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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

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

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

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Written Statements

Thursday, 20 July 2017

Annual Human Rights and Democracy Report

[HLWS92]

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

I have today laid before Parliament a copy of the 2016 Foreign and Commonwealth Office Report on Human Rights and Democracy (Cm 9487).

The report highlights policy developments on human rights issues overseas in 2016.

The report assesses the human rights situation in 30 countries which FCO has designated as its Human Rights Priority Countries. These are: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Burma, Burundi, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Iran, Iraq, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Libya, Maldives, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

This report focuses on how the Government is striving to protect and promote human rights around the world. In the two centuries since Britain became the first country to outlaw the slave trade, this country has helped to lead the struggle for justice and decency. The Government's approach towards human rights stands in this long tradition, based on the firm belief that our values are not only right in themselves but the key to prosperity and development.

Annual JHA Opt-in Reports

[HLWS95]

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

The Home Office and Ministry of Justice have prepared the Sixth and Seventh Annual Reports to Parliament on the Application of Protocols 19 and 21 to the Treaty on European Union (TEU) and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) ('the Treaties') in Relation to EU Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Matters (Cm 9488). The Reports, which are today being laid before the House, are submitted on behalf of both my own Department and that of the Justice Secretary. Copies of the Command Paper are available from the Vote Office and on Gov.uk.

On 9 June 2008, the then Leader of the House of Lords committed to table a report in Parliament each year

setting out the decisions taken by the Government in accordance with Protocol 21 ('the Justice and Home Affairs opt-in Protocol') and to make that report available for debate. These commitments were designed to ensure that the views of the Scrutiny Committees should inform the Government's decision-making process.

The Sixth Report covers decisions taken over the period 1 December 2014 – 30 November 2015. In that period, decisions on UK participation in 23 EU JHA legislative proposals have been taken. The UK has decided to opt in under the JHA opt-in Protocol in 11 cases and has decided not to opt in in 13 cases (this includes one decision on an international agreement where the UK opted into one set of JHA provisions in the measure, and did not opt into another). The Government has not asserted the Schengen opt-out to any proposals during that period.

The Seventh Report covers decisions taken over the period 1 December 2015 – 30 November 2016. In that period, decisions on UK participation in 36 EU JHA legislative proposals have been taken. The UK has decided to opt in under the JHA opt-in Protocol in 12 cases and has decided not to opt in in 24 cases. The Government has not asserted the Schengen opt-out to any proposals during that period.

These opt-in decisions are without prejudice to discussions on the UK's future relationship with the EU. The UK's relationship with the EU will change as a result of leaving the EU, however, the UK retains the rights and obligations of membership of the EU whilst we remain a member.

Cabinet Committees and Implementation Taskforces

[HLWS104]

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

Today the Government is publishing an updated list of Cabinet Committees and Implementation Taskforces.

Copies of the associated documents will be placed in the Library of House and published on Gov.uk.

Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal

[HLWS105]

Viscount Younger of Leckie: My Right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Scotland (David Mundell) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

In March 2016, the Government announced their intention to negotiate a city region deal for Edinburgh and South East Scotland. As well as deals across England and Wales, this follows the successful agreement of city region deals for Glasgow and Clyde Valley, Inverness and the Highlands and Aberdeen City Region.

I can today inform the House that the Government has reached agreement with the Scottish Government and

regional partners on a Heads of Terms for a City Region Deal for Edinburgh and South East Scotland.

This deal will bring in excess of £1 billion of investment into the Scottish capital city region. Local partners' aspirations are that this investment will create in excess of 21,000 good quality jobs.

Central to the investment is the UK Government contribution of up to £300 million, which is being matched by Scottish Government. This investment is expected to unlock a considerable further investment from the city-region's universities, higher education sector and the private sector.

UK Government investment will support local partners in delivering their ambition to make Edinburgh a leader in data-driven innovation. Building on existing regional excellence in R&D and innovation, the investment will see significant investments in digital infrastructure and data storage as well as the development of five R&D hubs across the city-region. These hubs will focus on growth in key sectors of the local economy such as data science, robotics, financial services, creative tech and agri-tech.

We will also deliver our manifesto commitment to support a new concert hall in Edinburgh, meeting the need for a mid-sized venue in the city.

Projects and programmes announced in the Heads of Terms document will be subject to the development and approval of business cases. Moving forward, the Government will work with the Scottish Government and the civic, academic and business leaders of Edinburgh and South East Scotland to ensure the successful implementation of the deal.

This represents an important step in delivering the UK Government's commitment to a city deal for each of Scotland's cities, as we work to strengthen the Union and build a United Kingdom that works for everyone.

EU-Canada Strategic Partnership Agreement

[HLWS94]

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

The Government wishes to inform the House of its decision to opt in to the Council Decision on Conclusion of the EU-Canada Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA), in respect of Article 18(2) of the Agreement, which relates to judicial cooperation in the field of civil and commercial matters. This article falls within Title V of Part III of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union.

The SPA, a framework political agreement, will update the previous EU-Canada 1976 Framework Agreement for commercial and economic cooperation between the European Communities and Canada. It has two aims: i) to enhance EU-Canada political ties and cooperation on foreign and security policy issues; and ii) to upgrade cooperation on a wide range of other areas. The SPA,

though not technically linked to the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA), is complementary and will provide wider benefits to the EU-Canada relationship.

The SPA has been under negotiation between the EU, its Member States and Canada, since 2011. The draft Council Decision on Conclusion issued on Thursday 24 November 2016. Notwithstanding the result of the referendum on EU membership the Government consider that it is in the UK's interests to opt in to Article 18(2) of this Agreement at the Conclusion stage of the SPA negotiations. Article 18(2) of the agreement provides for judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters. While it is not specific about the type of cooperation that might be envisaged, the Government believes that it is beneficial for the UK to be involved in any such work between the EU and one of our closest Commonwealth partners whilst we remain a member of the European Union.

We do not expect the Council Decision on Conclusion to be adopted until all Member States have ratified the SPA.

High Level Output Specification

[HLWS86]

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

I am today publishing my High Level Output Specification (HLOS) and initial Statement of Funds Available (SOFA) for the railway for Control Period 6, which covers the years 2019 to 2024.

The Government is determined that the railway becomes more focused on issues that matter most to passengers – such as punctuality and reliability. A more reliable railway also plays a critical role in underpinning economic growth and bringing the country together. The Government is committed to taking action to achieve these outcomes.

The HLOS is therefore focussed on the operation, maintenance and renewal of the existing railway – the areas of activity that will deliver a more reliable railway for passengers. The Government is already delivering significant enhancements to the railway, including High Speed 2 and Crossrail and it expects to continue to invest in the enhancement to the wider rail network in the next Control Period. In light of the findings of the Bowe Review, which emphasised the need to enable better planning, cost control and alignment with the needs of users of the railway Government will take forward the funding of these enhancements separately. The Government is developing a new process for delivering enhancements and intends to publish more information on this in the Autumn.

On the basis of independent advice from the Office of Rail and Road, as well as from the rail industry, the Government has agreed that an increased volume of renewals activity will be needed over the course of

Control Period 6, to maintain safety and improve on current levels of reliability and punctuality, which in places fall short of the levels that passengers rightly expect. This enhanced programme of renewals will be supported by appropriate volumes of operations and maintenance activity required to maintain safety and improve the reliability and punctuality of train services.

Before committing to the specific levels of funding required, I have decided that the Government requires more assurance on the likely costs of the work programme. Network Rail's progress on improving its efficiency in recent years has fallen short of my expectations. Improving efficiency is vital if we are to maximise the value of taxpayer spending on the railway in driving improvements for passengers and freight shippers.

The Government will therefore carry out further work to examine the approach to setting appropriate levels of maintenance and renewals activity for Control Period 6 and to improving Network Rail's efficiency. This will enable me to confirm the extent of Government's funding envelope through the publication of a Statement of Funds Available by 13 October 2017. This work will draw on a number of sources, including the new independent review of progress on efficiency planning which the regulator has commissioned

Alongside the publication of the HLOS, I am issuing new statutory guidance to the independent Office of Rail and Road. This sets out my priorities for rail regulation. These include supporting the ORR's work to improve Network Rail's efficiency and improving the experience of users of the railway.

I am placing copies of the HLOS and SOFA, and of the statutory guidance to the Office of Rail and Road, to be placed in the libraries of the House.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

HLOS [170720 - High Level Output Specification.pdf]

Office of Rail and Road guidance [170720 - ORR guidance.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2017-07-20/HLWS86/>

Home Buying Policy, Commonhold Law, and Protected Persons

[HLWS90]

Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: My Rt Hon. Friend the Prime Minister has made the following statement to the House of Commons:

This written statement confirms three machinery of Government changes.

Responsibility for home buying policy, including estate agent regulation, will transfer from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to the Department for Communities and Local Government. Responsibility for commonhold law will transfer from the

Ministry of Justice to the Department for Communities and Local Government. These changes will be effective immediately.

Responsibility for protected persons policy will transfer from the Ministry of Justice to the Home Office. This change will be effective immediately.

Immigration Rules

[HLWS96]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: My rt hon Friend the Minister of State for Immigration (Brandon Lewis) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

My rt hon Friend the Home Secretary is today laying before the House a Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules (HC 290).

The purpose of the changes is to give effect to the Supreme Court judgment in *MM (Lebanon) & Others*, handed down on 22 February 2017.

The changes, together with changes to the Secretary of State's guidance to decision-makers, are intended to give effect to the judgment's findings in respect of, firstly, the income sources which may be relied upon to meet the minimum income requirement in specified exceptional circumstances; and, secondly, the duty to have regard to the welfare of children under section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009. They also make other minor amendments and clarifications to the family Immigration Rules.

Insolvency Service Performance Targets

[HLWS88]

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 have set performance targets for the Insolvency Service for the financial year 2017-18.

The Insolvency Service is the Government agency that provides public services to those affected by financial distress or failure.

The Insolvency Service provides the frameworks that deal with insolvency and the financial misconduct that sometimes accompanies or leads to it. Its aim is to deliver economic confidence through a corporate and personal insolvency regime which is regarded as fair and that gives investors, lenders and creditors confidence to take the commercial risks necessary to support economic growth.

In 2017-18, an important priority for the Insolvency Service will be to maintain its current high level of customer service whilst initiating a major change programme. I have set measures and targets at a level which reflects the challenges that the agency continues to face.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

The Insolvency Service Performance Targets 2017-18 [The Insolvency Service Performance Targets 2017.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2017-07-20/HLWS88/>

Inter-Pillar Transfer Rate in England

[HLWS89]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: My Right Hon Friend the Secretary of State (Michael Gove) has today made the following statement.

Today I am announcing that the amount transferred from farmers' Pillar 1 direct payments to Pillar 2 rural development in England will remain at 12% for 2019 and 2020.

Leaving the EU presents an unprecedented opportunity to develop a new system that works for us. The Government has committed to maintain the same total in cash funds until the end of this parliament. As we prepare to leave, we will work with farmers, food producers and environmental experts across the United Kingdom and with the devolved administrations to devise a new agri-environment system, to be introduced in the following parliament.

I have, therefore, concluded that the inter-pillar transfer should remain unchanged in England under the current Common Agricultural Policy framework.

Lugano and Hague Conventions

[HLWS102]

Lord Keen of Elie: My Right Honourable Friend, the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor, has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

"The United Kingdom has opted in to the following Council Decisions:

(i) Council Decision of 7 February 2013, authorising the opening of negotiations on agreements between the EU and Denmark, Norway, Iceland and Switzerland in the areas of cross-border service of judicial and non-judicial documents and the taking of evidence in civil and commercial proceedings. (Norway, Iceland and Switzerland are commonly referred to as the Lugano States).

The negotiating mandates set out the position of the EU in discussions on the prospects for agreements between those States in the areas of cross-border service of judicial and non-judicial documents and taking of evidence in civil and commercial proceedings.

There have been three rounds of discussions so far, and final agreements have yet to be reached. The decision of the then Government in 2013 to opt in to the negotiating mandates does not commit this Government to opt in to future EU agreements in these spheres. I will update the House as further information becomes available.

(ii) Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations on a Convention on the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters (the Judgments Convention) in the framework of the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

The negotiating mandate of May 2016 sets out the position of the EU in discussions at a Hague Conference level on the prospects for an international Convention which would set out rules for the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters, delivered by foreign courts.

Detailed discussions on the form of a Convention text began in June 2016 and will continue among EU Member States and at Hague Conference level for some time to come. The next Hague Conference Special Commission to discuss the project will take place in November 2017.

Opting in to the EU negotiating mandate does not commit the UK Government to accede to any future Convention.

Due to an oversight, a Written Ministerial Statement on these Council Decisions has not thus far been placed before both Houses, for which I apologise".

Mutual Recognition of Freezing and Confiscation Orders

[HLWS100]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: My hon Friend the Minister of State for Security (Ben Wallace) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The Government has decided that the UK will opt in to the Regulation on the Mutual Recognition of Freezing and Confiscation Orders.

The proposed Regulation would replace and build upon the existing mutual recognition framework which is currently in two existing instruments – the Council Framework Decision on the execution in the European Union of orders of freezing property of evidence (2003/577/JHA) and the Council Framework Decision (2006/783/JHA) on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to confiscation orders. These Framework Decisions were transposed into UK law in 2014.

Through our Serious Organised Crime Strategy and Action Plan for anti-money laundering and counter terrorist finance, we have made it clear that being able to recover criminal monies is a priority. The proposed Regulation will bring benefits to the UK through strengthening the ability of our operational agencies to have our orders recognised and executed, particularly in countries which have traditionally been slower to assist in cross border asset recovery cases.

The UK's experience of the existing Framework Decisions has been positive, although numbers of mutual recognition requests are limited due to the short time (since 2014) that the Decisions have been fully transposed in UK law. Asset recovery in some EU states has

traditionally been difficult through mutual legal assistance routes, which are lengthy and cumbersome.

Opting into this measure is also consistent with the UK's approach to participating in EU mutual recognition measures to improve practical cooperation between Member States. Opting in at this point shows our continued positive engagement with this measure, and demonstrates our commitment to work together with our European partners to fight crime and prevent terrorism now and after we leave the European Union.

New Bulgarian EU Commissioner

[HLWS103]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: On 7 July 2017, the Council of the European Union supported the appointment of Ms Mariya Gabriel as the new Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society. The UK voted in favour of the appointment of Ms Gabriel as Commissioner. Ms Gabriel is scheduled to hold the post until 31 October 2019.

The Bulgarian Government nominated Ms Gabriel as Commissioner following the resignation of the previous commissioner for Bulgaria, Ms Kristalina Georgieva, in December 2016. Before her appointment, Ms Gabriel had been a member of the European Parliament since 2009.

Newly Naturalised Passport Applicants

[HLWS97]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: My right hon Friend the Minister of State for Immigration (Brandon Lewis) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

I am writing to advise you that Her Majesty's Passport Office are introducing changes to their interviewing processes.

HM Passport Office reserves the right to call any passport applicant for an identity interview. However, where the identity of a newly naturalised British citizen can be confirmed using records already held by UK Visas & Immigration, they will not be routinely required to attend an interview as part of their first UK passport application.

The new process maintains our high standards of identity assurance but removes an unnecessary burden on newly naturalised citizens by no longer requiring them to confirm their identity twice to the Home Office before being issued with a UK passport.

Post-16 Education

[HLWS99]

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

"Today the Government is publishing Professor Sir Adrian Smith's authoritative and wide-ranging review of 16-18 mathematics education in England.

The government is determined to give all young people the world-class education they need to fulfil their potential. This includes providing opportunities to develop the mathematical and quantitative knowledge and skills appropriate to their chosen careers. In an increasingly technological world this will be vital to ensuring that our future workforce will be productive and competitive in the global marketplace.

Sir Adrian Smith's review identifies a strong economic and social mobility case for raising participation in post-16 mathematics and improving knowledge and skills at all levels. He presents clear evidence for the value of mathematical and quantitative skills to students, whichever route they take.

The report includes recommendations and challenges that are wide-ranging – for example, the need to address negative cultural perceptions of mathematics. These issues will require detailed engagement and action between government, industry, universities, schools and colleges.

I have today written to Sir Adrian thanking him for the review and confirming that the Government will set out our plans across the range of Sir Adrian's recommendations in due course. The letter confirms that work is already underway to address a number of the challenges highlighted in the report, and there are a number of recommendations where we have been able to take immediate action.

We agree with Sir Adrian that we must be ambitious and take greater action to encourage and support more young people to choose mathematics post-16, particularly in areas where take-up is low. That is why one of the immediate actions we are taking today is to announce a new £16m Level 3 Maths Support Programme. It will build on the momentum created by the Further Mathematics and Core Maths Support Programmes, and will work with schools and colleges to improve mathematics education by sharing best practice, and delivering knowledge-rich curriculum materials, as well as working to increase participation and attainment in 16-18 mathematics. The programme will work to deliver focused intervention targeted to those who need it most.

The other immediate actions we have taken in response to Sir Adrian's recommendations are set out in my letter. For example, taking forward work on the new T level qualifications to ensure they include mathematics where employers identify this as a requirement for employment; working with the newly constituted Royal Society Advisory Committee on Mathematics Education to ensure appropriate expert advice. We are also working with institutions such as the Royal Society and British Academy to encourage universities and employers to signal the value of level 3 mathematics qualifications for entry to undergraduate courses with a significant quantitative element and for a wide range of job roles.

We have placed a copy of Sir Adrian's report and our letter in the libraries of the House and on the government's website."

Publications: Former Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation

[HLWS106]

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

In November 2013, the then Home Secretary asked David Anderson QC to conduct a review of the framework of the UK's Deportation with Assurances (DWA) policy, and to make recommendations on how the policy might be strengthened or improved, with particular emphasis on its legal aspects. I am pleased to be publishing his report today (Cm 9462). I can confirm that no redactions have been made to the report.

In accordance with section 36(5) of the Terrorism Act 2006, David Anderson QC, the former Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation, prepared a report on the operation in 2015 of the Terrorism Act 2000 and Part 1 of the Terrorism Act 2006, which was laid before the House on 1 December 2016. I have carefully considered its recommendations and observations. I am today laying before the House the Government's response (Cm 9489).

I am very grateful to David Anderson for his work on both reports

Copies of David Anderson's report into DWA, and the Government's response to his section 36(5) report will be available in the Vote Office and on GOV.UK.

Questions for Written Answer 2016-17 Session

[HLWS87]

Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: I am today publishing data on departmental performance in answering Questions for Written Answer (QWA) for the 2016/17 session. Written questions are an important way in which Members hold the Government to account, and the House has agreed that they should be answered within 10 working days (Procedure Committee, 3rd Report, Session 2009-10).

I am pleased that overall 93% of Questions for Written Answer were answered within 10 working days in the last session. This matches the overall performance in the 2015/16 session which was an improvement on the 2014/15 session where 91% of questions were answered on time. While I am encouraged by this performance, it is worth noting that the number of questions tabled compared to the 2015/16 session has decreased by more than 15% with the percentage of timely answers remaining static. This leaves scope for improvement, and I will continue to make clear to departments the House's expectations and to stress the importance of timely responses.

As Leader of the House, it is my responsibility to make sure that all responses to QWAs are prompt and accurate, and it's one I take very seriously. I will continue to

publish this data annually to allow for proper scrutiny of departmental performance and to continue this analysis over time.

Due to size constraints, full details are set out in the attached table.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Questions for Written Answer - 2016/17 session [20170502 - Questions for Written Answer - 2016 - 17 session.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2017-07-20/HLWS87/>

Rail Update

[HLWS85]

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

I wish to inform the House about some important developments regarding the rail networks of the Midland Main Line, South Wales and the North of England.

Passenger numbers on the UK rail network have more than doubled since privatisation 20 years ago and our country's railways need to adapt and change to be able to meet current and future demand. Therefore we are delivering the largest upgrade of the rail network since Victorian times, including modernising rail services and infrastructure on the Great Western Main Line, Midland Main Line and in the North.

Technology is advancing quickly, and this Government is committed to using the best available technologies to improve each part of the network. New bi-mode train technology offers seamless transfer from diesel power to electric that is undetectable to passengers. The industry is also developing alternative fuel trains, using battery and hydrogen power. This means that we no longer need to electrify every line to achieve the same significant improvements to journeys, and we will only electrify lines where it delivers a genuine benefit to passengers.

These new technologies mean that we can improve journeys for passengers on the Great Western Main Line in South Wales, the Midland Main Line, and on the Lakes Line between Windermere and Oxenholme sooner than expected with state of the art trains, instead of carrying out disruptive electrification works along the whole of these routes.

Midlands

The competition to find the next operator for the Midland Main Line is underway. Our goals for the next East Midlands franchise are to improve journeys for passengers, drive even stronger economic growth and support investment across the whole region. We want to hear from passengers and local communities about the next rail franchise to ensure it delivers the services that passengers want. I am therefore pleased to inform the House that my Department is today launching a public

consultation on the next franchise. The consultation, which will run for 12 weeks from today, will help to inform and develop the franchise specification for inclusion in the Invitation to Tender. The consultation is available online and will also include a number of local stakeholder events.

The next East Midlands franchise will help drive the Midlands Engine and improve passenger journeys by maximising the passenger benefits of the significant upgrade of the Midland Main Line, the biggest investment in the route since it was completed in 1870. The upgrade will enable reduced journey times and more seats for long distance passengers during the peaks, as well as more capacity for commuters with dedicated services with longer trains. Journeys will improve from 2020 and, once the full benefits are realised, there will be almost twice as many seats into London St Pancras in the peak compared to today.

The next operator will be required to deliver modern, fast and efficient trains. This includes a brand new fleet of bi-mode intercity trains from 2022, delivering more seats and comfort for long-distance passengers. The provision of these trains will replace plans to electrify the line north of Kettering to Sheffield and Nottingham, improving journeys sooner, without the need for wires and masts on the whole route, and causing less disruption to services. We do not intend to proceed with plans to electrify the line from Kettering to Sheffield and Nottingham, and there will be further investment to come to ensure Sheffield is HS2-ready.

Wales

From Autumn 2017, passengers in Wales will benefit from new Intercity Express trains which will each deliver over 130 more seats, faster journey times and improved connectivity for South Wales to London with 40% more seats in the morning peak once the full fleet is in service.

These innovative new trains switch seamlessly between electric and diesel power, delivering faster journeys and more seats for passengers without disruptive work to put up wires and masts along routes where they are no longer required.

Rapid delivery of passenger benefits, minimising disruption and engineering work should always be our priority and as technology changes we must we must reconsider our approach to modernising the railways. We will only electrify lines where it provides a genuine benefit to passengers which cannot be achieved through other technologies.

As a result, we no longer need to electrify the Great Western route west of Cardiff. In addition to the new trains, Network Rail will develop further options to improve journeys for passengers in Wales. These will include, but not be limited to:

- Improving journeys times and connections between Swansea and Cardiff, and South Wales, Bristol and London

- Improving journeys times and connections across North Wales

- Direct services from Pembroke Dock to London via Carmarthen on new, state of the art Intercity Express trains

- Station improvements at Cardiff Station

- Station improvements in and around Swansea including looking at the case for additional provision

I also support a proposal for Wales' first privately funded railway station at St Mellons. My Department will work with the promoters of the scheme as they develop their plans to the next stage.

The first new Intercity Express trains will enter service from this October and once the whole fleet is introduced and electrification to Cardiff is complete journey times between Swansea, London and other stations along the route will be approximately 15 minutes shorter.

The North

We are investing in the Northern Powerhouse, upgrading rail services across one of the country's largest networks to improve connections between towns and cities. Passengers in the Lake District will benefit from double the number of direct services to Manchester Airport from May 2018. From 2019, there will be brand new trains with more seats and better on-board facilities including air conditioning, toilets, free wi-fi and plug sockets, subject to business case.

We have listened to concerns about electrification gantries spoiling protected landscapes. Northern, the train operator, will therefore begin work to explore the possibility of deploying alternative-fuel trains on the route by 2021, improving comfort and on-board facilities for passengers whilst protecting the sensitive environment of this World Heritage Site. This trial will pilot an alternative-fuelled train, removing the need to construct intrusive wires and masts in this National Park. Journeys between Windermere and Manchester Airport will be improved sooner and with less disruption to services and local communities. This replaces plans to electrify the line between Windermere and Oxenholme.

This investment is a part of the Great North Rail Project, which will deliver more frequent trains and new direct services on the West Coast Main Line, with faster journeys and increased frequency into and through Manchester from across the North West. It will boost access to jobs and new opportunities, growing the Northern Powerhouse by improving connections between the Lake District and the Manchester Airport international gateway.

Train operators and Network Rail will need to work as one to deliver these upgrades and introduce the new fleets in a way which ensures passengers experience better journeys as soon as possible.

Rail Franchise Schedule

The Government has also today published the updated Rail Franchise Schedule, which includes changes to the timescales for the East Midlands, Cross Country and West Midlands rail franchises. A copy of the schedule will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Rail Franchise Schedule [170720 Rail Franchise Schedule.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2017-07-20/HLWS85/>

Science Advisory Non-Departmental Public Bodies: Triennial Review

[HLWS93]

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:

On 21 July 2014, my predecessor, Home Secretary Theresa May, announced in Parliament, through a Written Ministerial Statement, the commencement of the triennial review of the Home Office Science Advisory Non-Departmental Public Bodies: the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD); the Animals in Science Committee (ASC); and the National DNA Database Ethics Group (NDNADEG). I am now pleased to announce the completion of the review.

The ACMD, ASC and NDNADEG are independent bodies that advise ministers on scientific issues.

The review concludes that the functions performed by the ACMD, the ASC and the NDNADEG are still required and that they should be retained as non-departmental public bodies. The review concludes that the control and governance arrangements are robust and compliant with the principles set out in the Principles of Good Corporate Governance for Advisory NDPBs, the Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory NDPBs and the Principles of Scientific Advice to Government.

The review recommends that the remit of the NDNADEG should be extended to cover the ethical issues associated with all forensic identification techniques including facial recognition technology and fingerprinting, and the collection and retention of biometric data. This recommendation has been accepted and therefore the name of the NDNADEG will change to the Biometrics and Forensics Ethics Group. The review also makes two recommendations in relation to accountability of Ministers for the bodies: that the Chair of the NDNADEG should meet a Home Office Minister in the next twelve months; and an annual report should be published for the ASC and ACMD. Both recommendations have been accepted.

The full report of the triennial review of the ACMD, the ASC and the NDNADEG can be found on the GOV.UK

website and copies have been placed in the House Library.

Second Generation Schengen Information System

[HLWS101]

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

The Government has decided not to opt out of a new EU proposal for a Regulation governing the use of the Second Generation Schengen Information System (SIS II) for police and judicial cooperation purposes (“the draft Police Cooperation Regulation”), and not to opt in to a proposal for a Regulation on the use of SIS II for the return of illegally staying non-European Economic Area (EEA) nationals (“the draft Returns Regulation”).

SIS II is an EU-wide system that circulates alerts on people and objects that are of interest to law enforcement agencies across the EU. This includes people who are wanted for extradition on European Arrest Warrants, stolen vehicles, lost or cancelled travel documents and suspected criminals and terrorists on whom information is sought.

The Proposed Police Cooperation Regulation will replace the legislation that currently governs SIS II’s use for that purpose. The UK has participated in this aspect of SIS II since April 2015. Our law enforcement agencies benefit from this, for example by being able to detain at the border people who are wanted under European Arrest Warrants and to obtain intelligence from police forces across the EU on suspected criminals and security risks. The draft Regulation contains a number of proposals that would update SIS II’s capabilities, for example allowing it to store a wider range of biometric data and permitting alerts to be created to protect children who are at risk of going missing. There are some changes we will seek, in particular to maintain Member States’ control over when alerts are created, but the Government believes we will be in a better position to do this by not opting out and remaining full participants in the negotiation.

The Proposed Returns Regulation would allow Member States to use SIS II to circulate alerts on non-EEA nationals who have been made subject to removal decisions. Therefore, the UK will not opt in to the draft Returns Regulation.

The decisions announced here have no implications for our general opt out from the internal border-free zone established by Schengen.

Until the UK leaves the EU it remains a full member, and the Government will continue to consider the application of the UK’s right to opt in to, or opt out of, forthcoming EU legislation in the area of Justice and Home Affairs on a case by case basis, with a view to maximising our country’s security, protecting our civil liberties and enhancing our ability to control immigration.

Somalia (Security Assistance)

[HLWS107]

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

The UK remains committed to building a stable, peaceful and prosperous future for Somalia. Instability in Somalia affects stability across East Africa – fuelling irregular migration and providing a foothold for terrorist groups such as Al Shabaab and Daesh. It is important that we maintain our support in order to tackle these shared threats to both the UK and the Somali people. This is why the British Government has announced a further £21m of support for security work in Somalia, and helped to agree the Security Pact at the London Somalia Conference earlier this year.

In the shorter-term, with the support of the Somali Government, the UK has funded the construction of a police training facility in Mogadishu at a cost of £1,767,016 which will shortly be handed over to the Somali Police Force. This facility has been funded by FCO policy programme funding. The development of security partners and Counter Terrorism (CT) policing in Somalia is vital to help ensure that the Somali authorities have the right tools to deploy in their ongoing fight against terrorism.

The provision of this facility is fully in line with the Government's strategic CT objectives for East and South Africa. Using the Overseas Security and Justice Assistance guidance, FCO officials have also assessed the project for human rights risks, and concluded that the risk of such violations arising from the project's delivery may be mitigated.

Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures

[HLWS98]

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 31 May 2017)	6
TPIM notices in respect of British citizens (as of 31 May 2017)	5

TPIM notices extended (during the reporting period)	0
TPIM notices revoked (during the reporting period)	1
TPIM notices revived (during the reporting period)	1
Variations made to measures specified in TPIM notices (during the reporting period)	10
Applications to vary measures specified in TPIM notices refused (during the reporting period)	3
The number of current subjects relocated under TPIM legislation (as of 31 May 2017)	6

The TPIM Review Group (TRG) keeps every TPIM notice under regular and formal review. The most recent TRG meetings took place on 26 and 30 June, and 3 and 4 July.

The case of *Secretary of State for the Home Department v EC and EG* [2017] EWHC 795 (Admin) was heard again at the High Court between 24 January and 2 February 2017. In a judgment handed down on 11 April 2017 Mr Justice Collins upheld the Secretary of State's decision to impose a TPIM notice on EC and EG. This judgement can be found at:

www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2017/795.html

Type 26 Frigates

[HLWS91]

Earl Howe: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (Sir Michael Fallon) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Following the announcement earlier this month that the Ministry of Defence had signed a £3.7 billion contract for the first batch of the new Type 26 anti-submarine warfare frigates, I am pleased to announce that the frigates will be known as the City Class. The first ship is to be named HMS GLASGOW and her construction formally began today. Naming the ships after cities provides significant and readily identifiable linkages with large populations across the United Kingdom. GLASGOW is a name with a distinguished historical pedigree, and this first name in the class provides a tangible connection with the city where the ships will be constructed. There have been eight Royal Navy ships of the name from the early 1700s, who between them have earned ten battle honours. In more recent history, two ships served in the World Wars, including the Arctic Convoys and the Normandy Landings, and the last ship to bear the name was awarded the 'Falkland Islands 1982' battle honour to add to the 'Falkland Islands 1914' honour won by her predecessor. The Type 26 Frigates, the first of which we expect to enter service with the Royal Navy in the mid 2020s, will provide essential protection to our nuclear deterrent and aircraft carriers into the 2060s, keeping British interests safe across the world.

Written Answers

Thursday, 20 July 2017

Air Pollution

Asked by **Lord Bradshaw**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the comparative statistics for air quality in (1) Nottingham, Southampton and Derby, which are proposed Clean Air Zones, and (2) the City of Bath. [\[HL762\]](#)

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The report *Air pollution in the UK 2015*, which was published in September 2016, reported all four locations to be compliant in all air pollutants levels with the exception of the mean annual concentrations of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) that were all reported to be above the 40 µg/m³ limit value.

The 2015 national air quality plan for NO₂ showed the highest projected mean annual concentrations of NO₂ to be 42 µg/m³, 41 µg/m³, 43 µg/m³ and 35 µg/m³ in 2020, for the respective air quality zones for Nottingham, Southampton, Derby and Bath. The projections modelling is being updated to take into account the latest evidence and the final revised air quality plan will be published by 31 July, following consideration of consultation responses.

Asylum

Asked by **Lord Beecham**

To ask Her Majesty's Government to what timescale they aim to issue decisions on applications from asylum seekers for section 95 accommodation and subsistence support. [\[HL801\]](#)

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute can apply for free accommodation and cash support to cover their essential living needs whilst their cases are considered.

If they have an emergency need for accommodation they can ask to be put in initial accommodation whilst their support applications are being processed and the vast majority of such requests are processed on the same day. We aim to resolve Section 95 applications received from people in Initial Accommodation within 3 days and other applications from people staying in private accommodation within 10 days. All cases are considered on their own merits, in some cases applicants are asked to provide further information before a decision on eligibility can be reached. Information on the average length of time between asylum support application and payment is not routinely collected and could only be provided by examination of individual case records, which would result in disproportionate cost.

Asked by **Lord Beecham**

To ask Her Majesty's Government to what timescale they aim to issue decisions on applications from asylum

seekers for section 95 subsistence only support. [\[HL802\]](#)

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute can apply for free accommodation and cash support to cover their essential living needs whilst their cases are considered.

If they have an emergency need for accommodation they can ask to be put in initial accommodation whilst their support applications are being processed and the vast majority of such requests are processed on the same day. We aim to resolve Section 95 applications received from people in Initial Accommodation within 3 days and other applications from people staying in private accommodation within 10 days. All cases are considered on their own merits, in some cases applicants are asked to provide further information before a decision on eligibility can be reached. Information on the average length of time between asylum support application and payment is not routinely collected and could only be provided by examination of individual case records, which would result in disproportionate cost.

Asked by **Lord Beecham**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average time taken over the past 12 months for issuing decisions on applications from asylum seekers for section 95 accommodation and subsistence support. [\[HL803\]](#)

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute can apply for free accommodation and cash support to cover their essential living needs whilst their cases are considered.

If they have an emergency need for accommodation they can ask to be put in initial accommodation whilst their support applications are being processed and the vast majority of such requests are processed on the same day. We aim to resolve Section 95 applications received from people in Initial Accommodation within 3 days and other applications from people staying in private accommodation within 10 days. All cases are considered on their own merits, in some cases applicants are asked to provide further information before a decision on eligibility can be reached. Information on the average length of time between asylum support application and payment is not routinely collected and could only be provided by examination of individual case records, which would result in disproportionate cost.

Asked by **Lord Beecham**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average time taken over the past 12 months for assessing, and reaching decisions on, applications from asylum seekers for section 95 accommodation and subsistence support. [\[HL804\]](#)

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute can apply for free accommodation and cash support to cover their essential living needs whilst their cases are considered.

If they have an emergency need for accommodation they can ask to be put in initial accommodation whilst their support applications are being processed and the vast majority of such requests are processed on the same day. We aim to resolve Section 95 applications received from people in Initial Accommodation within 3 days and other applications from people staying in private accommodation within 10 days. All cases are considered on their own merits, in some cases applicants are asked to provide further information before a decision on eligibility can be reached. Information on the average length of time between asylum support application and payment is not routinely collected and could only be provided by examination of individual case records, which would result in disproportionate cost.

Aviation: Compensation

*Asked by **Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to convert EU Regulation (EC) 261/2004 relating to passenger rights during air travel into UK law; if so, what alterations will be made regarding the former intra-Community flights; and whether a resolution regarding the status of Gibraltar's airport is forthcoming. [HL881]

Lord Callanan: The Government is considering carefully all the potential implications arising from the UK's exit from the EU, including future arrangements for passenger rights. The Government plans to negotiate the best possible relationship between the UK and the EU in the field of aviation with a smooth and orderly transition. The Repeal Bill, introduced into the House of Commons on 13 July, will convert EU law as it stands at the moment of Exit into domestic law before we leave the EU. Application of EU Regulation (EC) 261/2004 to Gibraltar airport is currently suspended.

Burma: Refugees

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are increasing financial support for those living in refugee camps on the Burma–Thailand border, and what is their assessment of the danger of refugees being forced back to Burma as a result of cuts in aid to those camps. [HL826]

Lord Bates: DFID has no current plans to increase financial support for those living in refugee camps on the Burma–Thailand border. We do not currently assess that refugees will be forced back into Burma. We continue to monitor the situation closely.

Business: Regulation

*Asked by **Lord Rennard***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, and how, the wider social costs and benefits of regulations are

taken into account by Government departments in (1) achieving their policy objectives for the business impact target, (2) the implementation of the One in, Three out rule announced by the Business Secretary on 3 March 2016, and (3) the application of the requirement to identify £3 in savings for each £1 of additional cost when assessing proposed new regulations. [HL925]

Lord Prior of Brampton: HM Treasury's Green Book guidance on policy appraisal and evaluation sets out how the economic, financial, social and environmental assessments of a policy, or specification of regulations, should be combined. The Government has not yet decided how its better regulation system will operate in this Parliament. This includes any One-In, Two-Out policy and the setting of a target in respect of the economic impact of new regulation on business for this Parliament as required under section 21 of the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015.

Chemicals: EU Law

*Asked by **Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to convert EU Regulation 1907/2006 into UK law; and, if so, (1) whether the UK will attempt to maintain co-operation with the European Chemicals Agency, and (2) whether a body will assume the role of the European Chemicals Agency in regulating and registering chemical substances. [HL610]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Regulation (EC) No 1102/2008 will be repealed with effect from 1 January 2018 by EU Regulation 2017/852.

This regulation will be directly applicable in the UK, and as an EU member, we will also make secondary legislation to set enforcement rules for the new requirements later this year. This will enable the UK to meet its global commitment to reducing the harmful impact of mercury as a signatory of the UN's Minamata Convention on mercury.

The Government will discuss with the EU and Member States how best to continue cooperation in the field of chemicals regulation in the best interests of both the UK and the EU. It would not be appropriate to pre-judge the outcome of the negotiations at this stage.

Crimes of Violence: Acids

*Asked by **Baroness Uddin***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are considering a public safety awareness campaign of the danger of acid attacks; and what advice is being given to individuals and emergency services to minimise long-term physical deformity. [HL472]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office are working closely with a range of partners and agencies to consider the response to acid attacks including what advice is needed for individuals and medical practitioners to respond to these incidents. On 4 July, the Home Office

and the National Police Chief's Council jointly hosted a meeting with medical experts, police, retailers, and officials from a number of Government departments and agencies to share understanding about the nature of attacks and discussed action being taken by the respective agencies.

Crisis Care Concordat Steering Group

Asked by Baroness Walmsley

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the next meeting of the Crisis Care Concordat Steering Group will take place. [HL945]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: Departmental officials are liaising with Home Office officials to make arrangements for the next Crisis Care Concordat Steering Group meeting later this year.

Dual Nationality: Iran

Asked by Lord McInnes of Kilwinning

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people have dual British-Iranian citizenship; and of those, how many are resident in (1) the UK, (2) Iran, and (3) elsewhere. [HL769]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Information on the number of British nationals with dual nationality is not held.

East Coast Railway Line

Asked by Lord Bradshaw

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Callanan on 6 July (HL221), and in the light of their plans for Control Period 5 and the formal monitoring arrangements that are in place, what assessment they have made of whether sufficient funds will be available to complete the necessary track, signalling and electrical supply work by the end of 2019 to support the services that Virgin East Coast Trains is contracted to deliver by those dates. [HL773]

Lord Callanan: Network Rail currently report they have sufficient funds to complete the infrastructure enhancements required for contracted improvements in Virgin Trains East Coast services by the end of 2019, including introducing new Intercity Express trains to replace older rolling stock. These improvements will provide greater capacity, improved customer experience and more direct connections.

EU Immigration

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they have taken to ensure that UK funding which is intended to mitigate the migration crisis in the central

Mediterranean is not used to finance the indefinite detention of migrant and refugee children. [HL849]

Lord Bates: The UK contribution to the Mediterranean migration crisis is delivered through trusted humanitarian agencies such as the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Through these agencies, UK aid in detention centres is specifically designed to protect migrants' and refugees' human rights and meet basic needs, including by advocating for alternatives to detention for vulnerable groups like children. We also assist migrants to return home, if they wish to do so.

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they have put in place to ensure that UK funding which is intended to address the central Mediterranean migration crisis is not used to finance the increased detention of refugees and migrants in a manner which denies them their right to asylum. [HL850]

Lord Bates: The UK contribution to the Mediterranean migration crisis is delivered through trusted humanitarian agencies such as the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). As the UN agency mandated to protect and support refugees, UK support for UNHCR is specifically designed to help ensure that refugees are supported to access asylum procedures. UK assistance inside detention centres is not provided to increase detention capacity, but to protect migrants' and refugees' human rights and meet basic needs, including by advocating for alternatives to detention for vulnerable groups. We also assist migrants to return home, if they wish to do so.

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they have put in place to ensure that UK funding provided in response to the central Mediterranean migration crisis is utilised in a way that protects vulnerable migrants and refugees. [HL851]

Lord Bates: The UK contribution to the Mediterranean migration crisis is delivered through trusted humanitarian agencies such as the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Our programmes take account of context and risks, as well as humanitarian principles, and are designed to provide life-saving assistance and protection for the most vulnerable migrants and refugees.

The Department for International Development holds partners to account for ensuring the protection of vulnerable migrants and refugees by using robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks which enable tracking of project performance. Visits to project sites, including by staff located in the region, enable us to cross-check partner reports and ensure that funding is being used as agreed, and monitor risk and human rights compliance.

European Chemicals Agency

Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the benefits and costs to the UK of membership of the European Chemicals Agency. [HL681]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) provides a range of centralised functions across a number of EU chemicals regimes, including facilitating collective decisions amongst EU Member States. Under the EU REACH Regulation, it manages data about chemicals on the EU market. Chemicals manufactured or imported in quantities above 1 tonne a year must be registered with ECHA to access the single market.

The UK's current involvement with ECHA comes as part of our membership of EU. ECHA is funded mainly through a combination of industry fees for a variety of the services it provides and direct EU funding. The higher the income generated from fees, the lower the EU budget subsidy. As ECHA is an agency of the EU, the UK's contribution to its running costs is through our general contribution to the EU budget.

European Fisheries Control Agency

Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the benefits and costs to the UK of membership of the European Fisheries Control Agency. [HL680]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) is funded from the EU budget, to which the UK is the second largest net contributor.

European GNSS Agency

Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the benefits and costs to the UK of membership of the European Global Navigation Satellite Systems Agency. [HL678]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The European Global Navigation Satellite Systems Agency is funded from the European Union budget. It is a Union Agency established to deliver the EU's satellite navigation programmes Galileo and EGNOS. The Agency will be responsible for operating the systems, managing the services provided and for promoting their adoption to create new industrial markets.

The Government recognises the benefits our involvement in these programmes brings for the UK.

European Union Intellectual Property Office

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 Union Intellectual Property Office. [HL626]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Government recognises the importance of an effective and balanced intellectual property regime to support the UK's innovative and creative industries and to make the UK an attractive place for inward investment.

In order to inform our position in the upcoming negotiations with the EU, the Government continues to undertake a rigorous and extensive programme of analysis, which includes intellectual property. The UK's future relationship with the EUIPO will be a matter for negotiations and so it would not be appropriate for me to discuss the details of any analysis now.

Feltham Young Offenders Institution

Asked by Baroness Stern

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they have taken to ensure the safety of boys aged 18 and under detained by Feltham Young Offenders Institution following Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons' assessment that "Feltham A is, quite simply, not safe for either staff or boys." [HL585]

Lord Keen of Elie: Safety in prisons and young offender institutions is fundamental to the proper functioning of our justice system and addressing safety concerns is at the heart of our reform plans. We are committed to reforming youth custody so that it is safer for both young people and staff and better equipped to help young people turn their lives around.

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons' inspection took place from 23 January to 3 February 2017. The findings highlighted a need for improvement in the youth custodial estate and we are continuing to take robust action to address the issues identified. At Feltham A, which holds boys aged 15 to 18, we have implemented a range of measures to improve safety including:

- We are recruiting additional staff at Feltham as part of our overall reform to improve safety and rehabilitation.
- We are providing young people with a personalised officer to work with on a weekly basis to develop goal-orientated plans, delivered as part of the Custody Support Plan roll-out.
- We are progressing with a conflict resolution model to resolve issues between young people in our care.
- We are putting in place a revised core day which will facilitate nine hours out of room to effectively occupy the young people in our care.
- We continue to deliver a suite of group and one to one interventions and facilitators have now been trained in

Anger Replacement therapy which will be delivered to young people starting in July 2017.

- A new approach to the use of special accommodation has been introduced with the use of a cool down room with appropriate furnishings as an alternative intervention to separation.

In addition, funding has been allocated for the refurbishment of the Enhanced Support Unit for young people with exceptionally complex needs that are unlikely to respond to mainstream services.

We are confident that we are taking proper and considered action in delivering changes to improve safety and outcomes for the young people in our care at HMP Feltham.

Females: EU Law

Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask Her Majesty's Government how those women's rights enshrined in EU law will be safeguarded once the UK has left the EU. [HL611]

Lord Nash: The Government wants to preserve the UK's proud record of promoting equality and tackling discrimination through some of the strongest laws in the world. We have been clear that all protections contained in the Equality Act 2006, the Equality Act 2010, and equivalent legislation in Northern Ireland, will continue to apply after we have left the EU. Moreover, the Repeal Bill will ensure that all workers' rights that are derived from EU law, including those enjoyed by women, will continue to be available in UK law after we have left the EU.

Fire and Rescue Services: Staff

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many operational firefighters were in post in each of the Fire and Rescue Authorities in England and Wales from 2010 until the last year for which figures are available. [HL570]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office collect and publish data on fire and rescue workforce in England.

The number of fire fighters in each fire and rescue authority since 2010 is published in table FIRE1101 please see attached and also it can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/562338/fire-statistics-data-tables-fire1101.xlsx. The figures are a snapshot of the workforce at 31 March in each year. Figures for 2017 will be available later this year.

The number of firefighters employed by fire and rescue authorities by FRSs in Wales is published by the Welsh government and can be found here: <https://stats.wales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Community-Safety/Fire->

[Service-Operational-Statistics/fireandrescueservicesummaryinformation-by-asset-financialyear](#)

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Table - FIRE 1101 [Copy of fire-statistics-data-tables-fire1101.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-07-06/HL570>

General Practitioners: Opening Hours

Asked by Lord Birt

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord O'Shaughnessy on 23 January (HL4387) and on 3 February (HL4841), whether the new data collection on extended access to general practice includes data on the number of days that general practices were continuously closed over the Christmas and New Year holidays 2016-17; if so, why the Written Answer on 23 January stated that the Department of Health does not hold that information; and if not, whether they intend to extend that data collection to such information. [HL960]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: The extended access data collection does not collect this information. There are no plans to extend the data collection to cover specific arrangements such as holiday cover. The data collection was agreed following negotiations between the General Practitioner Committee and NHS England, and any change or amendment to it would require further negotiation.

Genetics: EU Law

Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to convert EU Regulation 511/2014 into UK law; and, if so, which UK body will assume the role undertaken by the European Commission for determining best practice regarding genetic material and ensuring the continued progress towards the objectives of the Nagoya Protocol. [HL606]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Repeal Bill will make sure the whole body of existing EU environmental law continues to have effect in UK law. This will provide businesses and stakeholders with maximum certainty as we leave the EU.

The Secretary of State currently has responsibility for ensuring progress towards the objectives of the Nagoya Protocol, including promoting best practices, and this will continue after EU exit. Best practices are one way for users of genetic resources to demonstrate compliance and, where recognised on the international level, to build confidence in our national regime. Recognition of best practices will therefore remain an important part of our

implementation. No decision has yet been taken on which UK body will assume this function.

GEOAmey PECS

Asked by Baroness Stern

To ask Her Majesty's Government what date GeoAmey commenced its contract to run secure escort services for children and young people; what was (1) the value of that contract, and (2) the duration of that contract; and who is responsible within Government for overseeing the delivery of the contract. [HL582]

Lord Keen of Elie: GeoAmey commenced the provision of Secure Escort Services for Children and Young People from 1 July 2016. The annual value of the service is estimated to be in the region of £3.2 - 3.7m according to the volume of services provided. The duration of the provision of the services is 1 July 2016 to 28 August 2018, with options to further extend the contract by three further periods of twelve months. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) is responsible for overseeing the delivery of the contract alongside the Ministry of Justice.

High Speed 2 Railway Line

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of their specification for the new trains for HS2, what is the maximum electrical current draw per train permissible on (1) HS2 infrastructure, and (2) existing Network Rail infrastructure. [HL662]

Lord Callanan: The specification for the new trains for HS2 Phase 1 is currently being developed and will form part of the invitation to tender for rolling stock to be issued in 2018.

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what modifications to the power supply (1) are planned, and (2) have been funded, to facilitate operation of HS2 services on Network Rail infrastructure. [HL663]

Lord Callanan: HS2 Ltd and Network Rail are cooperatively engaged in determining the future power supply requirements for Network Rail routes over which HS2 services will operate. This work will take account of the requirements of all users of the routes and will identify the scope and timing requirements of any modifications that are identified as necessary. The output of these discussions will inform decisions around the planning and funding of any proposed works.

Holiday Accommodation: Fire Prevention

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 5 July (HL 50), how many inspections of houses or flats

offering short-term accommodation to paying guests were carried out by each fire and rescue authority in each year since 2010; and how many of those inspections were found to be (1) satisfactory and (2) unsatisfactory. [HL686]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office does not centrally collect information on the number of inspections of houses or flats offering short-term accommodation to paying guests carried out by each fire and rescue authority. Information on the number of inspections of houses or flats offering short-term accommodation to paying guests is the responsibility of individual FRSS.

Hong Kong: Politics and Government

Asked by Lord Ashdown of Norton-sub-Hamdon

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to raise concerns at the UN regarding the People's Republic of China's recent statement on the Sino-British Joint Declaration and the implementation of that treaty in recent years. [HL495]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Government has no plans to raise our concerns at the United Nations.

Humanitarian Aid

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to call for ethnic and religious minorities to be added to the UN's diversity approach to humanitarian assistance; and what assessment they have made of the extent to which UN agencies have (1) protected religious freedom, (2) guaranteed the safety of religious minorities within their remits, and (3) provided equal and impartial support and access to services. [HL853]

Lord Bates: The UK's humanitarian aid operates under International Humanitarian Law and is provided based on need. It must be available to people of all faiths and of none. All UN agencies are required to carry out comprehensive vulnerability assessments to ensure aid is reaching those most in need, including those from religious minorities. We do not intend to call for ethnic and religious minorities to be added. The Multilateral Development Review restated our vision of building open societies, where no-one is held back by their gender, ethnic group, sexual orientation, disability or belief system.

Immigration: EU Nationals

Asked by Viscount Waverley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what modelling they have undertaken to forecast the number of applications for permanent status and consequent (1) rejections, (2) appeals, and (3) deportations, that will result from their offer to enable EU citizens who are resident in the UK to remain in the UK following

Brexit; how many additional staff they estimate will be required to manage those applications; whether they intend to publish their model or forecast; and if so, when. [HL729]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: On Monday 26 June, the UK published the paper ‘The United Kingdom’s exit from the European Union: safeguarding the position of EU citizens living in the UK and UK nationals living in the UK’. Formal negotiations with our EU partners on the shape and nature of the immigration regime that will apply after the UK leaves the EU will soon be underway. The Home Office currently processes several million immigration decisions each year and will ensure that the necessary resources are provided to process applications for the new residence status outlined by the Government. The Home Office has a well-developed process for modelling operational demand that will be used as appropriate to support internal capacity planning.

Impact Assessments

Asked by Lord Rennard

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether the Regulatory Policy Committee is empowered to rate an impact assessment as inadequate on the grounds that it does not adequately consider the wider social costs and benefits of proposed regulatory measures. [HL927]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Regulatory Policy Committee (RPC) comments on the Government’s performance in assessing regulatory impacts as set out in Impact Assessments. These assessments should address the wider societal costs and benefits. The RPC sets out its view on the analysis contained in the impact assessments in its published Opinions and annual reports. Under its current remit, the RPC cannot rate an impact assessment as ‘not fit for purpose’ in relation to wider societal impacts at final stage. The Government has not yet decided what approach it will take to deliver better regulation during the current Parliament.

Iraq: Internally Displaced People

Asked by Lord McInnes of Kilwinning

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, following the capture of Mosul by the government of Iraq, how they will be working with the government of Iraq to aid the return of those who fled the city when it was captured by Isil. [HL771]

Lord Bates: The UK works with the Government of Iraq (GOI) to aid the return of those who fled Mosul through the GOI Joint Coordination and Monitoring Centre (JCMC) in Baghdad and the Kurdistan Regional Government’s Joint Crisis Coordination Centre (JCC) in Erbil. These institutions work together with other partners, including the UN, to coordinate humanitarian support for Iraqis who are still displaced as well as those who are returning home. Through the UN’s Funding

Facility for Immediate Stabilisation, the UK is supporting the Government of Iraq’s efforts to enable people to return home – for example, by restoring water infrastructure in East Mosul. 90% of East Mosul’s residents have now returned to their homes.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty’s Government how they intend to ensure their emergency funding for displaced people from Mosul and the Nineveh Plains reaches displaced minorities such as the Yazidis and Christians; and what assessment they have made of the extent to which their policy of neutrality and impartiality will lead to the inclusion or exclusion of those who have been subject to genocide. [HL828]

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether they have received a request from Dr Russell Blacker and representatives of charities and relief organisations involved with northern Iraq, along with Members of both Houses, for an urgent meeting with the Secretary of State for International Development, to discuss support for minority communities subjected to genocide in northern Iraq; and, if so, how they intend to respond. [HL829]

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what assessment they have made of reports (1) that Christians and Yazidis who have been victims of genocide in Syria and Iraq do not use UN camps because of oppression and persecution that they have experienced within them, and (2) from Jordanian military officials that ISIS jihadis have infiltrated many such camps. [HL830]

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether Department for International Development assessors arranged to meet (1) twice with Christians in the Kurdish–Northern Iraq regions, and (2) with those who have given evidence to DfID about the failure to provide support to victims of genocide in northern Iraq and Syria; and if so, whether those assessors failed to attend those meetings in 2015 and subsequently. [HL831]

Lord Bates: The UK Government recognises the specific risks faced by religious minorities in Iraq and Syria, including those who have suffered so horrifically at the hands of Daesh. We are aware of reports that fear of persecution or discrimination in camps may be deterring some people from using them, and are in close touch with our partners involved in the management of camps and the delivery of services within them, including UN agencies. They have clear guidelines, mechanisms and accountability frameworks in place to prevent discrimination by their own staff or those of their partners. DFID takes any allegations that these are not being applied effectively very seriously, and stands ready

to follow up specific allegations with the partners concerned.

The security of the camps and all those living in them is the responsibility of the appropriate civil authorities (e.g. in Iraq, it lies with the Government of Iraq) and is monitored by independent humanitarian actors such as UNHCR. UK officials stand ready to report any specific allegations of persecution or violence against religious minorities within the camps to those authorities. The Government is concerned about Daesh infiltration inside camps. In Iraq the Iraqi authorities carry out screening of those entering camps in order to seek to prevent such infiltration. UN agencies have set up grievance mechanisms that allow any minority member to anonymously report abuse, persecution or discrimination; these can also be used to report on suspected extremist activity.

DFID's funding for Iraq is targeted towards those who are most in need including vulnerable people from minority communities such as Yazidis and Christians. It is delivered in line with the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for the whole of Iraq, which is based on comprehensive needs assessments carried out by a wide range of partners. The humanitarian principles of neutrality and impartiality aim to ensure that no one is excluded or discriminated against on the grounds of race, ethnicity, or religion, that the specific risks facing minorities are addressed and that assistance reaches those who need it most. In the difficult environments in Syria and Iraq, where access to vulnerable people is often very challenging especially as some actors such as Daesh and the Assad regime deliberately prevent humanitarian access, DFID regularly challenges our partners to demonstrate that they are doing all they can to meet the needs the most vulnerable people, including those from religious minorities. We welcome information from all sources to help us to hold them to account.

DFID is not aware of scheduled meetings in 2015 with Christian representatives in Iraq that officials did not attend, but DFID officials regularly meet with representatives of Iraqi Christian and Yezidi communities. DFID Ministers have also met representatives of these communities.

DFID has received Dr Russell Blacker's correspondence and has responded suggesting a meeting is organised with Dr Blacker, Lord Bates and Mr Burt to discuss together.

Joint European Torus

Asked by Lord Teverson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what negotiations they have undertaken with other members of Euratom to continue the work of the Joint European Torus project at the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy after 2018; and what result they hope to achieve. [HL654]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Government is committed to ensuring that the UK continues to lead the

world in fusion research^[1]. We have taken action to secure the future of the Joint European Torus (JET) facility by guaranteeing the UK's share of JET costs until the end of 2020. This underwriting of UK JET costs aims to provide the certainty needed to secure the extension of the JET contract and minimise the uncertainty around the future of this world class facility. The relevant Written Ministerial Statement can be found here:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2017-06-27/HCWS13/>.

^[1] A 2016 independent review by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) found the UK fusion research programme to be 'of world-class quality, in facilities, people and impact'.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

WMS on JET 27.06.17 HCWS13 [WMS 27.06.17 on JET - HCWS13.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-07-10/HL654>

Marine Environment: Plastics

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the UN Oceans Conference on 5–9 June and the Council of the European Union Environment Council on 19 June, what plans they have to reduce, and if possible eliminate, the pollution of oceans, seas and beaches by plastic materials. [HL670]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: At the recent UN Oceans Conference the UK made several voluntary commitments, including signing up to the UN's CleanSeas campaign. This programme aims to transform habits, practices, standards and policies around the globe to dramatically reduce marine litter and the harm it causes.

The UK Government has undertaken several key actions to protect the marine environment from marine litter which are set out in the Marine Strategy Part Three. Recent additional actions include the publication of the National Litter Strategy for England and our plans to ban microbeads in cosmetics and personal care products. We also work with neighbouring countries to address this issue, particularly through the OSPAR Regional Action Plan on marine litter.

Mercury: EU Law

Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to convert EU Regulation 1102/2008 into UK law; and, if so, whether a body will assume the role undertaken by the European Commission for reviewing ongoing research activities and ensuring compliance by the Environment Agency, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. [HL608]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Regulation (EC) No 1102/2008 will be repealed with effect from 1 January 2018 by EU Regulation 2017/852.

This regulation will be directly applicable in the UK, and as an EU member, we will also make secondary legislation to set enforcement rules for the new requirements later this year. This will enable the UK to meet its global commitment to reducing the harmful impact of mercury as a signatory of the UN's Minamata Convention on mercury.

The Government will discuss with the EU and Member States how best to continue cooperation in the field of chemicals regulation in the best interests of both the UK and the EU. It would not be appropriate to pre-judge the outcome of the negotiations at this stage.

Neonicotinoids

Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of recent research on the effect of neonicotinoid pesticides on the UK bee population, what is their assessment of the merits of a ban on their use in the UK. [HL618]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Decisions on the use of pesticides should protect people and the environment and should be based on a careful scientific assessment of the risks. Pesticides that carry unacceptable risks to pollinators should not be authorised.

The Government keeps the developing evidence on neonicotinoids under review, advised by the UK Expert Committee on Pesticides. On the basis of current available evidence, we support the existing restrictions.

Paediatrics: Audiology

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government which organisation is responsible for ensuring that a paediatric audiology service that has not met the standards for Improving Quality in Physiological Services (IQIPS) accreditation addresses the problems found during the accreditation visit. [HL887]

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many NHS Trusts achieved Improving Quality in Physiological Services accreditation for their paediatric audiology service in each of the last five financial years. [HL889]

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many contracts for Specialist Audiology Services used by children, and commissioned directly by NHS England, were signed in the financial years (1) 2015-16, and (2) 2016-17. [HL890]

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many contracts for Specialist Audiology Services used by children, and commissioned directly by NHS England, are due to be renegotiated in the financial year 2017-18. [HL891]

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to ensure that Clinical Commissioning Groups are notified when a paediatric audiology service does not meet the standards for Improving Quality in Physiological Services accreditation following an assessment visit. [HL979]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: The Improving Quality in Physiological Services (IQIPS) accreditation scheme is run by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). The process of accreditation provides an independent assessment that a service meets the accreditation standards.

It is the responsibility of the service to ensure that they conform to the standard before application to UKAS for accreditation. There is a pre-registration process within the scheme that enables all services to be able to do an effective gap analysis so that they should be at a point of conforming to the standard on making an application to UKAS. If during an assessment mandatory findings are raised which show non-conformity to any part of the standard then the service agrees appropriate improvement actions with the UKAS team to rectify these and prevent re-occurrence.

The UKAS team base their recommendation for accreditation on the findings raised relating to the conformity to the standard, risk and whether the agreed improvement actions are appropriate and can be achieved within a three month close-out period. Therefore any findings raised must be cleared by the organisation if a positive recommendation for accreditation is to be granted.

In *Commissioning Services for People with Hearing Loss: A framework for clinical commissioning groups*, published in July 2016, NHS England strongly encourages clinical commissioning groups to expect providers to have completed the IQIPS self-assessment tool and applied for accreditation with UKAS, and achieve accreditation within the duration of their contract.

UKAS are supporting the NHS England business objective to increase the use of accreditation, and information about those services which have achieved accreditation is not held by the Department or NHS England, but is publicly available on the UKAS website.

Information on clinical contracts is not held centrally by NHS England.

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government when NHS England plans to produce a commissioning specification for Specialist Audiology Services used by children and commissioned directly by NHS England. [HL892]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: NHS England has produced the following service specifications for audiology services that it commissions, which apply to all ages and sit in the Trauma Programme of Care (Specialised Ear and Ophthalmology Services):

- Specialised Ear Surgery: Cochlear Implants (All Ages); and
- Implantable Hearing Aids for Microtia, Bone Anchored Hearing Aids and Middle Ear Implants (All Ages).

Copies of these service specifications are attached.

NHS England has no plans to publish further service specifications for specialist audiology services used by children.

NHS England has also published commissioning policies for the following services that are available for children:

- Auditory brainstem implant with congenital abnormalities of the auditory nerves of cochleae;
- Bone Anchored Hearing Aids; and
- Bone conducting hearing implants for hearing loss (all ages).

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Implantable Hearing Aids service specification [d09-implan-hear-aids.pdf]

Specialised Ear Surgery service specification [d09-ear-surg-coch-0414.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-07-17/HL892>

Police: Ethnic Groups

Asked by Lord Ouseley

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many BAME (1) men, and (2) women, hold senior and chief officer positions in police constabularies in England and Wales; how many such positions there are; and what assessment they have made of the recruitment trends to such positions, in terms of improved access to, and diversity within, senior positions. [HL578]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office collects and publishes statistics on the number of police officers employed by each police force in England and Wales on a bi-annual basis. These data are published in the 'Police workforce, England and Wales' statistical bulletins. The Home Office does not collect information on the number of posts available.

Detailed data on the number of officers in post, broken down by rank, gender and ethnicity are collected and published on an annual basis only. The requested data, representing the picture as at 31 March 2016, can be found in the attached Table_D1 accompanying the main release here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-workforce-england-and-wales-31-march-2016>

Data for previous years can be found in the Open Data Tables, available here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/539981/open-data-table-police-workforce-ethnicity.ods

The Government has made it easier than ever before for the public to hold their PCC and chief constable to account over how diverse their force is compared to the local population. Police.uk now gives access to diversity data for officers and police staff, and the profile of BME and female officers by police rank, in comparison to the local force area population. We are in regular discussion with the College of Policing, who are leading work with chief constables and others to improve senior police recruitment.

The Government's direct entry schemes at Inspector and Superintendent ranks help to attract the most talented people into policing, bringing in fresh experience, diversity and perspectives. Of the 40 inspectors and superintendents who have started the scheme so far 43% have been women and 13% were from an ethnic minority background. Chief Constable appointments have also been opened up to those with equivalent experience from overseas.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Table D1 [Table D1 - BME officers by police force.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-07-06/HL578>

Pregnancy: Restraint Techniques

Asked by Baroness Stern

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the use of waist restraint belts was prohibited for pregnant women; and why. [HL584]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Published Home Office policy on use of force on pregnant women states that it may, if necessary be used only for the prevention of harm either to the pregnant woman or to other persons. It must not be used for reasons of non-compliance by the woman in question. Any action taken must be justified, appropriate and proportionate. Following the introduction of the bespoke Home Office Manual for Escorting Safely (HOMES) restraint system from June 2014 for escort detainee custody officers, operational guidance was implemented in August 2014. The latest guidance is at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/use-of-restraints-for-escorted-moves>.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

DSO - HO Manual for Escorting Safely [DSO_07-2016_Use_of_Restraints.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-07-06/HL584>

Railways: Bradford

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to improve the rail network around Bradford. [HL795]

Lord Callanan: The Government's investment in track and signalling infrastructure as part of the Great North Rail Project, and additional train services to be delivered through the new Northern franchise, will bring significant benefits to Bradford by providing more and faster services with new connections to Manchester, Manchester Airport, Liverpool, Warrington, Chester, Sheffield and Nottingham by the end of 2019 - all operated with brand new trains. Furthermore, additional direct trains to London are planned by the Virgin Trains East Coast franchise.

Bradford is also benefiting from locally-sponsored investment in the rail network including the opening of two new stations at Low Moor and Apperley Bridge.

The Department for Transport is working closely with Transport for the North to assess the case for Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) including whether the NPR network can serve key markets such as Bradford.

Regulation

Asked by Lord Rennard

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimates of (1) the value of lives saved, and (2) additional life years gained, they use when classifying proposed regulatory measures as "in", "out" or "zero net cost" in departmental submissions to the Regulatory Policy Committee. [HL928]

Lord Prior of Brampton: HM Treasury's Green Book guidance on policy appraisal and evaluation sets out how the economic, financial, social and environmental assessments of a policy, or specification of regulations, should be combined. It includes guidance on appraising social impacts, such as health and welfare benefits and prevented fatality and how to weight such considerations against other impacts.

Reserve Forces

Asked by Lord De Mauley

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the United Kingdom Reserve Forces External Scrutiny Team 2017 report was submitted to the Ministry of Defence; and when it will be published. [HL600]

Earl Howe: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (Sir Michael Fallon) received the External Scrutiny Team's 2017 report on 22 June and it has today been placed in the Library of the House. We are most grateful to the Team for its work and we will provide a full response to the report in due course.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

External Scrutiny Team 2007 Report [20170622-EST Report 2017-HL600.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-07-10/HL600>

Seasonal Agricultural Workers' Scheme

Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the Migration Advisory Committee is due to present its review of the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme. [HL615]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office intends shortly to commission the Migration Advisory Committee to look at the UK labour market and our reliance on EU migrant labour across sectors, including agriculture.

Self-employed

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many workers aged 21 to 65 are recognised as self-employed; and what percentage of the total workforce this represents. [HL895]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The latest ONS Labour Force Survey shows the number of people reporting to be self-employed was 4.8 million in the 4th quarter of 2016.

Due to the age categories in which ONS reports this data, it is not possible to get a figure for 21 to 65 year olds.

However, as a proportion of the total number of people in employment (31,713,000), self-employed people between the ages of 25 and 64 account for 13.1% of total employment. Self-employed people between the ages of 18 and 64 account for 13.7% of total employment.

Serco

Asked by Baroness Stern

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the secure escort services for children and young people contract between the Youth Justice Board and Serco was terminated early; and if so, for what reasons. [HL581]

Lord Keen of Elie: The Secure Escort Services for Children and Young People (SESCYP) Contract ended early on 30 June 2016. This was mutually agreed between the Ministry of Justice and the contractor, Serco plc.

Sheffield-Rotherham Tram-train Pilot Scheme

Asked by Lord Bradshaw

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many interventions and modifications have they made since the Sheffield to Rotherham Tram Train pilot was launched; and to what extent these account for additional costs. [HL763]

Lord Callanan: The only change to the agreed client outputs for the Sheffield to Rotherham Tram Train pilot project has been to the designs for electrification to ensure that, as much as practicable, it is future-proofed to allow for conversion to main line electrification (25kv AC) standards. The cost for this provision has been included in the overall project estimates.

Stalking

Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to improve recognition among criminal justice professionals of the difference between stalking and harassment; and whether they are planning to introduce stalking protection orders. [HL643]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Stalking and harassment are devastating crimes which can destroy the lives of victims.

Since 2012, we have strengthened the law by creating specific stalking offences and raising the maximum sentences for both stalking and harassment from 5 to 10 years. Support for victims requires more than prosecution after the fact - that is why, following a public consultation, we are introducing a new civil stalking protection order. Primary legislation is required to introduce the order and will be taken forward as soon as Parliamentary time allows.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service's Joint Inspectorate report into stalking and harassment found significant failings in the police and CPS response.

The Home Secretary will shortly be holding a meeting with police and CPS leads to ensure coordinated and robust action is taken to respond to the Inspectorate's findings.

Stop and Search: Ethnic Groups

Asked by Lord Ouseley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the survey commissioned by the Criminal Justice Alliance, published on 29 June, which found that more than a third of BAME people aged 16 to 30 did not believe police used fair information to decide whom they stopped and searched; and what assessment they have made of the extent to which the

use of stop and search powers unfairly targets BAME communities. [HL577]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government notes the concerning findings in the Criminal Justice Alliance's report.

Launched in 2014, the Government's reforms to the use of stop and search powers have helped forces improve their use significantly. Prior to this, the facts around use of stop and search powers were alarming: only 9% of over 1 million stop and searches resulted in an arrest; you were 7 times more likely to be stopped and searched if black; and HMIC found that almost a third of police stop and search records showed a potential unlawful search. This contrasts with the picture now, which shows a more targeted and intelligence led approach, with fewer searches and an arrest rate at its highest on record, standing at 16%. Additionally, HMIC has recently found that more stop and search records contain reasonable grounds for suspicion, indicating improvements in officer knowledge of the legal basis of most stop and search powers.

The latest statistics, which show that you are 3 times more likely to be stopped and searched if you are from a BAME background, and 6 times more likely if you are black, is, however, a clear indication that there is no room for complacency. The Government will continue to push through reforms to stop and search together with its partners - the College of Policing and National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC). However, it is vital that chief officers provide the local direction and focus needed to drive reform in their forces.

Students: Loans

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report of the Institute for Fiscal Studies on the public cost of student loans. [HL564]

Viscount Younger of Leckie: The Government has noted the recent report by the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

The student funding system is fair and sustainable. The cost of the system is not an unintended loss, nor a waste of public money. It is the policy subsidy required to make higher education widely available, achieving the Government's objectives of increasing the skills in the economy and ensuring access to university for all with the potential to benefit.

Andreas Schleicher of the OECD said in September 2016 that "the UK has been able to meet rising demand for tertiary education with more resources...by finding effective ways to share the costs and benefits".

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the long-term cost of providing student loans. [HL565]

Viscount Younger of Leckie: The Government's reforms to the undergraduate student finance system have ensured that it is financially sustainable for the taxpayer in the long-term, while enabling those with the talent to benefit from a higher education to be able to afford to do so.

The Resource Accounting and Budgeting (RAB) charge estimates the value of loans that will not be repaid during their 30-year term, expressed as a percentage of the loan outlay made in the relevant year. For full time tuition fee and maintenance loans and part time fee loans issued in 2016/17, we estimate the RAB charge to be around 30%.

Temporary Employment

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the TUC estimate that some 500,000 workers are on zero-hours contracts or in insecure temporary employment; and what percentage of the total workforce aged 21 to 65 this represents. [HL894]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The latest ONS Labour Force Survey shows that the number of people who report they are on a 'zero hour contract' in their main employment was 905,000 in the 4th quarter of 2016, which represents 2.8% of those in employment ages 16-65+, with nearly 70% happy with their hours.

Due to the age categories in which ONS reports this data, it is not possible to get a figure for 21 to 65 years old.

Timber: EU Law

Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to convert EU Regulation 995/2010 into UK law; and if so, whether the UK will continue to recognise monitoring organisations for timber and timber products that previously served the UK market but which are located outside the UK. [HL607]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Repeal Bill will ensure the whole body of existing EU environmental law continues to have effect in UK law. This will provide businesses and stakeholders with maximum certainty as we leave the EU.

No decision has yet been taken on the approach to UK recognition of monitoring organisations for timber and timber products that previously served the UK market but which are located outside the UK.

Trade Promotion

Asked by Lord Cotter

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made in establishing a network of trade commissioners to highlight the importance of UK

exports and to assist UK companies in exporting their products. [HL552]

Lord Price: The Government will create a network of Her Majesty's Trade Commissioners to head nine new regional overseas posts. These Commissioners will bring together export promotion, investment, and trade policy overseas. The Department is currently finalising the scope of the roles and will begin recruitment shortly.

Trains: Procurement

Asked by Lord Bradshaw

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are currently paying rental charges for the Intercity Express Programme trains which will be delivered before the electrification of the lines is completed; and if so, what is the total amount of those charges. [HL774]

Lord Callanan: Payment for Intercity Express Programme (IEP) trains is made through Set Availability Payments (SAPs) which are due to be paid by Great Western Railway (the train operator) to Agility once the Great Western IEP fleet comes into service from this Autumn. The fleet is all bi-mode so the timing of electrification of the line is not a factor in this process. The amount of SAP charges payable is a commercial matter and not available for release.

Turkey: Politics and Government

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they propose to take to help protect democratically elected representatives and officials in Turkey from politically motivated prosecutions, and to safeguard Kurdish culture and language. [HL568]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We expect Turkey to undertake any legal processes against MPs fairly, transparently and with full respect for the rule of law. We take a strong interest in the situation of minority groups in Turkey and encourage the Turkish authorities to safeguard their welfare. We will continue to engage closely with the Turkish government on these issues.

Young Offenders: Restraint Techniques

Asked by Baroness Stern

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Minimising and Managing Physical Restraint techniques were adapted for use on younger and smaller children, prior to escort custody officers being trained and authorised to use them on children travelling to and from secure training centres and secure children's homes. [HL583]

Lord Keen of Elie: Minimising and Managing Physical Restraint (MMPR) has been specifically developed for use by staff working with children and young people in

custody. It has been designed so that physical restraint is avoided as far as possible by recognising young people's behaviour, and by using a range of de-escalation, diversion and behaviour management techniques to help them deal with it effectively and appropriately. MMPR was initially used in secure training centres, and is now

being operationally used by the Youth Justice Board's secure escort provider, who escort children to and from court, secure training centres, and secure children's homes.

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