affairs Council

The agenda for the July Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) is expected to include the EU Global Strategy, Libya and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

EU Global Strategy

EU Foreign Ministers will discuss the second year priorities for the European Global Strategy. The UK remains committed to European security and will engage constructively in these discussions, including ensuring complementarity with NATO.

Libya

The appointment of a new UN Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) makes it a timely moment for a stocktake on Libya. Discussion will focus on the latest developments in the Libya political process. The UK aims to build support for the Libyan political solution based on amending the Libyan Political Agreement to be more inclusive, and to create momentum around the appointment of the new SRSG Ghassan Salamé.

DPRK

Discussions will cover the importance of a united international response to the launch of a Inter Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) by the DPRK on 4 July. We expect this will focus on the need for the EU to use its collective weight to pressure China to exert further their unique influence on DPRK. The UK will use the discussion to make clear the EU has an important role to play on this issue through increased sanctions on the DPRK.

HS2 Update

[HLWS50]

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

I would like to update the House on the progress of High Speed Two.

Phase One of the railway - from London to West Midlands - is progressing well. In February, Parliament granted powers to construct the route from London to Birmingham, including new stations at London Euston, Old Oak Common, Birmingham Curzon Street and Birmingham Interchange, near Solihull. As a result, enabling works on the route, contracts for which were awarded last November, have now started.

In March last year, the tender shortlist for Phase One of the main civil engineering works contracts, comprising bridges, tunnels, embankments and viaducts, was released. These are the biggest HS2 contracts to date. In a clear signal of how work is progressing, this morning I am pleased to announce the decision to award Stage 1 of these contracts, comprising design and construction preparation works, to the joint ventures set out below. Contracts are expected to be signed after completion of the mandatory standstill period. The joint ventures are as follows:

• Area South

• S1 – Euston Tunnels and Approaches – SCS JV (Skanska Construction UK Limited, Costain Limited, STRABAG AG)

• S2 – Northolt Tunnels – SCS JV (Skanska Construction UK Limited, Costain Limited, STRABAG AG)

• Area Central

• C1 – Chiltern Tunnels and Colne Valley Viaduct – Align JV

(Bouygues Travaux Publics, VolkerFitzpatrick, Sir Robert McAlpine)

• C2 – North Portal Chiltern Tunnels to Brackley – CEK JV (Carillion Construction Limited, Eiffage Genie Civil SA, Kier Infrastructure and Overseas Limited)

• C3 – Brackley to South Portal of Long Itchington Wood Green Tunnel – CEK JV (Carillion Construction Limited, Eiffage Genie Civil SA, Kier Infrastructure and Overseas Limited)

• Area North

• N1 – Long Itchington Wood Green Tunnel to Delta Junction and Birmingham Spur – BBV JV (Balfour Beatty Group Ltd, VINCI Construction Grands Projets, VINCI Construction UK Ltd, VINCI Construction Terrassement)

• N2 – Delta Junction to WCML Tie-In – BBV JV (Balfour Beatty Group Ltd, VINCI Construction Grands Projets, VINCI Construction UK Ltd, VINCI Construction Terrassement)

The expected total value of these contracts including both Stage 1 and Stage 2 (the full construction phase) is currently estimated to be worth around £6.6 billion. Stage 2 will commence in 2019 and, along with Stage 1, is expected to support 16,000 jobs across the country. In addition, they are expected to generate 7,000 contract opportunities in the supply chain, of which around 60% are expected to go to SMEs.

HS2 stations at Euston, Old Oak Common and in Birmingham will be central to HS2 and the work needed to develop designs is also well underway. Last week, both the Invitations to Tender (ITTs) for the station design services contracts for all four Phase One stations and the Invitation to Participate in Dialogue (ITPD) for a Euston Master Development Partner were released to shortlisted bidders. These are significant milestones. They show how progress is continuing at pace in order to deliver stations that will be embraced by the local communities, drive economic growth and provide seamless journeys for passengers.

We are also making good progress on the rest of the route. Later today, I will be introducing a Bill to Parliament seeking the necessary powers to construct Phase 2a of HS2, from West Midlands to Crewe. Phase 2a will bring HS2 within reach of all the cities in the North that have existing rail connections to Crewe. I will also be updating the House on other developments along the

Phase 2 route including decisions on the 2b route from Crewe to Manchester and West Midlands to Leeds.

The progress we are making with HS2 is clear evidence that the Government is delivering on its commitments and is getting on with building the infrastructure needed to build a stronger, fairer, more prosperous Britain.

National Security Arrangements: Northern Ireland

[HLWS55]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: My Right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (James Brokenshire) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

This is a summary of the main findings from the report by His Honour Brian Barker QC, the Independent Reviewer of National Security Arrangements in Northern Ireland, covering the period from June 2016 to 31 December 2016. His Hon Brian Barker concludes:

“I was appointed by the Secretary of State in May 2016. I have spent time obtaining an overview of institutions, personalities and problems. I have been fully briefed on the security situation. I received presentations from MI5 on the practical effect of co-operation and exchange of intelligence. My visits to various PSNI establishments and to MI5 left an impression of deep commitment and professionalism. Strong cross-border links continue with An Garda Síochána, resulting in effective co-operation and impressive disruption.

The aim of a more stable society, where the effect of local terrorism has a decreasing impact, seemed to have made some progress through 2016 despite a picture of continuing terrorist threat. It is clear, however, that police and prison officers face high risks both on and off duty. The context in which national security activities are performed have been described in the past as challenging, and continue to be so.

In preparing this report I have considered the current threat level, and what I have learned of events of a terrorist nature during the year. The number of shooting incidents related to the security situation for the 12 month period was 49, almost identical to that in 2015, whilst the number of bombing incidents, 27, was exactly half that recorded in 2015. There were 6 security/paramilitary related deaths in the period to December 31st 2016. This was 3 times the number of the previous year.

The overall threat is real and enduring and broadly unchanged despite each recognisable group being somewhat disrupted and there being some relaxation of attitude in some communities. The exchange of intelligence and the evident cooperation between authorities continues to make inroads. As in recent years there have been successes and considerable effort devoted to containing and disrupting dissident groups. Nevertheless, planning and targeting continues and attacks occur. The threat from those released from

custodial sentences and those given bail continue to present a challenge.

Dissident republican groupings remain interested and involved in criminality, organised crime, and money laundering. They express political purpose, either with conviction or because it is necessary so as to obscure criminality. Loyalist paramilitaries claim political allegiance, although the motivation of many is crime and control through intimidation and violence.

Throughout 2016 I met a range of stakeholders. Representatives of the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB), the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (PONI) and the Committee on Administration of Justice (CAJ) raised concerns about the use, control and reporting of covert human intelligence sources (“CHIS”) and whether, for example, any CHIS were working without PSNI knowledge. This area that has been reviewed in the past and I will review it in the coming year in light of the new Investigatory Powers Act 2016.

My meeting with the NIPB’s Independent Human Rights Advisor, Alyson Kilpatrick, fortified my predecessor’s high regard for her, and the important role she plays.

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Barra McGrory QC, briefed me on some operational problems inherent in the prosecution of alleged terrorists. The deficiencies in the administration of criminal justice and the limited progress in case management are all too obvious. Applications for disclosure in major terrorism trials and the need for appropriate balance, continue to present problems. Tightening the criminal justice system by streamlining criminal justice processes and faster committal proceedings would increase public confidence.

A topic raised by several politicians was the extent of the activities, as well as the remit, of the National Crime Agency (NCA). The NCA’s Head of Investigations informed me NCA officers in Northern Ireland can only exercise constabulary powers or undertake covert investigatory activity with the agreement of the Chief Constable. The PSNI are sighted on all operational activity. The NCA has no national security function, but is concerned with serious crime, for example child exploitation and drug smuggling, including crime carried out by paramilitary groups. In this regard it has a good working relationship with MI5. I am satisfied these statutory provisions are adhered to.

Progress on ‘The Past’ is still at an early stage whilst expectations for the proper and balanced understanding of the history in relation to the Legacy inquests remain high. Funding is a continuing issue.

The Assistant Chief Constable responsible for policing the marching season reported an overall sense of reduced tension compared to the previous year and the 12th July parades passed off without serious incident. I was encouraged by the dismantling in early October of the Twaddell Avenue protest camp, which had been established and ongoing since 2013.

I was impressed by the standards and commitment of senior members of MI5 and the PSNI who provided unstinting time and access. My thanks are also due to the NIO for its support.

I have measured performance in 2016 against the five key principles identified in relation to national security in Annex E to the St Andrews Agreement of October 2006. My conclusions in relation to Annex E are set out in the attached Table.”

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Text of Annex E [WMS Text of Annex E.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2017-07-17/HLWS55/>

Written Answers

Monday, 17 July 2017

Abortion

Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill

To ask Her Majesty's Government, whether they intend to introduce legislation to repeal (1) sections 58 and 59 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861, and (2) section 25 of the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Act as amended; and, if not, why not. [\[HL388\]](#)

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Government has no plans to repeal sections 58 and 59 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861. As with other matters of conscience, abortion is an issue on which the Government adopts a neutral stance and allows Members to vote according to their moral, ethical or religious beliefs. Traditionally any proposals for legislative change are a matter for backbenchers to bring forward and there is a free vote in both Houses of Parliament.

There are no plans to repeal section 25 of the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Act. The law on abortion in Northern Ireland is a matter for the Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly.

Airguns

Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government, how many incidents of the shooting of cats by airguns were reported to the police in (1) 2015, and (2) 2016; and how many of those incidents related to fatal shootings. [\[HL498\]](#)

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office holds information on the number of offences recorded by the police that involved an air gun. The shooting of cats by an air gun cannot be separately identified within this information.

Algeria: Ahmadiyya

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what representations they have made to the government of Algeria about the six Ahmadiis sentenced on 28 June to up to four years in prison for charges relating to the exercise of their religion; and when they last discussed with the government of Algeria its obligations under Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which requires states to guarantee freedom of religion and belief. [\[HL328\]](#)

Baroness Goldie: On the issue of the 28 June sentencing, we have raised this with the Algerian Embassy in London. We noted that the constitution protects freedom of conscience and religion but that

domestic law might limit these rights. During Algeria's last Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in May, we raised the question of whether domestic law was to be changed to allow full freedom of religion as per the constitution. Algeria will consider the recommendations of the UPR and reply by September.

Arms Trade: Treaties

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what measures they are taking to ensure that the requirements of the Arms Trade Treaty are fully implemented, including that the potential that arms could be used to commit war crimes and human rights violations is taken into account when arms exports decisions are being made; and how they are applying the Treaty provisions to Saudi Arabia, with particular reference to that state's activities in Yemen. [\[HL361\]](#)

Baroness Goldie: The Government operates one of the most robust arms export control regimes in the world. All export licence applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis against the Consolidated EU & National Arms Export Licensing Criteria (the 'Consolidated Criteria'), taking account of all relevant factors at the time of the application.

The Consolidated Criteria were updated in March 2014 following the signing of the Arms Trade Treaty. Criterion 1(b) says that the Government will not grant a licence if to do so would be inconsistent with "the UK's obligations under the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty". Criterion 2(a) states that the Government will "not grant a licence if there is a clear risk that the items might be used for internal repression" and Criterion 2(c) states that the Government will "not grant a licence if there is a clear risk that the items might be used in the commission of a serious violation of international humanitarian law".

A licence will not be issued for any items, including those destined for an end user in Saudi Arabia, if to do so would be inconsistent with these Criteria. We welcome the Divisional Court's judgment of 10 July recognising the rigorous and robust processes we have in relation to decisions about exports to Saudi Arabia for possible use in the conflict in Yemen.

Brexit

Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon

To ask Her Majesty's Government, whether they will reject any proposals to extend the negotiating period to leave the European Union beyond two years and whether they will use their best endeavours to conclude negotiations sooner than the two year period laid down in Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty. [\[HL412\]](#)

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Government has been clear that we want to have reached an agreement about our future partnership by the time the two year Article 50 process has ended, in March 2019.

Within that time, we will work to secure a deal that works for Britain and for Europe. We are delivering on the result of the referendum and the UK will leave the EU in 2019. While we do not propose to give a running commentary on the negotiations, providing certainty to businesses and individuals is our priority, and we will do so as early as possible where we can.

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government, whether civil servants in the Department of Health are permitted to use the term "hard Brexit" in official briefing papers. [HL421]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Government is committed to seizing the opportunities arising from exiting the European Union, and to ensuring that we exit smoothly on the best possible terms. The terms 'hard' and 'soft' are commonly used outside the Civil Service and within discussions around EU exit.

The role of the Civil Service is to provide impartial advice and to deliver Government policy, and is focused on delivering this Government's commitment to leave the EU and get the very best deal for the United Kingdom.

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government, whether they intend to seek early agreement on a transition period for Brexit. [HL464]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We have been clear that we want to give citizens and business in the UK and the EU, and from around the world, as much certainty as possible, as early as possible. This is why we want to have reached agreement about our future partnership by the end of March 2019. From that point on, we believe a phased period of implementation, during which time both Britain and the EU Institutions and Member States prepare for the new relationship, will help both sides to minimise unnecessary disruption.

Brexit: Females

Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill

To ask Her Majesty's Government, whether they have evaluated the impact of Brexit on women; and if so, whether they will publish that evaluation. [HL443]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: In developing all policy related to EU exit, government departments have an ongoing responsibility to meet the Public Sector Equalities Duty under the Equality Act 2010. As such, any policy changes resulting from EU exit will be reviewed to ascertain whether they give rise to discrimination on grounds of sex, create equality of opportunity for women or the likelihood of discrimination based on sex, and foster good relations between women and men. The Public Sector Equality Duty will also apply in relation to the other protected characteristics.

Bricks: Manufacturing Industries

Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what assessment have they made of the contribution to the economy of the brick industry. [HL365]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Annual Business Survey 2015, published 9 June 2017, showed that the "manufacture of bricks, tiles and construction products, in baked clay" sector in 2015 employed 5,000 people across 125 enterprises, with a turnover of £925million.

Whilst there are no individual statistics on the brick industry other data suggests well over half of this sector is brick manufacture. This represents 0.01% of enterprises and 0.03% of turnover and employment in the non-financial business economy.

Building Regulations

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of (1) enforcement powers relating to compliance with building regulations expiring 12 months, and (2) powers to prosecute breaches of building regulations expiring 24 months, after completing a building, what is their assessment of the effectiveness of (a) Local Authority Building Control, and (b) private Approved Inspectors. [HL372]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: Enforcement powers are only available to local authorities and it is for local authorities to determine when and how to use those powers.

Burma: Rohingya

Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what representations they have made to the government of Burma in support of the efforts of the UN to investigate human rights abuses against the Rohingya people. [HL376]

Baroness Goldie: We have urged both civilian and military ministers in the Government to ensure a restrained security response in Rakhine, allow immediate and unfettered access for humanitarian aid and to conduct an impartial and independent investigation into allegations of human rights violations. Most recently, the Foreign Secretary and other Ministers raised our concerns with State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi during her visit to the UK in May. The Foreign Secretary also raised these issues during his visit to Burma in January. In March this year, the UK co-sponsored the UN Human Rights Council Resolution which established an Independent International Fact Finding Mission to look into the situation in Rakhine State. We urge the Burmese government to cooperate fully with this mission.

Commonwealth: Religious Freedom

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what plans they have to include freedom of religion or belief on the agenda of the 2018 Commonwealth Summit. [HL431]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Government believes that the Commonwealth is a force for good around the world, through its promotion of freedom, democracy, human rights, development and prosperity.

The UK-hosted 2018 Commonwealth Summit will encourage all Commonwealth members to uphold the values set out in the Commonwealth Charter, and this includes freedom of religion and belief. We are currently working on finalising the key themes and agenda for the summit which will include a focus on shared values and the human rights agenda.

Community Development

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government, whether the Community Organisers programme is still in place; if so, (1) to which Government department or agency it is accountable, and (2) in which places it is in operation; if not, when it was brought to a close and on what authority; and for each year in which it has operated, what was the cost. [HL558]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The Community Organisers programme contract ran from 2010-2015. A new Community Organisers Expansion Programme was launched in March 2017 and will run until 2020.

1) The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) contracted the delivery of the Community Organisers Expansion Programme.

2) 20 Social Action Hubs will be appointed across England to train Community Organisers as part of the Expansion Programme. The first 10 hubs have been publicly announced (<http://www.corganisers.org.uk/news/launch-2nd-round-funding>) and the second 10 will be announced later in 2017.

3) The Community Organisers programme costs for 2010 - 2015 are published in the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Accounts which can be found at the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/cabinet-office-annual-reports-and-accounts>. The Community Organisers Expansion programme costs for the financial year 2016/17 will be published by DCMS in mid July 2017 on the Gov.uk website.

Community Housing Fund

Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb

To ask Her Majesty's Government, when they will make a decision on the allocations from the Community Housing Fund for 2017-18. [HL508]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Community Housing Fund was launched on 23 December 2016 to put local groups who know their area's needs best in the driving seat and help them deliver housing that is affordable to the local community. My officials are working up proposals and a decision on how the Fund will be delivered from 2017/18 will be made in due course.

Asked by Baroness Bakewell of Hardington Mandeville

To ask Her Majesty's Government, when they will announce the mechanism for distributing the second year of funding from the Community House Fund; and when they expect the number of houses built by Community Land Trusts and others to increase as a result of that funding. [HL550]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Community Housing Fund was launched on 23 December 2016 to put local groups who know their area's needs best in the driving seat and help them deliver housing that is affordable to the local community. My officials are working up proposals and a decision on how the Fund will be delivered from 2017/18 will be made in due course.

In 2016/17, over 140 local authorities received grants under the Fund for a wide variety of purposes relating to increasing the capacity of the community-led housing sector in their areas as well as directly supporting the delivery of specific community-led housebuilding projects. We anticipate the first completions from schemes supported in this way to come through early next year.

Construction: Regulation

Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what assessment they have made of The EU's Impact on the UK Housing and Construction Industry, produced for the Red Tape Initiative in May 2016, in particular the comment that the Construction Products Regulation (EU 305/2011) is some "red tape folly" which is "expensive and burdensome for small businesses"; and what assessment they have made of the continued validity of that regulation, which aims to harmonise the quality of construction materials across the EU, including external cladding, to make sure that those materials are safe and fit to use. [HL351]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: No assessment has been made of this report.

Contestability in the UK Rail Market Independent Review

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what discussions the Secretary of State for Transport has had with

Network Rail concerning the Hansford Review; and whether they intend to publish that review. [HL329]

Lord Callanan: The Department for Transport has held discussions with Network Rail regarding the Hansford Review. The report is an independent review, commissioned by Network Rail. It will be for Network Rail to decide the appropriate way to publish the findings.

Crimes of Violence: Acids

Asked by Baroness Uddin

To ask Her Majesty's Government, whether acid violence is a recognised term within the criminal justice system; and if so, what is its definition. [HL471]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: There is no recognised term or a specific offence of "acid violence". However, a range of offences are relevant depending on the nature of the violence and the harm caused.

The most serious violence and harm caused by use of acid or other corrosive substances is likely to be subject to section 18 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 causes grievous bodily harm with intent to do so. This carries a maximum life sentence. In addition, someone who has possession of acid or other corrosive substances with an intention to do harm, is likely to be considered to be in possession of an offensive weapon, which is a criminal offence.

Department for Exiting the European Union: Costs

Asked by Lord Adonis

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what are the budgeted running costs of the Department for Exiting the European Union for 2017–18. [HL482]

Asked by Lord Adonis

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what were the running costs for the Department for Exiting the European Union in 2016–17. [HL483]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Department for Exiting the European Union's 2017-18 budget is £101m as published in Main Estimates here: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/609174/Main-Supply-Estimates-2017-2018-web.pdf

The Department's actual running costs for 2016-17 will be published shortly in the Annual Report and Accounts (ARA).

Department for Exiting the European Union: Staff

Asked by Lord Marks of Henley-on-Thames

To ask Her Majesty's Government, how many (1) legally qualified staff, and (2) staff without legal

qualifications, now working in the Department for Exiting the European Union (a) have been transferred from, or (b) are on secondment from, the Ministry of Justice. [HL449]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Department is recruiting the brightest and the best from across the civil service, the wider public sector and the private sector. The Department for Exiting the European Union now has over 450 staff, and is growing fast. The Department for Exiting the European Union obtains its legal advice from the Government Legal Department. We will not be providing a running commentary on particular groups of staff as recruitment is ongoing and numbers are regularly changing. We will ensure we have the right skills to get the best deal for the UK.

Department for International Trade: Recruitment

Asked by Lord Adonis

To ask Her Majesty's Government, how many officials with substantial experience of international trade negotiations have been appointed to the Department for International Trade. [HL312]

Lord Price: The Department for International Trade has a strong and capable trade policy team which has grown significantly since June 2016 (from 45 to over 300 today), and is continuing to grow.

We continue to hire the brightest and best talent from within the UK civil service and externally, in order to build a world class trade policy team that can deliver the best outcomes for the UK.

At this stage, the Department's primary focus is on developing our trade policy positions, international relationships and approach to future trade negotiations to ensure we are in the best position to agree trade deals once we exit the EU.

The Department has recently appointed Crawford Falconer to the role of Chief Trade Negotiation Adviser and Head of Trade Profession. Mr Falconer brings a wealth of global trade expertise from over 25 years of working on trade policy in the New Zealand government, the World Trade Organization and academia.

Deportation: EU Nationals

Asked by Lord Hain

To ask Her Majesty's Government, how many EU nationals have been removed from the UK under Article 14(4)(b) of Directive 2004/38 because (1) they did not satisfy the work requirements, or (2) they were homeless. [HL435]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: I am sorry but the data requested could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Asked by Lord Rosser

To ask Her Majesty's Government, how much lower the EU net migration figure would have been for each of the last five years if EU nationals had been removed from the UK under Article 14(4)(b) of Directive 2004/38 through applying terms of that article in as strict a manner as allowed for under that directive. [HL534]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government does not hold specific data on the number of EU nationals who may not be exercising Treaty rights as a jobseeker at any one time. Therefore the Government has not tried to predict the impact on migration figures in line with the hypothetical scenario described.

Disasters

Asked by Lord Eames

To ask Her Majesty's Government, whether they are planning to extend the remit of the proposed public advocate in cases of public disaster to other areas of bereavement and its consequences. [HL342]

Lord Keen of Elie: We will consult in the autumn on detailed proposals as to the Independent Public Advocate's powers, duties and functions.

Equality

Asked by Baroness McGregor-Smith

To ask Her Majesty's Government, how they intend to ensure that their focus on equalities will continue in the period leading up to Brexit. [HL389]

Lord Nash: The United Kingdom has a proud record of promoting equality and we have some of the strongest laws to prevent and tackle discrimination. In the run up to the United Kingdom exiting the European Union, we will continue to promote and champion the equal rights we believe in and ensure the necessary legal protections are maintained.

EU Countries: National Services

Asked by Lord Kilclooney

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what assessment they have made of which other 27 Member States in the European Union have conscription into their military forces. [HL375]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: No assessment has been made of which other 27 Member States in the European Union have conscription into their military forces.

EU Exit Business Advisory Group

Asked by Lord Kinnock

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what arrangements they have made to ensure that the advice

given by the newly established EU Exit business advisory group will be taken and acted upon. [HL377]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: Now that negotiations are underway, Her Majesty's Government needs to intensify its engagement with UK business to ensure a smooth and orderly exit from the EU. We will bring forward a Business Advisory Group on EU exit in order to canvass a variety of views from across the business community. We will reach a successful outcome by drawing on the expertise of these organisations and working with them to test and validate positions as we prepare to leave the EU.

EU Justice and Home Affairs

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government, whether they intend the UK to be a party to the Prüm Convention after leaving the EU. [HL571]

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what assessment they have made of (1) the UK's interaction with Eurojust, and (2) common EU crime and security measures, after leaving the EU. [HL572]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Prime Minister has made clear that one of the twelve objectives for the negotiations ahead will be to establish a new relationship with the European Union that includes practical arrangements on matters of law enforcement cooperation to tackle cross-border crime and to keep our people safe.

We continue to work closely with EU partners and we are examining the options for future cooperation on measures such as Eurojust and the Prüm Council Decisions once the UK has left the EU but it is too early to speculate at this stage what future arrangements may look like.

European Aviation Safety Agency

Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what is their assessment of the benefits and costs to the UK of membership of the European Aviation Safety Agency. [HL629]

Lord Callanan: The Government is considering carefully all the potential implications arising from the UK's exit from the EU, including the implications for the continued participation in the European Aviation Safety Agency system.

As part of the exit negotiations the Government will discuss with the EU and member states how best to continue cooperation in the field of aviation safety and standards.

Families: Disadvantaged

Asked by Lord Farmer

To ask Her Majesty's Government, whether it is their policy to continue with the plans to address parental conflict in workless families set out in *Improving Lives: Helping Workless Families*, published in April. [HL601]

Baroness Buscombe: *Improving Lives: Helping Workless Families* set out our plans to tackle the root causes of disadvantage, with a focus on workless families. As part of this approach, we announced an innovative new programme of support to help parents, whether they are together or separated, to reduce conflict. This is based on the most recent evidence, which tells us that children who are exposed to frequent, intense and poorly resolved conflict are at risk of experiencing poorer long term outcomes. Plans are currently underway to develop this support, and more details of this will be announced in due course.

Female Genital Mutilation

Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what is their action plan to tackle female genital mutilation; and what assessment they have made of the success of that plan to date. [HL445]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a crime and it is child abuse. We will not tolerate a practice that can cause extreme and lifelong physical and psychological suffering to women and girls. That is why our work to end this practice is an integral part of the cross-Government Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy, which is backed by increased funding of £100M.

We have significantly strengthened the law, including introducing a new offence of failing to protect a girl from FGM, lifelong anonymity for victims, and a mandatory reporting duty requiring specified professionals to report known cases in under 18s to the police. We have also introduced FGM Protection Orders to protect women and girls at the earliest opportunity. These are already being used to good effect - since their introduction in July 2015, over 100 orders have been made.

Raising awareness amongst frontline professionals is essential. That is why in April 2016 we published multi-agency guidance on FGM, which is statutory for the first time, and have developed free e-learning which has been completed by over 100,000 individuals to date. The Home Office's FGM Unit is carrying out awareness raising outreach across the UK. These tools are helping increase awareness, encourage good practice, and support training.

Significant work is under way to improve the response from health and social care professionals. The Department of Health, in partnership with the NHS, is leading a £4m national FGM Prevention Programme, and as part of the Department for Education's £200m Children's Social

Care Innovation Programme a range of projects have been funded. DfE have also invested £375,000 to raise awareness amongst school staff and pupils.

Fire Resistant Materials

Asked by The Countess of Mar

To ask Her Majesty's Government, why products are not required to carry labels which indicate exactly what flame retardant materials they contain, including those materials which were permitted at the time of production but have since been banned, in order to (1) enable people to avoid those products if they so wish, and (2) ensure that people are aware that it may not be possible to recycle or sell on those products. [HL391]

Lord Prior of Brampton: Product safety legislation requires products to be safe when they are placed on the market. It does not specifically require products to be labelled with information about fire retardant material used in the products.

The Government is currently reviewing the Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988. One of the proposals under consideration is specific labelling to show the presence of fire retardant chemicals to help inform consumers and to aid consumer choice. A consultation on this issue was held in late 2016. The responses to the consultation will help to inform our decisions on this question and will be included in the Government response, to be issued in due course.

Free Schools: Closures

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government, how many free schools have closed, or are planning to close; and who bears the costs of any outstanding capital or revenue debts. [HL708]

Lord Nash: There are currently 346 free schools open. Since 2010, six free schools have closed and two closures are planned for summer 2017. The primary objective of the Department when making a decision to close a school is to ensure the best possible educational outcomes for pupils and to secure value for money for the taxpayer. The Department would expect the responsible body to meet any outstanding costs or debts. Where this is not possible, the Department would consider providing financial support if reasonable to do so.

Games

Asked by Lord Harrison

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what assessment they have made of the benefit of playing chess and bridge for (1) older people, (2) those with mental health problems and (3) children. [HL562]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Government has made no assessment of the benefit of playing chess and bridge for

older people, those with mental health problems or children.

Garden Bridge

Asked by Lord Macpherson of Earl's Court

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what assessment they have made of plans for a Garden Bridge in London. [HL390]

Lord Callanan: The Department for Transport was provided with a business case for a garden bridge in London in 2014. The business case was assessed in accordance with normal Departmental procedures.

It is a matter for the Garden Bridge Trust to manage the project going forward.

General Practitioners: Insurance

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what assessment they have made of the impact of the rise in indemnity costs, resulting from the change in the discount rate on personal injury payouts, on the incentives for doctors to practise in general practice. [HL613]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Department is aware that the rising cost of indemnity is an area of concern for general practitioners (GPs).

In July 2016 NHS England published a GP Indemnity review which gathered evidence from GPs about the impact on rising costs of indemnity, which found that:

- 95% of GPs surveyed have experienced a rise in their indemnity costs in the recent years;

- four fifths of GPs responded that they had been deterred in some way from taking certain types of clinical sessions due to the rise in their indemnity costs; and

- GPs told us that that if indemnity costs continue to rise at recent rates, this may act as a break on the willingness of GPs to join the profession, to remain in the profession, or to increase their workload.

In recognition of the rising costs of indemnity, NHS England put an extra £30 million in to the GP contract in March 2017 to cover indemnity-related inflation for GPs from 2016-17. A further sum of approximately £30 million will be made available for April 2018.

The change in the personal injury discount rate announced by the former Lord Chancellor (Elizabeth Truss MP) in February 2017 has significantly increased the cost of claims. The Department is working closely with GPs and Medical Defence Organisations to ensure that appropriate funding is available to meet additional costs to GPs, recognising the crucial role they play in the delivery of National Health Service care.

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government, whether they plan to provide financial support to general practitioners to meet the increase in indemnity costs as a result of the

change to the discount rate on personal injury payouts. [HL614]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The cost of indemnity to general practitioners (GPs) is already recognised as a business expense, and reflected in the sums received by GP practices via the GP contract. In recognition of the rising costs of indemnity, NHS England put an extra £30 million in to the GP contract in March 2017 to cover indemnity-related inflation for GP's from 2016-17. A further sum of approximately £30 million will be made available for April 2018.

The change in the personal injury discount rate announced by the former Lord Chancellor (Elizabeth Truss MP) in February 2017 has significantly increased the cost of claims. The Department is working closely with GPs and Medical Defence Organisations to ensure that appropriate funding is available to meet additional costs to GPs, recognising the crucial role they play in the delivery of National Health Service care.

Grenfell Tower

Asked by Baroness Prosser

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what assessment they have made of which percentage of the residents of Grenfell Tower were (1) direct tenants of the local authority, (2) tenants of private landlords, and (3) owner-occupiers; and on what basis were the costs of repairs and improvements shared amongst the different categories of resident. [HL198]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: This information is not held by the Department.

Hepatitis

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government, how many people commenced treatment for hepatitis C in the financial year 2016-17 broken down by operational delivery network area. [HL530]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The following table shows the number of people who commenced treatment in the financial year 2016-17 broken down by operational delivery network (ODN) area. The data has been collected by NHS England and was previously unpublished.

Network(ODN)	Actual
Barts	494
Birmingham	748
Bristol and Severn Hep C ODN	326
Cheshire and Merseyside	347
Eastern Hepatitis Network	586
Greater Manchester and Eastern Cheshire	687

<i>Network(ODN)</i>	<i>Actual</i>
Humberside and North Yorkshire	377
Kent Network via Kings	154
Lancashire and South Cumbria	330
Leicester	255
North Central London Viral Hepatitis Network	730
North East and Cumbria	395
Nottingham	383
South Thames Hepatitis Network	870
South Yorkshire	340
Surrey Hepatitis Services	154
Sussex Hepatology Network	241
SW Peninsula Hepatitis C ODN	328
Thames Valley Hep C ODN	347
Wessex Hep C ODN	341
West London	562
West Yorkshire	445
Total	9,440

Hilda Murrell

Asked by Lord Rooker

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Taylor of Holbeach on 4 August 2014 (HL938), whether the file relating to Hilda Murrell referred to as being from 1993, and due for review in 2017 in respect of transfer to the National Archives, has yet been reviewed; and, if so, with what outcome. [HL641]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The file has not yet been examined, but is scheduled for review over the summer.

Housing: Construction

Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what is their estimate of the proportion of raw materials in the UK house building industry that is sourced in the UK. [HL366]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Office of National Statistics, UK input output analytical tables, shows 86% of goods and services consumed in the construction industry are UK sourced.

We do not hold any specific statistical data that contains only the proportion of raw material used in house building that are sourced from within the UK.

Human Rights

Asked by Lord Laird

To ask Her Majesty's Government, whether all government funded bodies are required to comply with the European Convention on Human Rights, and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe guidelines on human rights, and if so who monitors their compliance. [HL378]

Lord Keen of Elie: Under international law, the United Kingdom has undertaken to comply with the European Convention on Human Rights. The Human Rights Act 1998 gives further effect in domestic law to certain rights and freedoms drawn from the Convention, called the Convention rights. Section 6(1) of the Act makes it unlawful for a public authority to act in a way which is incompatible with a Convention right. Under section 6(3), "public authority" is defined as including a court or tribunal, and "any person certain of whose function are functions of a public nature"; but does not include either House of Parliament or a person exercising functions in connection with proceedings in Parliament. Section 73(2) of the Care Act 2011 additionally specifies that a provider of regulated care and support that has been arranged or paid for by a local authority or Health and Social Care trust is also to be taken as exercising a function of a public nature for the purposes of the Human Rights Act. Any allegation that a public authority has acted incompatibly with a Convention right may be brought to court as specified in section 7 of the Act.

Guidelines produced by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe are not legally binding.

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what action they are taking to strengthen international agreement on the protection of human rights; and what policies they are pursuing to strengthen the UN Human Rights Council. [HL437]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Government strongly supports the Human Rights Council (HRC), the High Commissioner for Human Rights (HCHR) and his Office in promoting and protecting human rights worldwide. This introductory support was underlined during a recent call I had in my capacity as the UK's Human Rights Minister with the HCHR. The UK supports reform aimed at ensuring HRC membership elections are competitive, as well as efforts to increase the capacity of small states to engage with the Council and its mechanisms.

Indonesia: Blasphemy

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what representations they have made to the government of Indonesia that Indonesia's blasphemy laws will not be applied in a discriminatory manner, including against

those who do not practise one of the six religions recognised under Indonesian law. [HL337]

Baroness Goldie: We raise these issues regularly and appropriately with the Indonesian government. We supported the EU statement, issued following the conviction of the former governor of Jakarta, Basuki Tjahaja Purnama (known as 'Ahok') on blasphemy charges. This called on the Indonesian government, its institutions and its people to continue the long standing tradition of tolerance and pluralism in Indonesia and stated that laws criminalising blasphemy when applied in a discriminatory manner can have a serious inhibiting effect on freedom of expression and freedom of religion. Our Ambassador to Indonesia also publicly expressed concern about the blasphemy verdict against 'Ahok' on social media. More generally, and in meetings with political and religious leaders, the Ambassador and Embassy officials have actively cautioned against mixing issues of race, ethnicity and religion with politics.

In addition, we are also supporting the Indonesian parliament in their ongoing revision of the Indonesian Penal Code to encourage respect for human rights, including freedom of religion.

Indonesia: Radicalism

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what steps they are taking to assist the government of Indonesia in strengthening Indonesia's resilience to violent extremism. [HL338]

Baroness Goldie: The British Government has provided resilience assistance to the Indonesian government since the appalling terrorist attacks in Bali in 2002. Since then, the UK has supported Indonesian efforts to improve its capabilities in disrupting terrorist activity in Indonesia, particularly through the work of the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC) which provides training to law enforcement officials and enables sharing of UK expertise. We remain concerned by current trends in violent extremism in Indonesia, including terrorist attacks such as in central Jakarta in January 2016. We are supporting work to increase community resilience to extremism as well as continuing efforts with the Indonesian authorities to counter violent extremism. This includes support for legal reform as well as the promotion of human rights.

Infrastructure: Ownership

Asked by Lord Truscott

To ask Her Majesty's Government, how they plan to ensure that critical national infrastructure is protected to safeguard national security post-Brexit. [HL300]

Lord Young of Cookham: The security and resilience of UK Critical National Infrastructure (CNI) is a key priority for the Government. The 2015 National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review said that the Government will work with infrastructure owners

and operators to mitigate risks to our CNI, and committed Government to ensure the right regulatory framework is in place to ensure our CNI is resilient to future threats.

Along with Lead Government Departments, the Cabinet Office is reviewing the resilience implications of leaving the EU. This will involve close collaboration with the Department for Exiting the European Union, which is working with all departments to ensure our preparations for exit are on track.

Matters of national security are often handled bilaterally, and we do not anticipate this changing after leaving the European Union. We will continue to strengthen and grow our close relationships with the CNI community in Ireland and across Europe, as well as our partners in NATO.

Each year the Government publishes a short public summary of the detailed plans being taken forward by Lead Departments to tackle threats to critical infrastructure. The 2016 summary can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/568546/sector_security_resilience_plans_14_11_2016.pdf

Knives: Crime

Asked by Lord Ouseley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what priority they attach to reducing the increasing levels of knife crime; and when they intend to restore spending levels for youth services to assist local initiatives in this area. [HL402]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Tackling knife crime is a priority for the Government. Our Modern Crime Prevention Strategy published in March 2016 set out a range of measures to strengthen our response to knife crime. Our work to tackle knife crime is centred on four key strands – working with the police on operations and enforcement, work on legislative framework, work with retailers on responsible sales, and early intervention and prevention.

We are taking firm action including encouraging police forces to undertake a series of coordinated national weeks of action to tackle knife crime under Operation Sceptre. The operation includes targeting habitual knife carriers, weapon sweeps, test purchases of knives from identified retailers, and the use of surrender bins. The Home Office hosted a national briefing event for police forces on Operation Sceptre on 14 June and a record twenty nine police forces are expected to be involved in the next week of action planned for mid July.

Local authorities are responsible for assessing need for youth services and allocating funding. The Government is supporting local authorities and the youth sector by investing to help youth organisations demonstrate their impact. The Government is investing in the National Citizen Service, investing up to £80 million through the '# iwill' social action campaign and 'Youth Investment Funds' to help young people develop skills, improve their

wellbeing and contribute to their communities. The Government is also investing in the 'Delivering Differently for Young People' programme, which helped local authorities develop new models for delivering on their statutory duty to provide positive activities for young people.

Kosovo: Roma

Asked by Baroness Whitaker

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what representations they have made to the government of Kosovo concerning amelioration of the situation of the Kosovo Roma, following the June 2016 report of the United Nations Human Rights Advisory Panel. [HL255]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are working with the Government of Kosovo on issues of minority rights including amongst the Roma community. Our Embassy in Pristina is supporting the return of displaced families from all communities – including the return of three Roma families who, by the end of this Financial Year, should be housed and in receipt of support packages.

Asked by Baroness Whitaker

To ask Her Majesty's Government, how they intend to call the United Nations to account for the alleged violations of human rights law by the United Nations Mission in Kosovo in respect of the Kosovo Roma, as set out in the June 2016 report of the United Nations Human Rights Advisory Panel. [HL257]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Government discusses issues relating to Kosovo and minority rights at the UN, and with international partners, on a regular basis. As part of the Government's support for UN reform, we want to ensure that there are robust systems in place to deal with such complaints. The UK hosted the UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial in London in September 2016, which called for improvements in the '3Ps' of peacekeeping; better planning, pledges and performance, and specifically that all UN personnel deployed in UN peacekeeping operations be committed to the highest standards of conduct.

Local Government: Pay

Asked by Lord Beecham

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what assessment they have made of the financial impact on local authorities of the imposition of a one per cent pay cap. [HL592]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: While local government is not covered by public sector pay policy which is set by HM Treasury, it will, of course, have regard for it.

Local government pay matters are devolved and it is for local authorities as independent employers and locally

elected bodies to make these decisions within the limits of what is affordable.

Mental Health Services

Asked by Lord Cotter

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what assessment they have made of the extent to which parity of esteem between the treatment of mental health and physical health is applied across the NHS. [HL556]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Government set out parity of esteem in physical and mental health in law in the Health and Social Care Act 2012. The Government also set up the first waiting times for mental health – to improve access to psychological therapies and early intervention in psychosis, we have also introduced a waiting time for General Practitioners, reflecting commitments which had existed in physical health for some time. The Government further retained this commitment by welcoming the independent Mental Health Taskforce's *Five Year Forward View for Mental Health* report in February 2016. The report set out a strategy for change in four key areas to drive forward improvements in mental health: promoting good mental health and helping people lead the lives they want to live, integrating care, creating a seven-day National Health Service for mental health and hard-wiring mental health across health and social care. The Government accepted all the report's recommendations in January 2017 and published a detailed action plan for taking forward the recommendations, including how we will monitor progress and report transparently. NHS England's implementation plan for the Five Year Forward View, published in July 2016, also set out a robust plan for delivering the commitments set out in the *Five Year Forward View for Mental Health*.

Mental Health Services: Nurses

Asked by Lord Bradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what assessment they have made of the age profile of mental health nurses employed by the NHS in England in each of the last ten years. [HL425]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: NHS Digital publishes workforce statistics and the attached table shows the age profile of mental health nurses in the National Health Service in England at 30 September 2007 to 2016. Data for March 2017 is also provided as this is the latest available.

The data is headcount because equality data relates to individuals.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Age profile of mental health nurses [HL425 table formatted.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-07-04/HL425>

Mental Health Services: Young People

Asked by Lord Eames

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what action they are taking to improve mental health services for young people. [HL339]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: We are making an additional £1.4 billion available up until 2020/21 to improve the provision of children and young people's mental health services, including £150 million specifically to tackle eating disorders.

This funding is delivering a major system-wide transformation programme to improve access and make services more widely available across the country, and implementing the vision set out in *Future in Mind*. To this end all clinical commissioning groups working with their partners, developed transformation plans for children's and young people's mental health in 2015/16, incorporating them last year into their wider NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plans. These set out how local agencies are working together to improve children and young people's mental health across the full spectrum of need.

Later this year, the Government will publish a Green Paper on children and young people's mental health focused on helping young people receive the best start in life. The Green Paper will have two core themes: preventing mental ill-health and ensuring better access to services.

Motor Sports: Wales

Asked by Lord Lansley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, when, and in what terms, they advised the Welsh Government about the public sector financial implications and accounting treatment of the Circuit of Wales project's proposed guarantee. [HL379]

Viscount Younger of Leckie: We discuss matters of economic and financial importance to Wales with the Welsh Government on a regular basis. However, we are clear that any support for this project is for the Welsh Government to determine.

Overseas Trade: Arab States

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, whether they intend to ensure that trade negotiations with Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia are not adversely affected by the UK's negotiations for leaving the EU. [HL356]

Lord Price: As the Prime Minister has said, we want to build a truly Global Britain that is one of the firmest advocates for free trade anywhere in the world. Whilst the UK is a member of the EU, we will continue to press for and support an ambitious EU trade agenda. This includes the various EU trade initiatives with Jordan, Morocco and

Tunisia. We are also considering our future trading relationships with all of our partners as we prepare to leave the EU.

Overseas Trade: Tunisia

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, whether they plan to arrange for duty-free entry into the UK of olive-oil and phosphates from Tunisia. [HL357]

Lord Price: The Government is actively considering a range of options for its future trade policy once we leave the EU. In particular, we are seeking to pursue a strategy that will not only maximise benefits to the UK economy, but also ensure as smooth a transition as possible.

Patients: Telephones

Asked by Lord Cotter

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what action they will take in response to claims that hospital patients are paying 50p a minute to make telephone calls. [HL555]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Department is not party to the contracts made with any of the companies that provide the bedside telephone service to patients and it has not made an assessment of the contingency arrangements National Health Service trusts have in place, should their service provider be unable to fulfil its contractual obligations. Therefore it has no authority to impose any price changes on the suppliers of the services.

Patients can use their mobile phones as an alternative in specified areas of the hospital and payphones should be available as an alternative.

It is the responsibility of the NHS trust to consider contingency arrangements, should it wish to continue to provide this service to its patients. The telephone company contracts are made between individual NHS trusts and their chosen suppliers. Trusts do, in fact, have the ability to renegotiate their terms.

The bedside telephone is an additional service to that which existed in the past so alternatives already exist in hospitals. It is still possible for relatives and friends to contact a hospital via its main switchboard, and then be transferred to the nurses' station on a ward to enquire about their relative's health, as they have always been able to do in the past.

Police and Crime Commissioners

Asked by Lord Wigley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what discussions they have held with police commissioners about the adequacy of available resources for those commissioners to fulfil their role and duties. [HL478]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Home Office Ministers have met with a number of senior police leaders

since the General Election on a wide range of issues including resources.

We have protected overall police spending and Counter-Terrorism policing in real terms since Spending Review 2015. Every Police & Crime Commissioner who maximised their local precept income in 2016-17 and 2017-18 is receiving at least the same direct resource funding in cash than they received in 2015-16.

We have a constructive and ongoing dialogue with policing about ensuring that the right powers, capabilities and resources are in place to keep the public safe.

Radicalism

Asked by Baroness Helic

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Statement by Baroness Williams of Trafford on extremism (HLWS40), whether they plan to share with other countries the internal review into the nature, scale and origin of the funding of Islamist extremist activity in the UK. [HL825]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government laid a Written Ministerial Statement in both Houses on Wednesday 12 July, which conveyed the main findings of the Government's review into the funding for Islamist extremist activity in the UK.

The statement confirms that the Government will continue to raise issues of concern through our bilateral relationships where there is evidence of support for extremism in the UK. The Charity Commission will also be introducing a requirement on charities to declare overseas sources of funding to increase transparency in this area.

The Government's Counter-Extremism Strategy sets out its commitment to tackling extremism in all its forms, including engaging internationally to support our efforts to defeat extremism in the UK. This includes countering the flow of extremism to the UK, whether money, people or ideology; building international partnerships with all those opposed to extremism; and disrupting extremists from entering the UK. The Government engages with a wide range of international partners on extremism issues, including through the United Nation's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism and the United Nation's Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Railways

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, whether they will consult the rail industry on all proposed changes relating to the rail sector, prior to introducing any legislation to implement any such changes in connection with Brexit. [HL330]

Lord Callanan: We understand the rail industry's need for certainty as the UK prepares to exit the European Union. We have had constructive engagement with the

industry so far. We will continue this engagement and will continue to consider rail industry views as the Government takes forward legislation under the Repeal Bill, and any future proposals for policy change in connection with our withdrawal from the EU.

Railways: Freight

Asked by Lord Bradshaw

To ask Her Majesty's Government, whether they are satisfied that, in considering applications from open access operators, adequate provisions are made for the plans of the rail freight sector. [HL333]

Lord Callanan: The independent regulator, the Office of Rail and Road (ORR), must decide whether to grant access to the rail network for all operators with reference to its statutory duties. A number of these duties require the ORR to promote and protect the interests of rail freight companies and users of their services, as well as potential future users of these services. As part of making its decision on an application the ORR consults interested parties, including freight operators.

Refugees: Iraq

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government, how many Iraqi refugees they have resettled since 2014 under (1) the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS), and (2) other global resettlement schemes such as Gateway and Mandate. [HL410]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office is committed to publishing data in an orderly way as part of the regular quarterly Immigration Statistics, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The Government has committed to resettling to the UK up to 3,000 individuals under the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS). Data on the number of people who have been resettled under this scheme will be published in future releases of the Home Office's immigration quarterly statistics. Latest statistics published on 25 May confirmed that a total of 360 Iraqis have been resettled to the UK under the Gateway scheme, and 18 under the Mandate scheme, during the period 1 January 2014 until 31 March 2017.

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what estimate they have made of the number of Iraqi refugees that have fled Daesh in Syria who are now eligible for resettlement under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. [HL703]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The extended scope of the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme will make it accessible to the most vulnerable refugees in the Middle East and North Africa region who have fled the Syrian conflict, regardless of their nationality. This

may include Iraqi refugees, if they are genuine refugees and cannot seek the protection of their country of origin.

There is no current estimate on the number Iraqi refugees that are now eligible. We will continue to rely on UNHCR to identify and refer the most vulnerable refugees.

Refugees: North Africa

Asked by The Earl of Sandwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government, how many refugees from North Africa have been rescued and taken to Italian ports by UK vessels so far this year; and what assessment they have made of reports that the Italian Government is considering blocking humanitarian ships flying foreign flags from returning to Italian ports. [HL277]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Since May 2015, UK naval and Border Force assets have rescued over 15,000 people in the Central Mediterranean region. They are taken to ports in Italy where the Italian authorities are responsible for assessing who are eligible for refugee status. Along with other EU Member States, we await further details from the Italian government about any reported changes to this arrangement.

Religious Hatred: Islam

Asked by Lord Ahmed

To ask Her Majesty's Government, whether they have registered an increase in the number of attacks on the British Muslim community. [HL315]

Asked by Lord Ahmed

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what advice they have given to the police in relation to attacks on people perceived to be Muslims and from ethnic minorities. [HL318]

Asked by Lord Ahmed

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of an increase in the number of attacks on Muslims in the UK in 2017, whether additional resources have been directed towards preventing and responding to such attacks; and if not, why not. [HL319]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: We condemn any attacks against people on the grounds of race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or transgender identity. Where a crime is motivated by race or religion it will be treated as a hate crime and the perpetrator will receive a higher sentence. The police now record religiously based hate crimes by faith. The figures for hate crime in 16/17 will be published in October.

The Government is committed to tackling hate crime and we have in place a comprehensive Hate Crime Action Plan to drive forward action against such crimes. The action plan includes additional funding for projects to tackle hate crime at local level and to protect places of

worship from hate crime. A further £1M to protect places of worship and religiously based community centres that are vulnerable to attack was announced on 22 June.

Asked by Lord Ahmed

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what assessment they have made of recent acid attacks on Muslims in England and what advice they have provided to the police in relation to these attacks. [HL316]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Attacks on people involving acids or other corrosives are a serious matter that can result in huge distress and life changing injuries. We are working with the National Police Chiefs' Council lead to better understand the nature and scale of these crimes. On 4 July we hosted a joint event bringing together a range of partners including police, retailers, health professionals, relevant departments and agencies to agree what further action can be taken to prevent these kinds of attacks.

Rivers: Contamination

Asked by Lord Tebbit

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the findings of Professor Tyler of Exeter University relating to transgender fish in rivers affected by residues of contraceptive pills, what action they intend to take to avoid health risks to humans. [HL469]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The class of substances known as Endocrine disruptors (EDCs) which include oestrogens found in contraceptive pills are a hazard to some wildlife. While it is correct that EDCs are a recognised environmental issue, which continues to be researched with a view to the protection of wildlife, EDCs do not pose a threat to drinking water supplies as drinking water treatment facilities will remove oestrogens, if they were to occur in river water.

The Environment Agency is currently commissioning work to survey the incidence and severity of intersex in wild fish in a number of rivers that were surveyed 15 years ago, to assess how the situation may have changed.

Saudi Arabia: Arms Trade

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what assessment they have made of the extent to which the supply of weapons from the UK to Saudi-Arabia, some of which have been used in the Yemen, complies with the UK's obligations under the Arms Trade Treaty for a risk-based assessment of end-use. [HL358]

Lord Price: All export licences are considered on a case by case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria, known as the Consolidated Criteria. This was set out in the Secretary of State's statement to the House of Commons on Monday 10 July following the High Court's judgment dismissing the claim for judicial review brought by the Campaign

Against Arms Trade (HC Deb 10 July 2017, Vol 627, Col 46).

The Consolidated Criteria are fully compliant with the UK's obligations under the Arms Trade Treaty.

Sentinel Aircraft

Asked by Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government, whether they intend to make cuts to the RAF Sentinel R1 fleet before 2021; and what assessment they have made of the impact of any such cuts upon the UK's surveillance and terrain mapping ability, particularly within the context of the UK's NATO commitments. [HL514]

Earl Howe: The original out of service date for the Sentinel fleet has been extended from 2018 to 2021. The UK will continue to provide NATO with high-end capability where required to by the Alliance. We remain actively engaged in understanding and responding to NATO's evolving future capability requirements, incorporating these into national plans.

Slavery: Victim Support Schemes

Asked by Lord Eames

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what plans they have to address the need for long-term support for victims of modern slavery in the UK, to assist in their recovery. [HL343]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Potential victims of modern slavery in the UK are entitled to at least 45 days of support, and in the majority of cases support is provided for much longer than 45 days. This specialist support is provided to all potential victims who receive a positive 'reasonable grounds' decisions through a victim care contract with The Salvation Army.

If an individual is then confirmed to be a victim they will receive support for a further 14 days. During this time support providers will work with the victim to implement a tailored plan on how they can move on safely to integrate into UK society or to return to their home country if it is safe for them to do so.

The government is reviewing the support it provides to victims as part of wider reforms to the National Referral Mechanism.

Students: Fees and Charges

Asked by Lord Adonis

To ask Her Majesty's Government, whether, in the past 12 months, they, or their agencies, have advised any university, or universities, that proposed fee levels were unacceptably high; and if so, what that advice was. [HL311]

Viscount Younger of Leckie: The government does not assess the fees of individual institutions. It sets

maximum fees for eligible students in legislation. Only those institutions with an access agreement in place for widening participation with the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) can charge fees up to a highest cap.

Terrorism: Finance

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government, whether the inquiry into, and report on, foreign funding and support for jihadi groups in the UK has been completed; if not, when it will be completed; how much it has cost so far; and whether they intend to publish it, and if so, when. [HL557]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government's review of funding for Islamist extremism in the UK reported to the Home Secretary and Prime Minister in 2016. It has improved the Government's understanding of the nature, scale and sources of funding for Islamist extremism in the UK. The review was carried out by the Home Office at no extra cost to the Department.

The Government updated Parliament on the review's main findings on Wednesday 12 July 2017.

Turkey: Christianity

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, whether the UK embassy in Ankara has made any contacts with the Mor Gabriel Monastery Foundation in relation to the government of Turkey's seizure of Christian properties. [HL327]

Baroness Goldie: Our Embassy in Ankara has not been in contact with the Mor Gabriel Monastery Foundation. Legal changes to local government structures in Mardin, where many important Assyrian religious sites are found, resulted in 2012 in the transfer of the title deeds to some religious sites from local bodies to central government. They were eventually transferred to the Government's Directorate for Religious Affairs. Assyrian organisations are making legal appeals against these decisions. The British Embassy in Ankara regularly raises human rights issues with the Turkish authorities and will be closely following this legal process.

Turkey: Religious Freedom

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, when was the last time that FCO Ministers discussed religious persecution in Turkey, in particular the persecution of religious minorities, with Turkish officials; and at what level did these discussions take place. [HL326]

Baroness Goldie: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers hold regular discussions with their Turkish counterparts on human rights matters. We strongly support religious freedom in Turkey and are supporting a civil society project that addresses hate speech towards

religious minorities. We will continue to raise these important subjects with the Turkish authorities.

UK Border Force: Northern Ireland

Asked by Lord Eames

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what is the numerical strength of the Border Force in Northern Ireland; and whether they have plans to increase that strength in the near future. [\[HL341\]](#)

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 a regular basis as part of the wider Border Force business planning process which is led by the Director General of Border Force.

UK Trade with EU

Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill

To ask Her Majesty's Government, whether they intend that UK exporters will continue to have access to the Excise, Movement and Control System following Brexit; and if not, what system they intend to introduce to replace it. [\[HL384\]](#)

Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill

To ask Her Majesty's Government, whether they have evaluated the potential effects on small businesses of losing access to the Excise, Movement and Control System. [\[HL385\]](#)

Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill

To ask Her Majesty's Government, whether they have evaluated the potential impact on small businesses of losing access to the Excise, Movement and Control System. [\[HL386\]](#)

Lord Bates: As negotiations on the terms of the UK's exit from and future relationship with the EU have only just begun, no decisions or evaluations have been made about the continuing use of the Excise Movement and Control System (EMCS).

HMRC are engaging closely with UK businesses and will consider any concerns they raise.

Ukraine: Travellers

Asked by Baroness Whitaker

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what representations they have made to the government of Ukraine about (1) investigating the burning down of the Roma camp at 2 Kanalna Street, Kyiv on 5 April, and

(2) the return and integration of the Roma residents. [\[HL256\]](#)

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are aware of reports of predominantly Roma settlements in Kyiv being destroyed and inhabitants evicted on 30 March and 5 April, we are not aware of reports of what efforts have been made to re-home those affected. We will investigate further and raise these incidents and what has been done to re-home and reintegrate those affected back in to their local communities with the authorities in Kyiv. I shall write to update you as this progresses.

UN Security Council

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what are their priorities for working together with other world leaders in relation to the role of the UN Security Council. [\[HL360\]](#)

Baroness Goldie: As a permanent member of the Security Council, the Government routinely engages with world leaders on the top issues at the Council's agenda, such as Syria, DPRK, Somalia and peacekeeping. One such opportunity is the UN General Assembly Ministerial week, every September. The Government has also been working with the new UN Secretary-General on his priorities, since he took up the role on 1 January. One of these priorities is UN reform, to build a more effective and efficient UN.

UNESCO

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what role they are seeking for UNESCO in the battle for hearts and minds, in the cause of defeating terrorism and building world security. [\[HL359\]](#)

Lord Bates: UNESCO's mandate is to coordinate international cooperation in education, science, culture and communication to strengthen ties between nations and societies, including freedom of expression, universal respect for human rights and global citizenship. It is committed to developing more inclusive and prosperous societies, which are also more resilient to the poisonous ideologies of extremism. UNESCO has delivered some good work in the area of education and extremism, including a useful Teacher's Guide on Preventing Violent Extremism. We will be pushing UNESCO to ensure its advice is informed by evidence and that any activities they implement in this area are rigorously evaluated to assess what works.

Universities: Pay

Asked by Lord Adonis

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what advice they, or their agencies, give to universities on the appropriate remuneration of vice-chancellors. [\[HL309\]](#)

Viscount Younger of Leckie: Universities are autonomous bodies and it is for them to determine pay arrangements for their staff. However, the Government, in the 2017/18 Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) grant letter stated:

“The Government is clear that efficiency includes demonstrating restraint in senior pay and remains concerned about the substantial upwards drift in salaries of some top management. We would like to see senior leaders in the sector exercise more pay restraint.”

Jo Johnson, the Minister for Universities and Science, has continued to call on the sector to show restraint in Vice Chancellors' pay and for the sector to demonstrate more leadership especially at a time when students are concerned about value for money.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Asked by Lord Stevens of Kirkwhelpington

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what action they are taking regarding restrictions on drones, particularly in controlled airspace, in the light of the closure of the runway at Gatwick Airport in July. [[HL645](#)]

Lord Callanan: Regulations are already in place prohibiting the misuse of drones and offences exist in order to deter and, if necessary, prosecute operators for malicious or negligent use. Under the Air Navigation Order 2016, it is an offence to endanger an aircraft and if convicted, a person can face a prison sentence of up to 5 years.

The Government takes the safety risks of drones to aviation very seriously. We have already taken action on this by working with the Civil Aviation Authority and industry to raise awareness of the rules amongst drone operators and the general public. The Government intends to introduce further measures once we have fully analysed the evidence presented through our consultation process. We are exploring options, such as improving deterrents for the misuse of drones and measures to improve communication to drone users of 'no drone flying zones'. The Government response to the consultation will be published in the near future.

Welsh Government

Asked by Lord Wigley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, whether they will review the rules relating to the lending and investment powers of the government of Wales; and whether HM Treasury intervened in relation to the Circuit of Wales Project at Ebbw Vale. [[HL544](#)]

Viscount Younger of Leckie: The Government agreed a new fiscal framework for the Welsh Government in December 2016 including increasing the Welsh Government's overall capital borrowing limit to £1bn, which came into effect in March this year.

We discuss matters of economic and financial importance to Wales with the Welsh Government on a regular basis. However, we are clear that any support for this project is for the Welsh Government to determine.

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