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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

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<i>Minister</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
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

Wednesday, 19 July 2017

Animal Health

[HLWS75]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: My Hon Friend the Minister of State (George Eustice) has today made the following statement.

Today I am updating the House on the implementation of the Government's 25-year strategy to eradicate bovine TB (bTB) in England.

The Government's comprehensive bTB strategy includes one of the most rigorous cattle surveillance programmes in the world, strong movement controls, a focus on good biosecurity, and badger control where TB is rife.

We are making good progress. The Government has this week applied for officially TB-free status for the Low Risk Area of the England – more than half the country – two years ahead of schedule, which will bring trade benefits for farmers in these areas.

Further measures I am outlining today will help us eradicate the disease from the rest of England more quickly and more effectively.

A consultation begins today on proposals to catch disease in herds as early as possible, by introducing a simpler, more risk-based TB testing regime in the High Risk Area with six-monthly routine surveillance tests. Lower risk herds where owners can demonstrate good biosecurity will be subject to less frequent testing. We are proposing some adjustments to the compensation system to improve incentives for farmers to reduce disease risks on their farms. Also included is a proposal to allow farmers to retain in-calf TB test positive cattle for up to 60 days, subject to bio-security controls.

I can also confirm that we are now confident that supplies of BCG vaccine are sufficient to allow us to resume the Badger Edge Vaccination Scheme. This will help protect healthy badgers and stop disease spreading to new parts of the country. Private groups intending to run vaccination schemes will be able to apply for grants later this year for projects to run next summer.

We are also publishing responses to a consultation on supplementary badger control, and its licensing Guidance, outlining plans to make sure disease control benefits in areas that have completed intensive culling are maintained while the disease is still present in England.

We are determined to implement all available measures necessary to eradicate this devastating disease as quickly as possible to create resilient and successful dairy and beef industries.

Copies of the cattle controls consultation and the badger control summary of consultation responses have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Avon Fire and Rescue Service

[HLWS78]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: My rt hon Friend the Minister of State for Fire and Policing (Nick Hurd) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

On 2 February, the previous Minister for Policing and Fire announced an independent inspection, led by Dr Craig Baker, into a number of allegations made against Avon Fire and Rescue Authority. I am pleased to announce to Parliament that the inspection is now complete and the Government has today laid before the House and published the report and recommendations.

The inspection, which was the first of its kind, was established under Section 10 of the Local Government Act 1999 (the "1999 Act"). The inspection considered the authority's compliance with its "best value duty" under Section 3 of the 1999 Act which requires the authority to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

The report concluded that, in the lead Inspector's opinion, the authority is failing to comply with its duty under section 3 of the 1999 Act and makes a number of proposals for improvement in the areas of governance, leadership, culture and external scrutiny. The proposals include:

- a review of the senior management board to ensure they have the necessary experience and capabilities to plan and deliver the transformational change required;
- a de-layering exercise with regards to the senior management board with a focus on culture change and professionalism;
- a review of the Authority's Integrated Risk Management Plan; and
- the introduction of a programme board to drive change and support the senior management team.

The Government welcomes this independent, comprehensive report and will work closely with Avon Fire and Rescue Authority, the National Fire Chiefs Council and the Local Government Association (LGA) to fully consider the Inspector's findings.

Public safety is a key Government priority and it is our ambition to build on the good progress fire and rescue services have already made to create a service that is more accountable, effective and professional than ever before. To support this, the government has already announced:

- an independent inspection regime for fire and rescue services in England;
- the development of an independent professional standards body that will provide a coherent and comprehensive set of professional standards to drive improvements across the sector; and
- a consultation on amendments to the fire and rescue National Framework for England to include a requirement to discourage the practice of re-engaging

senior officers post-retirement with an increase in take-home pay and pension benefits. The National Framework is undergoing a complete revision and the new version will be published in early 2018.

I would like to thank Dr Baker and his team for the detailed report and recommendations and the professional manner in which they approached the inspection.

Copies of the report will be available from the Vote Office. It has also been published on the gov.uk website.

Building Safety

[HLWS70]

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

I would like to update the House on progress with the identification and combustibility testing of Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) cladding on high rise buildings. To date, 259 residential buildings over 18 metres have had samples tested by the Building Research Establishment (BRE), tested by proxy (e.g. are known to be of identical cladding) or have taken their cladding down. None of those tested have passed the limited combustibility test. On the advice of the independent Expert Advisory Panel on Building Safety, the BRE are now undertaking system testing that will help establish how different types of ACM panels in combination with different types of insulation behave in a fire.

The figure of 259 includes other residential buildings (such as those in the private sector) but today, I would like to update in particular on those owned by local authorities and housing associations.

It is vital to support building owners in ensuring the safety of their residents. This is why the Government, on the advice of the independent Expert Advisory Panel on Building Safety, has offered free of charge testing by the BRE for all residential buildings above 18 metres in height. Local authorities and housing associations were asked to identify residential blocks with ACM cladding and then to submit samples of that cladding material for testing.

Local authorities and housing associations initially told us that around 530 towers were thought to have similar cladding to that seen at Grenfell. They have subsequently been physically inspecting the wall materials present on their buildings, and have collected further information which suggests that the actual number of towers that have ACM is much lower. Based on the most recent information we have received, we now think that no more than 240 local authority and housing association towers have ACM cladding and so need to be tested.

Aggregating information provided by local authorities, indicates that 46 towers across 16 local authorities have ACM cladding. Of these, 42 have been directly tested through BRE and the other 4 are from identical towers. This means all 46 local authority owned towers with

ACM cladding have now had their core material tested for combustibility. All samples have failed the limited combustibility test.

Based on the latest information provided by housing associations, up to 194 towers across 50 housing associations have ACM cladding. Of these, 142 have been tested through BRE, through proxy tests or have taken cladding down. We have been told that 12 towers have sent, or will send, their samples to BRE for testing this week. There are 40 towers owned by housing associations who have not confirmed whether ACM cladding is present nor sent ACM samples for testing.

	<i>Total ACM towers</i>	<i>Total tested by BRE, by proxy test or with cladding removed</i>	<i>Sent for testing this week</i>	<i>Local authorities or housing associations still to confirm whether ACM cladding is present</i>
Local authority	46 (16 LAs)	46	0	0
Housing association	Max. 194 (50 HAs)	142	12	40
Total	Max. 240	188	12	40

Some of these housing associations say that they are still investigating the cladding on their towers. Five weeks is too long to still be investigating. We expect these investigations to be complete and relevant samples sent for testing immediately. There is no excuse for any housing association not to have completed its investigation of cladding materials.

To ensure we have a complete picture, we strongly encourage all building owners to provide data where it is currently incomplete or needs updating. Together with the Local Government Association and National Housing Federation we are urgently following up to obtain full information.

Conflict Stability and Security Fund

[HLWS79]

Lord Young of Cookham: The First Secretary of State and Minister for the Cabinet Office has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I wish to update the House on how the Government has been supporting our national security interests through conflict prevention, peace building, stabilisation, peacekeeping and conflict resolution using the Conflict Stability and Security Fund (CSSF).

Details of the programmes funded by the CSSF and its impact so far are in the first Annual Report, a copy of which will be placed in the library of the House. The publication of this first report reflects the Government's commitment to transparency in the delivery of Official Development Assistance. We will be updating GOV.UK

pages with more information on the CSSF and individual programmes.

The CSSF replaced the Conflict Pool in April 2015, as part of a new, more strategic approach to enhancing the delivery of our national security interests directed by the National Security Council (NSC).

As announced in the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR), CSSF funding has continued to increase and will be £1.162 billion in 2017/18. The CSSF is now one of the world's largest mechanisms for addressing conflict and instability. Its programmes deliver against more than 40 cross Government strategies set by the National Security Council (NSC). These help to secure the UK, promote peace and stability overseas and contribute directly to SDSR objectives.

Parliamentary accountability for taxpayers' money spent via the CSSF is provided primarily through the Joint Committee for the National Security Strategy (JCNSS). The JCNSS concluded its first inquiry into the CSSF in February. We have responded to the inquiry report and are taking forward many of their recommendations. Further announcements on governance will be made in due course.

Meeting both our legal and policy gender commitments is central to the delivery of the CSSF. Last year the CSSF spent £214.5 million on programmes which addressed gender equality. For example the CSSF in the Democratic Republic of Congo supported the provision of free legal assistance to 269 victims of international war crimes, of which 179 were women, mostly victims of sexual violence.

In addition to supporting peace building activity, CSSF funding is strengthening the multilateral system, supporting the UN and other international organisations to develop more effective multilateral responses to instability. The CSSF funds our contributions (known as assessed costs) to the UN peacekeeping budget. We are the sixth biggest contributor, spending over £300 million in 2016/17. In addition, we have been using CSSF funds to help reform the UN and UN peacekeeping, coordinating outreach to Member States to secure pledges of personnel for peace operations and to assist with the transition from pledges to deployments. In 2016/17 the CSSF provided a further £15m to fund the doubling of the UK's troop contribution to peacekeeping through two new deployments: 70 UK military personnel to support UNSOS in Somalia, which provides essential logistical support for the African Union Mission (AMISOM) that is combating the terrorist organisation Al Shabaab; and 370 UK military personnel to provide engineering and medical support to the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

To address some of the JCNSS recommendations for the CSSF a rapid review is being undertaken of Cross-Whitehall Fund governance and structures.

Conflict Stability and Security Fund resources, FY17/18

CSSF	2017/18 (millions)
Peacekeeping & Multilateral	391.7
Regional/Country Strategies	606.3
Security & Defence	150
Delivery Support, including the Stabilisation Unit & National School of Government	14.5
Total	1162.5

Contingent Liability: Microgeneration Certification Scheme

[HLWS83]

Lord Prior of Brampton: My honourable friend the Minister of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (Claire Perry) has made the following written ministerial statement:

The Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) is a scheme that certifies products and installers of renewable technologies to provide assurance to consumers about the quality and standard of their installation.

My Department is going through the process of transferring the assets comprising the MCS to the MCS Charitable Foundation, as part of establishing the MCS as independent of Government. This will help contribute to a renewable technology market that is sustainable in the long-term, and will limit the Government's liabilities in relation to the scheme.

The operation of the MCS brings with it an existing contingent liability which has been previously covered under the annually disclosed overarching BEIS contingent liability for potential liabilities relating to claims from suppliers and third parties.

In relation to this, I wish to inform Parliament of a Departmental Minute which will be presented to Parliament today, giving notice of the Department retaining this contingent liability for which we would issue indemnity provisions to the MCS Charitable Foundation and the MCS Service Company. This contingent liability relates to the risk of potential complaints from affected parties regarding events which occurred during the period prior to the transfer, when BEIS held a position of responsibility for the MCS.

We believe it is appropriate to retain this existing contingent liability, even as we transfer the assets to the MCS Charitable Foundation. By offering this indemnity and enabling the transfer to proceed, the Department benefits from ceasing to take on further liabilities from the point of transfer onwards. The indemnity would be uncapped and last for a period of 6 years from the date of transfer.

We believe that the risk of any successful claim is low in relation to this contingent liability.

EU Opt-in Decision: Civil Justice Co-operation Regulations

[HLWS82]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: On 9 June 2017, the Government opted in to a proposal to change the updating mechanism of three civil judicial cooperation Regulations from the comitology procedure to the post-Lisbon treaty Delegated and Implementing Act procedure. These are technical adjustments that are part of a wider effort to modernise legislation, which the UK supports.

The relevant Regulations are the 2001 Regulation on taking evidence in other Member States to allow for a court in one member state to request to take evidence to another; the 2004 Regulation that created that European Enforcement Order; and the 2007 Regulation on service of documents to allow the service of judicial documents from one Member State to another.

The Government submitted the Explanatory Memorandum on the Commission alignment proposals (COM(2016) 798 and COM(2016) 799) on 13 February 2017. The substance and effect of these three Regulations will not change, but become subject to the same updating procedures as apply to other, post-Lisbon Regulations (a committee composed of representatives from all EU countries providing a formal opinion, usually in the form of a vote, on the Commission's proposed measures). The underlying Treaty base (now Article 81 TFEU) and the relevant Regulations were subject to the UK's Justice and Home Affairs Opt-In.

These technical changes protect the UK's position in relation to three important procedural instruments in the area of civil judicial cooperation and demonstrates the UK's commitment to abiding by its rights and obligations until exit negotiations are concluded.

Fire and Rescue Authorities: England

[HLWS80]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: My rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Amber Rudd) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

In May 2016, this Government set out plans to create an independent inspectorate for fire and rescue authorities in England as part of our fire reform programme.

The response to the recent tragic Grenfell Tower fire showcased the very best of fire and rescue services. As the dreadful event unfolded, we saw the resounding bravery and skill of our firefighters and emergency responders.

An inspectorate will help support the continuous improvement of this critical public service and enable fire and rescue authorities to become even more effective, as it is only by identifying and understanding problems that action can be taken to overcome them.

I can today announce that this inspectorate will form part of a newly expanded Her Majesty's Inspectorate of

Constabulary (HMIC). In order to preserve fire and rescue's distinct identity, HMIC will re-brand as Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services.

I have recommended to Her Majesty that, following commencement of fire and rescue inspection provisions in the Policing and Crime Act 2017 she appoint Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary, Sir Thomas Winsor, as chief fire and rescue inspector, and for HMIC's existing inspectors to be appointed fire and rescue inspectors. This will be in addition to their existing police inspection responsibilities.

A dedicated team will be appointed to carry out fire and rescue inspections which will include expertise drawn from the fire and rescue sector.

The new inspectorate will work alongside other institutional changes underway in the fire and rescue sector, namely the establishment of the National Fire Chiefs Council and the planned creation of a body with responsibility for setting professional standards for fire and rescue services.

HMIC has a strong track record in holding policing to the highest standards and identifying where action must be taken to improve behaviour and practice. I expect them to replicate this when inspecting fire and rescue authorities. This new inspectorate will provide a crucial assurance function to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of every authority in England and whether they are fulfilling their statutory obligations.

My officials, together with representatives from the fire and rescue sector, will work with the inspectorate over the coming months to develop a comprehensive inspection framework against which fire and rescue authorities will be inspected. The Secretary of State is required to agree both the inspection framework and programme. The first inspection will take place in early 2018 and every fire and rescue authority in England will be inspected thereafter with a report published on every inspection.

The provisions made by the Policing and Crime Act 2017 require the chief fire and rescue inspector for England to lay before Parliament an annual report on the inspections undertaken. This will include his assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of fire and rescue authorities in England for the period in respect of which the report is prepared. The Home Secretary also has the ability to commission the inspectorate to inspect and report on any particular issue in addition to individual authority inspections.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office Services

[HLWS73]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: My right Honourable Friend, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, has made the following written Ministerial statement:

FCO Services operates as a trading fund of the FCO. Pursuant to section 4(6) of the Government Trading

Funds Act 1973 (as amended by the Government Trading Act 1990), I hereby lay copies of FCO Services' Annual Report and Accounts 2016-2017 before the House.

- i) The Report has been endorsed by the FCO Services Board and the FCO Services Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (on which sits the lead National Audit Office auditor and the head of FCO Internal Audit). It has also been examined by the FCO Partnership Board.
- ii) On 3 July 2017, the Comptroller and Auditor General formally signed off the Report and Accounts.

For the reasons above, and upon my own examination, I am satisfied that the Annual Report and Accounts represent a true and fair account of FCO Services' performance.

Justice Update

[HLWS84]

Lord Keen of Elie: My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, Minister for Prisons and Probation (Sam Gyimah) has made the following Written Statement.

"Probation services play a vital role in protecting communities and rehabilitating offenders. In delivering the sentences of the court, supervising offenders and helping them to address problems such as unemployment, homelessness and mental health issues, probation officers keep the public safe and prevent future victims of crime.

In 2014/15 the government reformed the probation system to strengthen its focus on reducing reoffending and protecting communities, and much progress has been made in implementing these reforms. For the first time around 40,000 offenders a year released from custodial sentences of less than 12 months are entitled to statutory support from probation on release, and new through-the-gate services have been introduced to improve the resettlement of released prisoners in the community. We have established 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) to supervise low and medium-risk offenders, and a National Probation Service (NPS) dedicated to protecting the public from higher-risk offenders. Staff working in the probation system deserve enormous credit for their commitment and professionalism during this period of significant change.

Nevertheless, it is clear that the current delivery of some aspects of probation services must improve. It is inevitable that such fundamental reforms to a complex public service will take some time to bed down. In addition, since the contracts were negotiated the number of offenders sentenced to community orders has fallen, and there has been an increase in the proportion of offenders assessed as posing a higher risk of harm. The result is fewer offenders are being referred to CRCs, leading to falls in CRC income to significantly below the levels expected at the time of the competition. This has made it extremely challenging for CRCs to deliver the services outlined in their contracts. In turn the NPS has seen a growth in their caseload and increased demands on

its staff. That is why we have been reviewing the probation system, and why we are now taking steps to improve services.

We have recently taken urgent action to adjust the payment mechanism within the CRC contracts so it better reflects the fixed nature of most of the costs that providers incur when delivering services to offenders. This additional investment, which will see projected payments to CRCs still being no higher than originally budgeted for at the time of the reforms, will make CRC income less sensitive to changes in demand and therefore more reflective of their actual cost structures. This increased certainty about future income will enable CRCs to focus on delivering critical operational services. We are also exploring with providers further improvements that could be made to the delivery of rehabilitative services, and we will set out at a later stage any further changes we will be making as a result.

In addition we are working with the Department of Health, NHS England and Public Health England to develop a joint protocol setting out how probation, health and treatment services should work together to support those serving community sentences in England. We will seek to implement the protocol in a number of test-bed areas this year, and have agreed with the Welsh Government that we will seek to establish a similar protocol in Wales. We are also providing additional funding to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation and supporting them to introduce a new framework for the inspection of probation services from April 2018. This will provide stronger scrutiny and increased transparency of the performance of probation by introducing annual inspection of CRCs and NPS areas and the publication of individual ratings for providers.

The government remains whole-heartedly committed to reducing reoffending and protecting the public. The Transforming Rehabilitation reforms created a framework for more effective probation services and we intend to ensure they deliver the benefits of reduced reoffending. Over the coming months we will continue to work with providers to improve the delivery of probation services and we will make further statements in due course."

Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency

[HLWS71]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: My Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health has made the following written statement:

On Wednesday 12 July, Ministers at the Department of Health were informed by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) about an issue identified during a routine inspection of Bio Products Laboratory (BPL). The MHRA provided confirmation on Monday of this week that, in light of all of the information currently available, their assessment is that no patients have been harmed and none put at additional risk of harm due to the issue.

BPL is responsible for the supply of a range of plasma products to the NHS and a range of other major health systems around the world. The company, in line with best practice, operates a three stage process to ensure the safety of its products:

- i) Selection of healthy donors, with all donations tested and traceable to the donor.
- ii) Further safety tests of plasma in advance of the manufacturing process.
- iii) During the manufacturing process, all products specially treated to inactivate viruses.

The MHRA informed Ministers that their inspection identified a problem with the computer software, which controls the stage one process set out above. Following the identification of the issue by the MHRA, a manual review was undertaken by the company to ensure that no inappropriate donations made it through this stage of the process due to the problems with the computer system. This manual review confirmed that no inappropriate samples had made it through to the next stage of the process, and a range of other risk mitigation steps were also implemented.

MHRA have continued to provide progress updates to Ministers regularly since notification on 12 July.

On Monday of this week the MHRA confirmed to Ministers their assessment that the problem had been addressed through interim measures to provide the necessary assurance while long-term solutions are being implemented. In the opinion of the MHRA, due to the three stage process outlined above, and in light of all of the information currently available, no patients have been harmed and none put at additional risk of harm due to the issue.

The MHRA is continuing to undertake all necessary regulatory activities in order to ensure patient safety, and will continue to keep Ministers informed of this work.

Although there is no evidence of risk to patients in this case, in the interest of transparency, I wanted to update the House to this situation as quickly as possible with the relevant information. In the unlikely event of any changes, I will update the House accordingly.

Northern Ireland Finances

[HLWS76]

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

When the Assembly dissolved in January, no Budget had been set for the Northern Ireland Executive for the 2017-18 financial year. Since the end of March it has fallen to the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Finance to allocate funding to Northern Ireland departments under powers provided by section 59 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

This situation has led to understandable concern and uncertainty among businesses and those relying on public

services alike. Since April I have therefore worked closely with the Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS), in conjunction with the NICS Board, to keep under review how to provide ongoing assurance around the Budget in the absence of an Executive.

In the first instance this led, on 24 April, to my Written Statement to the House setting out an indicative Budget position and set of departmental allocations. This sought to enable Permanent Secretaries to plan and prepare to take more detailed decisions on cash allocations.

Disappointingly, we remain without an Executive three months on. While progress has been made in discussions between the parties, resolution has not been reached. The parties have, however, made clear that they remain committed to engaging with each other to agree a basis on which an Executive can be formed. If an agreement is reached, I will move quickly to bring forward the necessary legislation to allow an Executive to meet at the next earliest opportunity.

While it is for the Northern Ireland parties to reach an agreed way forward, the UK Government remains committed to working with them and, as appropriate, the Irish Government to secure the restoration of devolved government as quickly as possible. I will maintain close contact with party leaders and the Irish Government over the coming weeks to seek to consolidate progress and encourage continuing discussions towards a deal.

While agreement remains possible, it is clear that an Executive will not be capable of being formed before the autumn. During that time pressures will continue to build, particularly in health and education services. And so as I set out in my Written Statement on 11 July, I consider it necessary to provide further clarity to support Northern Ireland Permanent Secretaries in addressing those pressures, maintaining public services and continuing to uphold the commitments arising from the Stormont House and Fresh Start Agreements.

With that in mind, I set out below adjusted indicative Budget positions and departmental allocations for this year. These include resource and capital funding provided in the Spring Budget by the Chancellor, as well as resource and capital funding expected to be available from budget transfers and updated forecasts, subject to final data and the usual HM Treasury approval processes.

The allocations do not include any of the financial support the UK Government would be prepared to make available to Northern Ireland following the agreement between the Conservative Party and the Democratic Unionist Party. This Government recognises the unique challenges faced by Northern Ireland as a result of its distinct history and geographical position. However a restored Executive will need to agree how it wishes to allocate these funds to projects within the priority areas.

As previously, the allocations in the table below do not reflect input from UK Government Ministers on priorities nor do they constrain the future ability of an incoming Executive to adjust its priorities. And it remains for NI civil servants to allocate cash under s59 of the Northern

Ireland Act 1998. It is important to acknowledge, however, that as the year progresses the scope for significant changes will become more constrained.

This statement does not replace the ultimate need for a formal Budget for Northern Ireland. The exercise of s59 powers cannot be sustained indefinitely. And though the advice I have received from the Head of the NICS is that we have not yet reached that critical point, it is approaching. It should be for a new Executive to make swift decisions on its Budget to make use of the spending power available to it.

At the same time we will not forget our ultimate responsibility as a Government to uphold political stability and good governance in Northern Ireland. Accordingly, I reaffirm that the UK Government remains prepared to take forward legislation at Westminster to give authority for the expenditure of Northern Ireland departments should an Executive not be restored in the autumn. If resolution continues to prove intractable beyond that point, we will take further steps to provide the necessary political decision-making in the best interests of everyone in Northern Ireland.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Annex NI WMS [Annex NI WMS.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2017-07-19/HLWS76/>

NHS Transformation: Investment

[HLWS72]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: My Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health has made the following written statement:

This Government is backing the NHS' own plan for the future, the Five Year Forward View, and funding it with an additional £8 billion a year in real terms by the end of the Parliament. Delivering that vision relies on health and care organisations working together at a local level, which the NHS is taking forward through Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships. These are clinically led, locally driven – and can deliver real improvements for patients. The independent King's Fund has called STPs “the right approach for improving care and meeting the needs of an ageing population”.

In the Spring Budget the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced an additional £325 million of capital funding to invest in local areas who have come together and developed robust plans.

Today, I announce the provisional allocation of this first tranche of capital funding. From a large number of proposals, 25 schemes have been selected in total from across the 15 STP areas as follows:

- Greater Manchester
- Lancashire and South Cumbria
- Dorset

- Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland
- Milton Keynes, Bedfordshire and Luton
- Derbyshire
- West, North and East Cumbria
- Nottinghamshire
- Suffolk and North East Essex
- Herefordshire and Worcestershire
- South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw
- Mid and South Essex
- Norfolk and Waveney
- Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West
- North East London

Further detail on the schemes that will receive funding is attached.

In order to qualify for this first tranche of funding, these areas were all judged to be sufficiently advanced on the basis of the STP assessment data (that NHS England will publish on Friday). This data allows patients, managers and the public to see how their STP area is performing across three themes: hospital performance, patient-focused change, and transformation. Each theme is underpinned by key metrics, such as performance in emergency and elective care, safety and leadership. It is a mechanism by which organisations, patients and the public can hold their STP to account.

The quality and diversity of proposals put forward show that the NHS is working innovatively to identify opportunities for transformation in the delivery of health services across their local footprint. The Government is fully committed to supporting this process and the schemes selected for funding will make a substantial difference to the performance of local health systems.

Final confirmation of this funding will be subject to the successful approval of business cases. Organisations receiving funding will also be required to demonstrate that their proposals form part of a robust capital and estates strategy which maximises all opportunities for generating receipts from surplus land disposals within their STP area. We will also expect them to agree a clear delivery plan for generating these receipts. This process will be supported by a central team of strategic estates advisers

The Government remains committed to considering a further round of local proposals for funding in the Autumn Budget, subject to the same rigorous value for money tests. In considering these bids we will look to STPs to demonstrate further progress on generating funding from disposals receipts and other sources of finance.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Scheme Details [STP Scheme Details.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2017-07-19/HLWS72/>

Product Recalls and Safety: Working Group

[HLWS74]

Lord Prior of Brampton: My honourable Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Small Business, Consumers and Corporate Responsibility for the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (Margot James) has today made the following statement:

I am today placing in the Libraries of the House, the report of the Working Group on Product Recalls and Safety.

The report is a culmination of longer term, ongoing work on product safety and recalls. An independent review of the recall system was undertaken by Lynn Faulds Wood in 2015, with her review published in February 2016.

The Working Group on Product Recalls and Safety was established in October 2016 to build on the initial work by industry to implement the review. The Working Group was tasked with providing options to support a tangible improvement in the safety of white goods and the recalls system, working to a clearly defined timetable.

The Working Group is chaired by Neil Gibbins, former Deputy Chief Fire Officer for Devon and Somerset and Chief Executive of the Institution of Fire Engineers. Its membership brings together product safety experts, the fire service and trading standards professionals to ensure that we utilise expertise in the relevant fields to identify necessary improvements to the system of product recalls and safety.

Key recommendations include:

- a need for centralised technical and scientific resource capability to support decision making and co-ordination of activity of Local Authorities and the businesses that they regulate;
- a detailed Code of Practice should be developed with input from all relevant stakeholders; this should be informed by behavioural insights research. This should set out expected good practice with regard to product safety corrective actions (including recalls);
- full consideration should be given to establishing central capacity to co-ordinate product safety corrective actions at a central level;
- systematic and sustainable ways to capture and share data and intelligence should be established and agreed by relevant parties – this should make use of existing systems used by Trading Standards and the Fire Service;
- manufacturers and retailers should continue to work together and through standards setting bodies to develop technological solutions to product marking and identification;
- Primary Authority provides a key mechanism for ensuring that businesses, local authority and BEIS expertise is shared to ensure the protection of consumers; and

- the registration of appliances and other consumer goods with manufacturers by consumers should be encouraged to make corrective actions (including recalls) more effective.

Significant progress has already been made by the Working Group, supported by my officials at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, in relation to the development of a code of practice on corrective action and product recalls, and a public consultation will be published shortly. Further work to promote the registration of appliances, understand consumer responses to safety information and recall communications are set out in the report as important steps towards a strengthened product safety framework.

We are also keen to see continued progress on work to promote the registration of appliances and understand consumer responses to safety information and recall communications. My Department has supported the behavioural insights work, which underpins the understanding of consumer behaviour. We have also enhanced the product recalls webpages on GOV.UK to make it easier to access information about white goods subject to a recall on grounds of a fire safety risk and made links to the Register My Appliance website.

The Working Group recognised the important role that Primary Authority Partnerships can play in achieving better safety outcomes. My department continues to champion and push forward the scheme. The legislative changes which we are bringing into effect in October will extend and simplify the scheme so that as many businesses as possible can access its benefits.

Following the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower, I asked the Working Group to consider whether there was any further work or recommendations for their report. The Working Group have completed that review and concluded that the original report remains valid and relevant. I publish that report today, with copies of the documents placed in the Library of the House.

School Curriculum

[HLWS77]

Lord Nash: My right honourable friend the Minister of State for School Standards and Minister for Equalities (Nick Gibb) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

"In order to ensure our education system drives social mobility, it is imperative that the vast majority of pupils – whatever their background – have the opportunity to study the suite of academic subjects that make up the EBacc. These subjects - English, maths, science, history or geography, and a language – are the core of a rounded and well balanced education that should be the entitlement of the vast majority of pupils. According to the Russell Group, studying these subjects at A level opens more doors to more degrees.

A recent study found that pupils in a set of 300 schools that increased their EBacc entry, from 8% to 48%, were more likely to achieve good English and maths GCSEs,

more likely to take an A level, or an equivalent level 3 qualification, and more likely to stay in post-16 education.

Since 2010, we have increased the opportunity for pupils to study this combination of GCSEs, with 40% of pupils now being entered for this combination of subjects at GCSE, up from 22% in 2010. However, there are still too few pupils studying these subjects, with pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds disproportionately less likely to be studying these subjects.

Research suggests that lower participation from disadvantaged pupils in these core academic subjects can negatively affect social mobility. Yet overall, disadvantaged pupils remain half as likely to be entered for the EBacc subjects as their non-disadvantaged peers, and the gap in EBacc subject entry persists even among the most academically able disadvantaged pupils.

There is no doubt that studying the EBacc subjects up to the age of 16 is right for the vast majority of pupils. As a Government we are committed to unlocking the potential of all pupils regardless of their background and this is why, as set out in our manifesto, we would like to see 90% of year 10 pupils starting to study GCSEs in the EBacc combination of subjects by 2025.

Through our consultation on implementing the EBacc, we sought to understand the barriers schools face in increasing EBacc entry. Having carefully considered the consultation responses, it is my view that we need an approach that is both pragmatic, stretching, and one that takes into account the challenge involved in meeting this ambition.

While some schools are already responding to this challenge by significantly increasing the number of pupils studying the EBacc suite of GCSEs, some schools have more to do to reach our ambition. It will take time to build the right capacity across the whole school system and ensure that schools have access to high quality staff in EBacc subjects, so that all pupils have the best chance of success in their studies.

Taking this all into account it is our ambition that 75% of year 10 pupils in state-funded mainstream schools will start to study GCSEs in the EBacc combination of subjects by September 2022. This will mark an important milestone in driving towards the government's ambition that the vast majority of pupils – irrespective of background – have access to this core academic suite of GCSEs, which is central to a broad and balanced curriculum.

The government response being published today considers and responds to the issues raised in consultation responses, and outlines the steps we will take to support schools to deliver the EBacc subjects to the vast majority of pupils.

Copies of the government's response document will be placed in both House libraries."

Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures

[HLWS81]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: My rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Amber Rudd) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

Section 19(1) of the Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures Act 2011 (the Act) requires the Secretary of State to report to Parliament as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of every relevant three-month period on the exercise of her TPIM powers under the Act during that period.

The level of information provided will always be subject to slight variations based on operational advice.

TPIM notices in force (as of 28 February 2017)	7
TPIM notices in respect of British citizens (as of 28 February 2017)	6
TPIM notices extended (during the reporting period)	0
TPIM notices revoked (during the reporting period)	0
TPIM notices revived (during the reporting period)	0
Variations made to measures specified in TPIM notices (during the reporting period)	7
Applications to vary measures specified in TPIM notices refused (during the reporting period)	1
The number of current subjects relocated under TPIM legislation (as of 28 February 2017)	7

The TPIM Review Group (TRG) keeps every TPIM notice under regular and formal review. The TRG met on 12, 13, 15 and 16 December 2016. The next TRG meetings took place on 6, 9, 13, 16 and 17 March 2017.

Written Answers

Wednesday, 19 July 2017

Abortion

Asked by **Lord Alton of Liverpool**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 19 December 2016 (HL3794), and in the light of the Report on abortion statistics, England and Wales, 2016, published in June, which states that almost half of Ground E notifications are missing, how many cases have been investigated where registered medical practitioners were suspected of wilfully contravening or wilfully failing to comply with the requirements relating to section 1(1) of the Abortion Act 1967 in each of the past five years for which records are available; and how many such investigations have resulted in a summary conviction and fine. [HL590]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: We continue to carefully monitor levels of under-reporting of abortions for fetal abnormality. Actions being taken include working directly with hospital staff to understand their specific challenges and help them find solutions to improve reporting of abortions. The Department, the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the British Maternal and Fetal Health Medicine Society have written to all clinicians in fetal medicine units, antenatal screening midwives, and associated administrative staff to remind all doctors involved in abortion care of their legal responsibility under the Abortion Act 1967 and Abortion Regulations 1991 to submit form HSA4 within 14 days of the termination. The letter also provides practical examples from hospitals the Department has worked with to improve their reporting processes.

We are not aware of any case where a registered medical practitioner has been investigated or convicted in the past five years of wilfully contravening or wilfully failing to comply with the notification requirements relating to section 1(1) of the Abortion Act 1967.

Air Routes

Asked by **Lord Eames**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that there are adequate air transport connections between major cities in the UK. [HL664]

Lord Callanan: The Government recognises that regional air connectivity across the UK is very important and airports support regional economies, create skilled employment opportunities and enable business and leisure travel. However, the UK aviation market operates in a competitive, commercial environment; it is therefore for airlines to determine which routes they operate.

The Government provides financial support through Public Service Obligations (PSO) in a limited number of cases to ensure that all regions of the UK maintain air connectivity to the capital, which include:

- £2.85million for a two-year PSO route between Dundee and London Stansted Airport;
- £2.87million for a four-year PSO route between Newquay Cornwall and London Gatwick Airport; and
- £3.78 million for a two-year PSO route between City of Derry Airport to London Stansted Airport

The Government is also committed to developing a new Aviation Strategy and we will be setting out our proposed approach in due course.

Apomorphine

Asked by **Lord Lucas**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much the NHS pays for a one year supply of Apomorphine for a patient with Parkinson's Disease; how much they estimate it costs to manufacture a year's supply of that drug; what assessment they have made of the difficulties of manufacturing Apomorphine to clinical standards; and whether they intend to take any steps to reduce the cost of that drug to the NHS. [HL914]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The drug cost to the National Health Service for a one year supply of Apomorphine for a patient with Parkinson's Disease is estimated to be in the region of £5,300 and £9,000, based on the usual daily dose of 3 – 30mg. However, the maximum daily is 100mg, so the annual cost for some patient's treatment may be higher.

We have no estimate of the cost of manufacture. We are not aware of any particular issues relating to the manufacture of this drug. Pharmaceutical companies participate in either the voluntary pharmaceutical price regulation scheme (PPRS) or the statutory medicines price regulation scheme, both of which regulate the cost of medicines to the NHS. Products covered by the statutory scheme are subject to a 15% cut to their list price. Companies in the PPRS pay a percentage of sales to the Government when growth in NHS spending on medicines exceeds an agreed level. NHS purchasers may also negotiate discounts with pharmaceutical companies in addition to national price regulation.

Armed Forces: Elections

Asked by **Lord Lexden**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of British armed forces posted abroad are on the electoral register. [HL631]

Asked by **Lord Lexden**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of members of the armed forces

posted abroad who (1) register to vote, and (2) cast their votes in elections and referendums. [HL632]

Asked by Lord Lexden

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many members of the armed forces were stationed abroad (1) on the date of the 2016 EU referendum, and (2) on the date of the 2017 general election. [HL633]

Asked by Lord Lexden

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many postal votes were submitted by members of the armed forces abroad at (1) the 2016 EU referendum, and (2) the 2017 general election. [HL634]

Earl Howe: In April 2016 (the nearest available data point to the 2016 EU Referendum) there were 10,500 Service personnel stationed overseas and in April 2017 (the closest data point to the 2017 General Election) there were 9,200. However, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) does not hold information to indicate the numbers or percentage of these personnel who were registered to vote or who actually voted. With regard to postal votes, the MOD does not hold data which would give an accurate analysis of the number of ballot papers submitted by Service personnel, as the voter packs processed by the Department also include the dependents of Service personnel, MOD civilian personnel based abroad and the dependents of civilian personnel. In addition, some personnel may have chosen alternative methods of returning their ballot papers.

Registration is a personal matter and personnel are free to decide whether, where and how they register to vote. The MOD works closely with the Electoral Commission to promote awareness among its people of the importance of registering to vote and of the options for doing so. Voter registration campaigns are run yearly within the MOD and the Department has seen a steady rise in the number of Armed Forces personnel who have declared they have registered. The latest version of the Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey (AFCAS, 2017) indicates that 96 per cent of Officers and 81 per cent of Other Ranks who completed the AFCAS were registered to vote. Table B22.1 of the AFCAS provides figures on voter registration by Service and by year from 2013. The Surveys can be found on the Government website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/armed-forces-continuous-attitude-survey-index>

Atrial Fibrillation

Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government why data on the use of Guidance on Risk Assessment and Stroke Prevention for Atrial Fibrillation is no longer collected as part of the Medicines Optimisation Dashboard. [HL596]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: NHS England has advised that as only 22% of general practice surgeries use this tool, and there are charges to the National Health Service for

doing so, it was decided the tool was not appropriate as a metric in the Medicines Optimisation Dashboard.

Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of GP surgeries use (1) the Guidance on Risk Assessment and Stroke Prevention for Atrial Fibrillation tool, and (2) other tools, to audit the management of atrial fibrillation patients, broken down by clinical commissioning group, in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [HL597]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: NHS England advises that the data requested is not collected in the format requested.

Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of patients diagnosed with atrial fibrillation are treated with (1) anticoagulant therapy, and (2) antiplatelet therapy, broken down by clinical commissioning group, in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [HL598]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The information requested is not held centrally.

Blood: Contamination

Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many individuals infected with blood contaminated by hepatitis C or HIV in the 1970s and 1980s remain alive. [HL814]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Department does not hold this information.

Building Regulations

Asked by Lord Stunell

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the costs and benefits of implementing paragraphs 4A and 4B of Schedule 1 of the Building Act 1984, as amended by the Sustainable and Secure Buildings Act 2004, in the light of emerging findings relating to the Grenfell Tower fire. [HL539]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: Paragraph 4A of Schedule 1 to the Building Act 1984 has been used a number of times to authorise the operation of competent person schemes through amendments to the Building Regulations. Each time it has been used the Department has published an impact assessment setting out the costs and benefits of the additional authorisations.

Carer's Allowance

Asked by Lord Pendry

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are considering a review of Carers Allowance to ensure that it is sufficient to meet the financial support needs of carers. [HL524]

Baroness Buscombe: This Government recognises and appreciates the valuable support that carers provide to those with care needs.

Since 2010 the rate of Carer's Allowance has increased from £53.90 to £62.70 a week, meaning an additional £450 a year for carers. Carer's Allowance is excluded from the benefit freeze and is updated annually in line with the Consumer Prices Index.

Carers on low incomes can access other financial support through income-related benefits. Income Support, Housing Benefit and Pension Credit include an additional carer's premium of £34.95 a week. Universal Credit includes a carer's element of £151.89 per monthly assessment period. People entitled to Carer's Allowance or the carer's element in Universal Credit are not subject to the benefit cap.

As society ages and care needs increase, it is important that carers are able to combine caring with paid employment, or return to paid work when their caring duties allow. The Government's Fuller Working Lives Strategy, published in February 2017, sets out proposals to help carers combine work and care or prepare for returning to the labour market. In addition, earned income up to £116 net a week is ignored for the purposes of Carer's Allowance. Means-tested benefits and Universal Credit also provide for care to be combined with earnings.

Cars: Insurance

Asked by Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what meetings they have held with representatives of the insurance industry to address rises in car insurance policy premiums faced by drivers. [HL518]

Lord Callanan: The Department for Transport has held a number of recent discussions with the motor insurance industry, for example to discuss young driver safety and technology measures, and changes to the personal injury discount rate which affect on the cost of insurance.

The Queen's Speech, on 21 June, confirmed that a Civil Liability Bill will be introduced to tackle the continuing high number and cost of whiplash claims and to help reduce motor insurance premiums.

The pricing of insurance products is a commercial matter for individual insurers in which the Government does not seek to intervene.

Catalonia: Sovereignty

Asked by Lord Wigley

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made any representations to the government of Spain concerning judicial independence in Spain in relation to the rights of citizens in Catalonia, including those who also have UK citizenship. [HL476]

Baroness Goldie: We have not made any representations to the Spanish government on this issue. The UK is clear that questions related to Catalonia are a matter for the Government and people of Spain, and there needs to be respect for the laws and Constitution of Spain. As for UK citizens in Catalonia, they enjoy the same constitutional rights as UK citizens in any other autonomous community of the Kingdom of Spain.

Child Rearing

Asked by Lord Farmer

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they continue to collect data against the family stability indicator measures, in particular (1) the percentage of all children who are not living with both their birth parents, broken down by age of child, and (2) the percentage of children in low income households not living with both parents compared to the percentage of such children in middle to higher income households. [HL602]

Baroness Buscombe: The Department for Work and Pension's publication *Improving lives: Helping Workless Families*, presented evidence on the root causes of disadvantage and their impact on the outcomes for children. This included nine national indicators to track progress in tackling the disadvantages that affect families' and children's lives and replace all the former [social justice outcomes framework](#) indicators. A copy of this framework has been attached.

One of the new indicators measures parental conflict to reflect evidence that inter-parental relationship quality is of fundamental importance to children's outcomes, including their mental health, wellbeing and future employment prospects. On the basis of this evidence and after consulting with academics, a new indicator has been developed. This measures quality of the inter-parental relationship among coupled and separated parents as the proportion of children in couple-parent families experiencing relationship distress. Where parents are separated, research suggests that positive involvement from both parents in the child's life can help address the potential negative impacts of parental separation therefore as a proxy for the quality of relationship between separated parents the proportion of children in separated families who see their non-resident parents regularly is also being measured.

The Analysis and Research Pack published alongside *Improving Lives*, presents an update of the proportion of children in couple-parent families living with parents who report relationship distress, broken down by the age of the child. The measure is not broken down by income.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Social justice outcome framework October 2012 [Social justice outcomes framework October 2012.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-07-10/HL602>

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Asked by The Countess of Mar

To ask Her Majesty's Government who were the experts the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence consulted in their recent review of Clinical Guideline CG 53 for chronic fatigue syndrome and myalgic encephalomyelitis: diagnosis and management. [HL637]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) routinely consults a range of topic experts as part of its surveillance review process. NICE is currently consulting on a review proposal for its clinical guideline on the diagnosis and management of chronic fatigue syndrome and myalgic encephalomyelitis. NICE does not routinely publish the names of topic experts as they are not part of the decision making process for the surveillance review.

Asked by The Countess of Mar

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the chronic fatigue syndrome myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME/CFS) clinical services which were set up between 2004 and 2006; what proportion of patients accessing services recover from ME/CFS or show signs of improvement; and what assessment they have made of the value for money of these services. [HL684]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: No central assessment has been made of chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME) clinical services established between 2004 and 2006. The commissioning of services for people with CFS/ME is a local matter, and the management of patients within such services is the responsibility of the commissioners, providers and clinicians responsible for their care. Clinical commissioning groups have a duty to exercise their functions effectively, efficiently and economically.

Since its publication in 2007, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) clinical guideline on the management of CFS/ME in adults and children, which set out best practice on the care, treatment and support of people with the condition, has supported the local National Health Service in delivering services for people with the condition. The guidance recognises the challenges in managing a condition for which there is no definitive diagnostic test, no clear understanding of the causes and process of disease and no cure. The guidance is also clear that there is no one form of treatment to suit every patient and that treatment and care should take into account the personal needs and preferences of the patient. NICE is currently reviewing the guidance to ensure it reflects the latest available evidence and a decision regarding this matter is expected shortly.

Asked by The Countess of Mar

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to set up an independent review of ME/CFS services which includes an epidemiological study to establish the true incidence of ME/CFS in the population and the impact of the shortage of doctors trained in this specialism; and, if not, why not. [HL685]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: There are no plans to set up an independent review of chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME) services. Services for patients with CFS/ME are supported by independent, evidence-based guidance produced by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence on the diagnosis, treatment and support of patients with the condition. Commissioners should deliver services that meet the needs of local populations. Assessments of service need for CFS/ME may be supported by the available population prevalence estimates as required.

Cycling

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to increase the number of cyclists outside London. [HL793]

Lord Callanan: The Government's Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy was published in April 2017, and sets out our plans to increase cycling and walking across England. The strategy aims to make cycling and walking the natural choices for short journeys or as part of a longer journey, and identifies £1.2 billion which may be invested in support of this over the five years from 2016/17 to 2020/21. Alongside the Strategy, the Government published guidance for local authorities to help them develop their own local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans, and will be providing further support to local authorities to help them develop these plans.

Department for International Trade: Operating Costs

Asked by Lord Adonis

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the budgeted running costs of the Department for International Trade for 2017–18. [HL485]

Lord Price: The Department for International Trade running costs budget for 2017–18 is £379.3m.

Asked by Lord Adonis

To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the running costs for the Department for International Trade in 2016–17. [HL486]

Lord Price: The Department for International Trade running costs for 2016–17 is £351m.

This figure will be included in the Department's Annual Report & Accounts which will be published in due course.

Department for International Trade: Recruitment

Asked by Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of elite trade negotiators needed to broker trade deals following Brexit; and how many have been recruited to date. [HL517]

Lord Price: I refer my Rt Hon. and learned Friend the Marquess of Lothian QC to the answer I gave to the noble Member Lord Adonis on 17/07/2017 (HL312).

Department for International Trade: Staff

Asked by Lord Adonis

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many staff were employed by, or seconded to, the Department for International Trade on 1 July. [HL484]

Lord Price: On 1 July 2017 the Department for International Trade, including UK Export Finance, employed and paid via payroll a total of 2,624 people. That total includes 1,268 people who are based overseas.

DfT OLR Holdings

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the company listed as DfT OLR Holdings Ltd is a formal part of the Department of Transport and, if so, what is the role of that company and what is the role of the civil servants listed as its directors. [HL533]

Lord Callanan: DfT OLR Holdings Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary company of the Department for Transport. It is a shelf company that forms part of the Department's standby arrangements and could be activated in the event that the Secretary of State is required to discharge his duties under Section 30 of the Railways Act 1993.

The Civil Servants listed as Directors are Statutory Directors for the purposes of the Companies Acts. In the event that the company needed to be enlivened the Department's intention is to replace the existing Directors with suitably qualified railway professionals.

East Coast Rail Franchise

Asked by Lord Rosser

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have had any approaches, either formal or informal, from the operator of the East Coast Mainline franchise about possible revision or renegotiation of the terms of the franchise; and, if so, (1) what has been the basis put

forward by the operator for raising the issue of revision or renegotiation and, (2) what was their response. [HL535]

Lord Callanan: We monitor all franchises and are in regular discussions with franchise operators over performance of their contractual obligations. This includes discussions with Virgin Trains East Coast about the performance of the East Coast franchise. We are unable to comment on the details of any such discussions due to their commercial nature.

Ectopic Pregnancy

Asked by Baroness Taylor of Bolton

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many ectopic pregnancies have been treated in each of the last 10 years, broken down by NHS regions in England. [HL710]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The data requested cannot be provided by National Health Service region as regional boundaries have changed during this period. A table showing finished admissions episodes with a primary diagnosis of ectopic pregnancy by Government Office Region has been attached due to the size of the data.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Finished admissions episodes ectopic pregnancy [HL710 formatted table.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-07-11/HL710>

Embassies

Asked by Lord Wigley

To ask Her Majesty's Government in which cities within the EU, other than capital cities, UK consulates are located. [HL477]

Baroness Goldie: UK consulates are located in the following locations in the EU, outside capitals:

CROATIA

British Consulate Split

FRANCE

British Consulate Bordeaux

British Consulate Marseille

GERMANY

British Consulate General Dusseldorf

British Consulate General Munich

GREECE

British Vice Consulate Corfu

British Vice Consulate Crete

British Vice Consulate Rhodes

British Honorary Vice Consulate Zakynthos

ITALY

British Consulate General Milan

NETHERLANDS

British Consulate General Amsterdam

PORTUGAL

British Vice Consulate Portimão

SPAIN

British Consulate Alicante

British Consulate General Barcelona

British Consulate Malaga

British Consulate Ibiza

British Consulate Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

British Consulate Palma de Mallorca

British Consulate Santa Cruz de Tenerife

British Consulate, Bilbao

Emergencies: Planning*Asked by Lord Shipley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to audit the emergency plans of local authorities to ensure that they are up-to-date and robust. [HL536]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Government currently does not plan to audit local authorities' emergency plans. Local authorities, as category 1 responders under the Civil Contingency Act 2004, are subject to the full set of civil protection duties and are best placed to develop appropriate emergency plans based on local risks and needs.

European Food Safety Authority*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 Food Safety Authority. [HL627]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: Departments are currently working to understand the impacts that withdrawal from the European Union will have across a number of areas, including understanding the costs and benefits derived from membership of EU agencies; this work includes the European Food Safety Authority.

European Parliament*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking in response to the comments of Mr Juncker that the European Parliament was ridiculous. [HL422]

Baroness Goldie: No action was taken.

Families: Disadvantaged*Asked by Lord Farmer*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth on 20 March (HL 5929), (1) how many local authorities, through the Troubled Families Programme, have included within their aims (where appropriate) the prevention of parents' relationship instability, and (2) what plans they have to ensure that the Troubled Families Programme takes into account the findings set out in *Improving lives: Helping Working Families* on the impact of parental worklessness, and associated conflict, on families. [HL667]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: We do not routinely collect information about how many local Troubled Families programmes include the prevention of parents' relationship instability. My department is working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions to help local authorities delivering the Troubled Families Programme do more to tackle worklessness and parental conflict.

Fire Regulations*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth on 31 October 2016 (HL2373) which stated that, since the last full review of Part B (Fire safety) of the Building Regulations for England in 2006 an impact assessment of subsequent changes to the governance has only been conducted in 2013, whether they will consider the economic and societal impacts of fire when drafting the fire safety provisions of the Building Regulations (Approved document B), given that the Building Act 1984 and the Sustainable and Secure Building Act 2004 allow for regulations covering the design, construction and fittings of buildings to include the health, safety and welfare of persons in the building. [HL349]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: Changes to the Building Regulations or associated Approved Documents are accompanied by an impact assessment as a matter of course. Including assessment of economic and where relevant, social cost and benefits.

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have assessed the extent to which the Department for Communities and Local Government Approved Document B, which sets down the functional requirements of fire safety, meets present day British Standards; and if not, why not. [HL374]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: Neither Approved Document B nor any other Approved Documents are designed to meet British Standards. Rather, Approved Document B points to British Standards as a means by which its requirements might be met.

Fisheries Convention

Asked by Lord Wigley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they had with the Government of Wales prior to the issuing of the statement by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 2 July on the UK's withdrawal from the London Fisheries Convention; and whether the Government of Wales had any input into the contents of that statement. [HL548]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: In April this year, my colleague the Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food discussed a range of issues relating to UK fisheries with Ministers from Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, including taking back control of UK waters when we leave the EU. Plans to withdraw from the London Fisheries Convention were set out in the Government's manifesto and so were well known to Ministers of all devolved administrations. The matter was also discussed between Defra and Welsh Government officials.

Asked by Lord Wigley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have received from the government of Ireland concerning the UK's withdrawal from the London Fisheries Convention. [HL549]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Secretary of State and the Irish Agriculture Minister, Michael Creed, discussed the UK's withdrawal from the London Fisheries Convention on 5 July 2017.

Food: EU Law

Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to convert EU Regulation 178/2002 into UK law; and, if so, whether arrangements have been made to replace the European Food Safety Authority's role in research, data collection, risk prevention and crisis management in the food industry. [HL609]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Repeal Bill will convert European Union law into United Kingdom law where appropriate; it aims to maximise certainty for individuals and businesses as we leave the EU. EU Regulation 178/2002 is being considered as part of this exercise.

Departments are currently working to understand the impacts that withdrawal from the EU will have across a number of areas; the European Food Safety Authority will form part of this work.

Games

Asked by Lord Harrison

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to recognise chess and bridge as sports for the purpose of applying for funds provided by national sports organisations. [HL561]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The process for the recognition of sports in the UK is a matter for the Sports Councils' Recognition Panel which is made up of Sport England, Sport Wales, Sport Scotland, Sport Northern Ireland and UK Sport.

The games of bridge and chess are not recognised as sports by any of the UK sports councils.

There are no plans currently to revisit the question of recognition for either chess or bridge.

Georgia: Russia

Asked by Lord Kilclooney

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether Russia has, in the past 12 months, further increased the area of Georgia which it controls; whether there are EU observers on the temporary border between Georgia and that part of Georgia occupied by Russia; and what representations they have made to Russia in the past 12 months about encroachments. [HL573]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: EU Observers (EU Monitoring Mission) patrol the Abkhaz and South Ossetian Administrative Boundary Lines (ABLs) on a daily basis but are not permitted by the de facto authorities or Russian forces to cross over into non Tbilisi Administered Territory, despite it being part of their mandate. There are 12 British nationals working in the EUMM (nine funded by Her Majesty's Government, three by the EU). The British Embassy in Tbilisi receive regular briefings from the EUMM about the situation on the ground. The EUMM has reported an increase in 'borderisation' activity such as fencing and signage along the ABLs over the last few months, which we believe run contrary to international efforts to find a sustainable solution.

Government Departments: Research

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to establish a register of research commissioned by Government departments. [HL790]

Lord Young of Cookham: We recognise the need to ensure government research is available and can be easily accessed.

Departments can already publish research in a single place, the [GOV.UK](http://gov.uk) website, and we are constantly improving this website to make it easier for users to find the information they need.

Health: Finance

Asked by Lord Beecham

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have abandoned the Health Premium approach to funding part of the public health responsibilities of local government; and if so, why. [HL799]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Health Premium Incentive Scheme was a pilot exercise carried out in 2014/15. The Government currently has no plans to implement a similar scheme.

Hinkley Point C Power Station

Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the forecast by Barclay's Analysts that the Hinkley Point nuclear power station project will suffer cost overruns of £4.5 billion and a four year delay for completion, and what would be the cost per megawatt hour (MWH) of electricity if those forecasts were realised. [HL537]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Government negotiated a very competitive deal which ensures consumers won't pay a penny until the station begins generating electricity.

Any construction cost overruns or schedule delays are the responsibility of the developer.

The Strike price of £92.50 per megawatt hour (2012 prices) set in the Hinkley Point C Contract for Difference will not change as a result of any construction cost increases or delays to completion.

Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in light of forecasts of sharply increased costs and delays to the Hinkley Point nuclear power station project, they will review their support for it and state the estimated cost for bringing the project to an end. [HL538]

Lord Prior of Brampton: There are no plans to review the Hinkley Point C contract, which the Government believes represents value for money and will deliver a number of benefits including 26,000 jobs and apprenticeships. The developer, NNB is responsible for the project's funding and construction schedule. Any additional costs incurred are the responsibility of NNBG and will not fall on taxpayers or consumers.

Hong Kong: Politics and Government

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the current implementation of the one country, two systems principle in Hong Kong, 20 years after the anniversary of the handover of Hong Kong. [HL491]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: I issued a Written Ministerial Statement on 29 June, HLWS17, to mark the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region which outlined our assessment of the 'One Country, Two Systems' principle, as well as referencing specific concerns over its implementation. The UK believes that it is vital for Hong Kong's continued success that the Special Administrative Region's high degree of autonomy and rule of law are

preserved and that the principle of 'One Country, Two Systems' is fully upheld.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they remain fully committed to the Sino-British Joint Declaration; if so, what steps they will take to provide assurance of that commitment (1) within the UK, and (2) to the people of Hong Kong; and what steps they will take to continue to monitor the implementation of the principles set out in the Joint Declaration. [HL492]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific held a meeting with the Chinese Ambassador on 5 July in which he made clear that the UK Government did not accept the position of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson that the Joint Declaration was an historical document of no practical significance. He stressed that, as a guarantor of the Joint Declaration, the UK Government regarded it as legitimate to continue to issue a six-monthly report to the House on Hong Kong affairs.

The Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy in Beijing also raised the Government's concerns with the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 5 July stressing that the Joint Declaration is a legally binding treaty, registered with the UN. As a co-signatory, the UK Government is committed to monitoring its implementation closely.

To mark the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, I issued a Written Ministerial Statement to the House on 29 June, HLWS17.

The UK Government will continue to raise our concerns with the Chinese Government when appropriate to do so, including through our six-monthly reports to the House.

Hong Kong's success and stability depend on its high degree of autonomy, independent judiciary and respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law.

Asked by Lord Ashdown of Norton-sub-Hamdon

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations, if any, they are making to the Chief Executive of Hong Kong to take urgent steps to introduce universal suffrage in Hong Kong for the next elections for Chief Executive and the Legislative Council. [HL493]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: I issued a Written Ministerial Statement to the House on 29 June to mark the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, HLWS17, which outlined our assessment of the 'One Country, Two Systems' principle, as well as referencing specific concerns over its implementation. The UK continues to believe that it is in Hong Kong's best interests that discussion resumes between all parties in Hong Kong in order to make further

progress towards a more democratic and accountable system of government, as provided for in the Basic Law.

Asked by Lord Ashdown of Norton-sub-Hamdon

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the People's Republic of China regarding that government's recent decision to reinterpret the Basic Law and other legislation retrospectively in Hong Kong; and what assessment they have made of the risks to basic freedoms of that reinterpretation. [HL494]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Foreign Secretary said in the Government's six-monthly report to the House published on 24 February that the UK Government had raised its concerns about the interpretation by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress relating to oath-taking for public servants. We did not question the right of the Standing Committee to issue this interpretation, but were concerned about the timing of its release before the conclusion of related judicial proceedings in the Hong Kong courts. The report has been published electronically in both libraries of the house.

I issued a Written Ministerial Statement, HLWS17, to the House on 29 June to mark the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region which outlined our assessment of the 'One Country, Two Systems' principle, as well as referencing specific concerns over its implementation. The UK believes that it is vital for Hong Kong's continued success that the Special Administrative Region's high degree of autonomy and rule of law are preserved and that the principle of 'One Country, Two Systems' is fully upheld.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the recent statement by the government of the People's Republic of China that the Sino-British joint declaration no longer has any practical significance nor any binding force. [HL487]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific held a meeting with the Chinese Ambassador on 5 July in which he made clear that the UK Government did not accept the position of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson that the Joint Declaration was an historical document of no practical significance. He stressed, as a guarantor of the Joint Declaration, the UK Government regarded it as legitimate to continue to issue a six-monthly report to the House on Hong Kong affairs.

The Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy in Beijing also raised Her Majesty's Government's concerns with the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 5 July stressing that the Joint Declaration is a legally binding treaty, registered with the UN. As a co-signatory, the UK Government is committed to monitoring its implementation closely.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has instructed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the People's Republic of China to seek an urgent meeting with that state's Foreign Ministry to discuss recent remarks about the status of the Sino-British Joint Declaration. [HL488]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific held a meeting with the Chinese Ambassador on 5 July in which he made clear that the UK Government did not accept the position of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson that the Joint Declaration was an historical document of no practical significance. He stressed that, as a guarantor of the Joint Declaration, the UK Government regarded it as legitimate to continue to issue a six-monthly report to the House on Hong Kong affairs.

The Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy in Beijing also raised the Government's concerns with the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 5 July stressing that the Joint Declaration is a legally binding treaty, registered with the UN. As a co-signatory, the UK Government is committed to monitoring its implementation closely.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to ensure that (1) the principles of the Sino-British Joint Declaration, and (2) the Basic Law in Hong Kong, are upheld. [HL489]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific held a meeting with the Chinese Ambassador on 5 July in which he made clear that the UK Government did not accept the position of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson that the Joint Declaration was an historical document of no practical significance. He stressed that, as a guarantor of the Joint Declaration, the UK Government regarded it as legitimate to continue to issue a six-monthly report to the House on Hong Kong affairs.

The Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy in Beijing also raised HMG concerns with the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 5 July stressing that the Joint Declaration is a legally binding treaty, registered with the UN. As a co-signatory, the UK Government is committed to monitoring its implementation closely.

To mark the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, I issued a Written Ministerial Statement to the House on 29 June, HLWS17.

The UK Government will continue to raise our concerns with the Chinese Government when appropriate to do so, including through our six-monthly reports to the House.

Hong Kong's success and stability depend on its high degree of autonomy, independent judiciary and respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of the People's Republic of China to ensure that those pro-democracy activists in Hong Kong who are currently on trial or facing disqualification from taking their seats in the Legislative Council receive a fair and just hearing, and that the rule of law is upheld. [HL490]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: In November 2016 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office expressed concern at the National People's Congress Standing Committee's decision to express its interpretation of the Basic Law before conclusion of related legal proceedings in Hong Kong. The cases referred to are a matter for the Hong Kong Courts. We believe that the rule of its law remains robust overall thanks in part to its world class independent judiciary.

Housing: Fires

Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth on 31 October (HL2374) that they have made no estimate of the economic and environmental costs of fires in domestic buildings, and in the light of the Grenfell Tower fire, whether they will now estimate these costs. [HL350]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: There will be wide ranging reviews of the wider issues emerging from the Grenfell Tower fire, including a public inquiry.

Immigration

Asked by Lord Green of Deddington

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people, in each of the last five years, were granted indefinite leave to remain on the basis of long residence under Immigration Rule 276B which requires continuous lawful residence in the UK of at least ten years. [HL559]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The available information on the total number of grants of settlement in the UK on the basis of long residence, 2004 to 2015, is published in Settlement table se_03 in the Home Office's 'Immigration Statistics, January - March 2016', available from https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/615148/settlement-jan-mar-2017-tables.ods

Note these data include those granted under both 10 year and 14 year rules. The 14 year rule provision was

removed in 2012. People can still benefit from the 14 year provision if they were given limited leave to remain on that basis before 2012, in which case they are granted settlement under transitional provisions.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL559 - Settlement Table se_03 - Immigration Stats [Copy of HL 559 table se 03 settlement-jan-mar-2017-tables.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-07-06/HL559>

Asked by Lord Green of Deddington

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people, in each of the last five years, were granted leave to remain on the grounds of private life in the UK under Immigration Rule 276ADE(1). [HL560]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Information on the number of extensions of stay granted by category is published in extensions table ex_02_o in the Home Office's 'Immigration Statistics, January - March 2017', available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-january-to-march-2017/list-of-tables#extensions>

For the relevant information please see worksheet ex_02_o (column A shows year, column G shows private life grants).

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Table ex_02 - HO Immigration Stats Jan-March 17 [Copy of Table ex_02_o.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-07-06/HL560>

Neighbourhood Development Plans

Asked by Lord Stunell

To ask Her Majesty's Government what budgetary provision has been made for grants to Neighbourhood Forums in the year 2018-19, and what distribution mechanism will be used. [HL540]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Government's Housing White Paper, Fixing our Broken Housing Market, commits to further funding for neighbourhood planning groups after 2018 so they can access the additional support they might need. Details of the funding arrangements will be announced in due course.

NHS: Finance

Asked by Lord Pendry

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Health Foundation's recommendations in its Election Briefing: NHS and Social Care Funding, that (1) the level of NHS spending per person should, as a minimum, be maintained, and

(2) health care funding should increase at least in line with the growth of GDP. [HL579]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: National Health Service funding as announced in the 2015 Spending Review will see real terms rises in spend per head of 3.6% over the period 2015-16 to 2020-21 or an average of 0.7% in real terms per annum.

NHS funding is planned to increase by 7.5% over the period 2015-16 to 2020-21 or an average of 1.5% in real terms per annum. The Government recognises that the delivery of a strong economy is of vital importance to enable sufficient funding for the future sustainability of the NHS.

Nuclear Disarmament

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government what preparations they are making for their representation and participation at the 2018 UN High Level Conference on nuclear disarmament. [HL439]

Baroness Goldie: The Government firmly believes that the best way to achieve a world without nuclear weapons is through gradual multilateral disarmament negotiated using a step-by-step approach and within the framework of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. We will consider our approach to the 2018 UN High Level Conference closer to the time.

Nuclear Weapons

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to improve diplomatic relations and trust between nuclear and non-nuclear weapons states, through participation in relevant negotiations and by stimulating dialogue. [HL438]

Baroness Goldie: We discuss nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament frequently with a wide range of partners across the international community through UK Embassies overseas, with Embassies in London, in international organisations, and directly between capitals. We attended the first Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in Vienna in May, where we engaged with a wide range of states on how we can together tackle the challenges we face on non-proliferation and disarmament, and enable access to the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

Parliament: Television

Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours

To ask the Senior Deputy Speaker what was the cost to the House of establishing the parliamentary television channel; and what are the annual costs to the House of maintaining the service. [HL599]

Lord McFall of Alcluith: Parliamentary broadcasting is a shared service hosted by the House of Commons with the House of Lords recharged its share of the costs. The information held by the House of Lords does not separately identify the set-up costs. For 2016-17 the resource costs recharged to the House of Lords totalled £1,104k for Parliamentary Broadcasting and £118k for the Parliamentary Broadcasting ICT Programme. Capital amounts recharged in 2016-17 were £81k for Parliamentary Broadcasting and £465k for the Parliamentary Broadcasting ICT Programme.

Prisoners: Alcoholism

Asked by Lord Farmer

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much funding was allocated in 2016-17 to treat alcohol addiction in prisons. [HL809]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Department does not hold this information.

Prisoners: Dementia

Asked by Lord Bradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to prepare a strategy for prisoners with dementia; and if so, when it will be published. [HL727]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: There are currently no plans to develop a specific strategy for prisoners with dementia.

The Challenge on Dementia 2020 sets out the Government's ambition to follow up timely diagnosis with greater access to support for people with dementia, increase public awareness and create more dementia friendly public and private organisations and communities across all settings.

Health services in prisons are commissioned by NHS England and implementing specialist dementia services across appropriate prison settings is one of its commissioning intentions for 2017-18.

Public Libraries

Asked by Lord Mawson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what (1) research they have commissioned, and (2) consultation they have undertaken, in relation to the role of library services in a digital age. [HL722]

Asked by Lord Mawson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the appropriateness of the provision of library services in a digital age. [HL723]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The Libraries Taskforce, jointly established by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and the Local Government Association, published Libraries Deliver: Ambition for Public

Libraries in England 2016-2021 in December 2016. This strategy sets out 7 strategic Outcomes that libraries support, one of which is increasing digital access and literacy, and it highlights a range of initiatives through which libraries support digital skills, access, skills and related work. This document was produced following extensive consultation with the sector and stakeholders. The UK Digital Strategy also underlined the importance of libraries as a 'go to provider' for digital skills training.

Asked by Lord Mawson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to promote new approaches to library services; and what evidence they have of examples of innovative practice in this area in England. [HL724]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The Government is committed to providing support for those library services that want to explore new approaches. The Libraries Taskforce's Libraries Deliver: Ambition for Public Libraries in England 2016 to 2021 strategy document, good practice toolkits and blogs promote a range of examples of innovative practice already underway in libraries in England. These include alternative delivery models, income generation, partnerships and specific projects. The Libraries Taskforce has also run a number of workshops and masterclasses for the sector to build awareness of the options available and to share good practice.

The £4m Libraries: Opportunities for Everyone innovation fund, managed by Arts Council England on behalf of DCMS, was set up to pilot library service projects that provide benefit disadvantaged people and places in England. These pilots will be tracked and evaluated, with a view to encouraging wider adoption and investment in those which prove most successful.

Asked by Lord Mawson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what evidence they have of partnerships being created between library services and other local and public sector services. [HL725]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The Libraries Taskforce's Libraries Deliver: Ambition for Public Libraries in England 2016 to 2021 strategy document, good practice toolkits and blogs contain a range of examples of partnerships between library services and other local and public sector services. This includes partnership arrangements between local authorities (such as procurement consortia), as well as service delivery partnerships with other council services (such as One Stop Shops), adult and community education, local colleges, job centres, post offices, Citizens Advice Bureau, tourist information, cultural and health organisations.

A range of partners also work with library services to deliver services and activities in a consistent way across the country through the Society of Chief Librarians' Universal Offers.

Public Libraries: Finance

Asked by Lord Mawson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what direct investment they made into library services in 2016-17. [HL721]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport invested £4 million in 2016-17 in the Arts Council managed Libraries: Opportunities for Everyone innovation fund. This supports innovative public library service projects that benefit disadvantaged people and places in England.

DCMS also invested in dedicated support for library services exploring an alternative delivery model (such as a public service mutual). This involved commissioning a consortium of existing library mutuals to produce a toolkit for the Libraries Taskforce on Alternative Delivery Models; running two Masterclasses (one in London and one in York); and providing grants to support library services undertaking detailed options appraisals through access to specialist technical advice.

Public Sector: Billing

Asked by Lord Mawson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance is given by HM Treasury to government departments, agencies and public bodies on the time by which those departments, agencies and bodies should pay the invoices of small and medium sized enterprises. [HL720]

Lord Young of Cookham: Through the Public Contract Regulations 2015, public sector buyers must include 30-day payment terms in new public sector contracts; and require that this payment term be passed down the supply chain. Public sector buyers must also publish annually on their payment performance.

In addition, central government departments are required to pay 80% of undisputed and valid invoices within 5 days, with the remainder paid within 30 days.

Asked by Lord Mawson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the average time period within which invoices issued by small and medium-sized enterprises are paid by public sector bodies in England; and what evidence they have for that estimate. [HL812]

Lord Young of Cookham: This information is not held centrally, but public sector buyers are required to publish annually on their payment performance.

Central government departments are required to pay 80% of undisputed and valid invoices within 5 days, with the remainder paid within 30 days. Government departments publish performance against these targets on a quarterly basis on GOV.UK.

Data published in 2015-16 shows that by the final quarter all major departments, apart from one (at 76%), were meeting their 5 days target and that all departments were paying at least 96% of their invoices within the 30 day target, with several departments achieving 100%.

Pupils: Health

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Be Real Campaign's research that 52 per cent of secondary school pupils regularly worry about their physical appearance; and whether they will consider promoting Be Real's Body Confidence Toolkit for Schools in all schools in England. [HL450]

Lord Nash: The Government is supportive of the work of Be Real, and provided initial funding to launch its website. Caroline Dinenage, the previous Minister for Women and Equalities, met with Be Real following the launch of their toolkit, to thank them for their important work and discuss how we can best support young people's body image.

In 2015 the Government funded the PSHE Association to develop and publish key standards on teaching about body image in schools, which I referred to in my previous answer. That includes a list of resources on body image that have been accredited by the PSHE Association, and the Be Real body confidence toolkit has received that accreditation and so is included within the key standards resource. The PSHE Association is a trusted source for teachers and schools, and I am confident that this is an important way to support the promotion of the Be Real resource to schools.

Railways: Repairs and Maintenance

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the expected reduction in maintenance and renewals towards the end of Control Period 5 on the UK railway network. [HL531]

Lord Callanan: We expect the Office of Rail and Road to have oversight of this and to take action as necessary in relation to any consequential issues concerning rail operations.

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the National Infrastructure Pipeline's forecast of falls in demand of 15 per cent for track, signalling and consultancy works for the remainder of Control Period 5. [HL532]

Lord Callanan: We expect the Office of Rail and Road to have oversight of this and to take action as necessary in relation to any consequential issues concerning rail operations.

Refugees

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of those applying for settlement in the UK as refugees have been identified as economic migrants. [HL697]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: A grant of leave as a refugee (as identified by the 1951 Geneva Convention) will not be granted to those who are claiming for economic reasons only. The way in which reasons for refusal of asylum claims are stored means that it is not possible to provide a breakdown of the number of those identified as claiming as economic migrants; to do so can only be done at disproportionate cost.

Details on the number of asylum claims refused each year can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-january-to-march-2017>

Refugees: Syria

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government which local authorities have accepted refugees from Syria; and how many refugees have been taken in by each such local authority. [HL695]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Progress on resettlement under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme is indicated in quarterly immigration statistics, and is broken down by each local authority. The last set of statistics, published on 25 May, showed that 7,307 Syrians have been resettled across 235 different local authorities since the scheme began. The statistics are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

Russia: Jehovah's Witnesses

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the decision by the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation to ban the Jehovah's Witnesses on the grounds that the group is considered to be an extremist organisation. [HL427]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK is deeply concerned by the dismissal of an appeal against the decision of Russia's Supreme Court to categorise the Jehovah's Witnesses as extremists. This ruling effectively criminalises the peaceful worship of some 175,000 Russian citizens and is at odds with the right to religious freedom which is enshrined in the Russian Constitution.

I issued a statement on 18 July expressing our concerns. We have raised this issue with the Russian Government and continue to call on them to uphold their commitment to this basic freedom in international fora, including in the Council of Europe.

Suicide: Young Ppeople

Asked by Lord Eames

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the level of suicide among teenagers in the UK. [HL666]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Office for National Statistics publishes annual statistics on suicide registrations for the United Kingdom, including age-specific suicide rates by five-year age groups. A table attached provides statistics for suicides in people aged 10-14 and 15-19 in the UK between 1981 and 2015, the latest data available, is attached due to the size of the data.

The Department leads delivery of the Cross-Government Suicide Prevention Strategy for England. Suicide prevention is a devolved matter in other UK countries.

The National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide by People with Mental Illness, which is commissioned by NHS England and supported by the Department, published a thematic review in 2016, Suicide by Children and Young People in England. The report identified ten common themes relating to suicides by people under 20 years of age:

- family factors such as mental illness;
- abuse and neglect;
- bereavement and experience of suicide;
- bullying;
- suicide-related internet use;
- academic pressures, especially related to exams;
- social isolation or withdrawal;
- physical health conditions that may have social impact;
- alcohol and illicit drugs; and
- mental ill health, self-harm and suicidal ideas.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Suicides in UK 1981-2015 10-19 year olds [HL666 formatted table.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-07-11/HL666>

Surrogate Motherhood

Asked by Baroness Barker

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Nicola Blackwood MP on 8 March (HC66737) and by Philip Dunne MP on 27 June (HC510), whether a remedial order to allow single parents to apply for a parental order following surrogacy will be laid before Parliament after the summer recess; and if so, whether that order will operate retrospectively once approved. [HL660]

Asked by Baroness Barker

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the conclusion of the report by the Surrogacy UK Working Group on Surrogacy Law, Surrogacy in the UK: Myth bashing and reform, published in November 2015, whether they continue to support the inclusion of a review of the law on surrogacy in the Law Commission's 13th programme of law reform; and whether they will commit to their own review of the law on surrogacy if the Law Commission does not take this forward. [HL661]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: It is the Government's intention to lay the remedial order, which will allow single people to apply for a parental order in a surrogacy arrangement, after the summer recess. The order will include a provision to allow for retrospective application for a parental order by single people.

The Government supports the inclusion of a review of surrogacy legislation in the Law Commission's 13th programme of law reform. The Department has not made any alternative plans for a review of surrogacy but would consider options carefully, if, for any reason, the Law Commission decides not to proceed.

United Nations: Peacekeeping Operations

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to support victim-centred accountability arrangements within the UN, to ensure that peacekeepers found guilty of sexual abuse are punished. [HL442]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK fully supports the UN Secretary-General's zero tolerance approach to sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) by peacekeepers and his new approach to prioritise victims. The UK has made it a priority to tackle the abhorrent actions of these individuals which we unequivocally condemn. Where allegations are made against troops, the country that provided those troops must carry out investigations promptly, transparently and report their findings to the UN. The UK has provided £2 million of funding to the UN to implement the Secretary General's programme of action on prevention, enforcement and remedial action of SEA. We provide training on this issue to our own peacekeepers and to other countries who contribute peacekeepers. Furthermore since the inception of the office of the UN's Special Co-ordinator on Improving the UN's Response to SEA, we have provided funding to support its work.

Veterans

Asked by Lord Touhig

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to bring forward proposals to establish a Veterans Board in the Cabinet Office as outlined in their 2017 Manifesto. [HL740]

Lord Young of Cookham: Details of how the Board will be set up are currently being considered and will be announced in due course.

Yemen: Religious Freedom

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the situation facing Bahá'ís and other religious minorities in Yemen. [[HL429](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Government is concerned about the situation faced by the Bahá'ís in Yemen. This is particularly the case in areas under the control of the Houthis and forces loyal to ex-president Saleh, where they have faced persecution due to their religious beliefs. The UK has raised the issue with the Government of Yemen and highlighted their plight through public diplomacy. Mr Burt, the Minister for the Middle East and North Africa, also met with representatives of the Bahá'í community on 13 July.

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