

Vol. 784
No. 24



Thursday
14 September 2017

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 Duncan of Springbank	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Scotland Office
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 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, 14 September 2017

Bermuda/ Kyrgyzstan

[HLWS135]

Lord Bates: My right honourable friend the Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mel Stride) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

An Exchange of Letters was signed with Bermuda in London on 19 June 2017 and in Hamilton on 27 June 2017. The text replaces the original Exchange of Letters signed in London on 4 December 2007.

A first-time Double Taxation Agreement with Kyrgyzstan was signed on 13 June 2017. The texts of the Exchange of Letters and the Double Taxation Agreement have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on the HM Revenue and Customs' pages of the gov.uk website. The texts will be scheduled to draft Orders in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

Business Rates Reliefs

[HLWS139]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: My Hon Friend the Minister for Local Government (Marcus Jones) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

At the spring Budget, my Rt Hon Friend the Chancellor announced a £435 million package of support for ratepayers over the next four years following the 2017 business rate revaluation. Overall, the revaluation was revenue neutral with the majority of businesses seeing a fall in their rates.

The package of support announced at the Budget comprised three schemes: one that caps the annual bill increase for any ratepayer losing Small Business Rate Relief or Rural Rate Relief as a result of the revaluation to £600; a second that provides a £300 million fund for local authorities to distribute over four years to help hard-pressed businesses facing higher rates bills; and a third that gives a £1,000 discount to all pubs with a rateable value of less than £100,000. On top of this, from April 2017, the Government permanently doubled the rate of small business rate relief and increased the threshold for eligibility, meaning that 600,000 small businesses now pay no business rates at all.

All of these schemes are being delivered by local government and I am pleased to confirm that some local authorities have made significant progress towards implementation. The London Borough of Westminster has already rebilled eligible businesses under the pubs and supporting small business schemes. The consultation on Westminster's discretionary scheme which will provide over £11 million in the first year alone has now closed. Formal approval to the scheme is due this week, with applications invited from this Friday.

Furthermore, some authorities have awarded relief to eligible ratepayers on all three schemes. For example, Leeds City Council has provided over £1.5 million in relief to over 3,600 ratepayers, including 50 per cent discounts on bill increases to 3,300 small and medium sized ratepayers under their discretionary scheme. Some smaller authorities have also made excellent progress. For example South Norfolk and Rutland councils have implemented all three schemes. Rutland County Council has provided almost £250,000 in relief to over 100 ratepayers to offset average rateable value increases of 13.5 per cent, and is awarding a discount of 26 per cent to eligible businesses.

The Government has been consistently clear that it expects local authorities to make rapid progress in helping business by implementing these relief schemes. Overall, however, despite various examples of good practice, the pace of providing relief to ratepayers has not been acceptable. I have written today to those authorities that have not fully implemented all three schemes asking them to rebill businesses that are set to benefit from relief as soon as possible. From Tuesday 3 October, I will publish a list of those authorities that have notified us that they have rebilled for each of the three relief schemes.

Energy Policy

[HLWS136]

Lord Prior of Brampton: My right Honourable Friend, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industry Strategy (Greg Clark), has made the following written ministerial statement:

As part of preparations for EU Exit, the UK is establishing a domestic nuclear safeguards regime to ensure that the UK continues to maintain its position as a responsible nuclear state and that withdrawal from Euratom will not result in the weakening of our future safeguards standards and oversight in the UK.

This Government believes that it is vitally important that the new domestic nuclear safeguards regime, to be run by the Office for Nuclear Regulation, is as comprehensive and robust as that currently provided by Euratom. The government has therefore decided that it will be establishing a domestic regime which will deliver to existing Euratom standards and exceeds the standard that the international community would require from the UK as a member of the IAEA. International oversight will be a key part of the future regime. The UK is seeking to conclude new agreements with the IAEA that follow the same principles as our current ones. This will ensure that the IAEA retains its right to inspect all civil nuclear facilities, and continue to receive all current safeguards reporting, ensuring that international verification of our safeguards activity continues to be robust.

Discussions with the European Union are on-going. We will be exploring a number of options for smooth transition from the current Euratom regime to a domestic one. The unique and important nature of the civil nuclear sector means that there is strong mutual interest in

ensuring that the UK and Euratom Community continue to work closely together in the future. The UK's ambition is to maintain a close and effective relationship with the Euratom Community and the rest of the world that harnesses the UK's and the Euratom Community's expertise and maximises shared interests. By maintaining our current safeguards and standards we are providing the best possible basis for continued close cooperation with Euratom in the future.

Whatever the outcome of those discussions, the Government is committed to a future regime that provides at least the existing levels of assurance. The legislation to provide for this was announced in the Queen's speech and will be brought forward in due course. This policy statement provides important context both for parliamentary consideration of that Bill, and for the forthcoming talks with the European Union, which take place in the last week of September.

Grenfell Tower Inquiry: Terms of Reference

[HLWS137]

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

On 15 August 2017, I announced the formal setting up of a public inquiry into the Grenfell Tower fire, to be chaired by Sir Martin Moore-Bick, and its terms of reference. This followed Sir Martin Moore-Bick's letter to me of 10 August, which advised me of the outcome of the public consultation on the scope of the terms of reference, and his recommendations. I was happy to accept Sir Martin's recommendations without amendment.

The Inquiry's full terms of reference are:

(i) to examine the circumstances surrounding the fire at Grenfell Tower on 14 June 2017, including

(a) the immediate cause or causes of the fire and the means by which it spread to the whole of the building;

(b) the design and construction of the building and the decisions relating to its modification, refurbishment and management;

(c) the scope and adequacy of building regulations, fire regulations and other legislation, guidance and industry practice relating to the design, construction, equipping and management of high-rise residential buildings;

(d) whether such regulations, legislation, guidance and industry practice were complied with in the case of Grenfell Tower and the fire safety measures adopted in relation to it;

(e) the arrangements made by the local authority or other responsible bodies for receiving and acting upon information either obtained from local residents or available from other sources (including information derived from fires in other buildings) relating to the risk of fire at Grenfell Tower, and the action taken in response to such information;

(f) the fire prevention and fire safety measures in place at Grenfell Tower on 14 June 2017;

(g) the response of the London Fire Brigade to the fire; and

(h) the response of central and local government in the days immediately following the fire; and

(ii) to report its findings to the Prime Minister as soon as possible and to make recommendations.

Sir Martin has said that he is considering appointing assessors to assist him in his task. He considers it likely that he shall wish to appoint a diverse group of people whose experience extends to the occupation and management of social housing and the administration of local government more generally, as well as to matters of a more technical scientific nature. He also states that at a later stage, he may also wish to appoint others to assist on particular aspects of the investigation. He will make his decisions public in due course. I have not appointed any other members to the Inquiry Panel at this stage. However, the Inquiries Act 2005 allows for appointments to be made, with the consent of Sir Martin, during the course of the Inquiry. This enables the composition of the Inquiry Panel to be kept under review.

My exchange of correspondence with Sir Martin is in the Library of the House.

Sir Martin is holding a preliminary hearing later today where he will set out further detail on how he intends on conducting the Inquiry.

In addition to the work of the Inquiry, my Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has already announced an Independent Review into Building Regulations and Fire Safety, led by Dame Judith Hackitt. This will urgently assess the effectiveness of current building and fire safety regulations and related compliance and enforcement issues, with a focus on multi occupancy high rise residential buildings. The Review will co-operate fully with the Inquiry. Sir Martin has set out his reasons for not looking into the broader social housing issues but, as he said in his letter, they should not be ignored and I am determined that these important questions are not left unanswered. As a first step, I have asked my Hon. Friend the Housing Minister (Alok Sharma) to personally meet and hear from as many social tenants as possible, as well as other residents of social housing estates, both in the immediate area around Grenfell Tower and across the country. The Housing Minister has already met a number of representative groups and will continue meet tenants during October and November.

Hong Kong: Sino-British Joint Declaration

[HLWS132]

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:

The latest six-monthly report on the implementation of the Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong was published today, and is attached. It covers the period from 1 January to 30 June 2017.

The report has been placed in the Library of the House. A copy is also available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website (www.gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-office).

I commend the report to the House.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Hong Kong Six Month Report [The Six Monthly Report - 1 January - 30 June 2017.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2017-09-14/HLWS132/>

Judicial Conduct Investigations Office

[HLWS138]

Lord Keen of Elie: My right honourable friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (David Lidington) has made the following Written Statement.

"With the concurrence of the Lord Chief Justice, I will today publish the eleventh annual report of the Judicial Conduct Investigations Office (JCIO), formerly known as the Office for Judicial Complaints.

The JCIO supports the Lord Chief Justice and the Lord Chancellor in our joint statutory responsibility for judicial discipline.

The judiciary comprises approximately 26,000 individuals serving across a range of jurisdictions. Over the past year, the JCIO received 2,126 complaints against judicial office holders and 526 written enquiries. Only 42 investigations resulted in disciplinary action. The JCIO met all of its key performance indicators for processing complaints.

I have placed copies of the report into the libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. Copies are also available online at: <http://judicialcomplaints.judiciary.gov.uk/publications.htm>."

National Assembly for Wales Elections 2016

[HLWS134]

Lord Duncan of Springbank: My Right Hon Friend the Secretary of State for Wales (Alun Cairns) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The Government is today publishing its response to the Electoral Commission's report on the administration of the 2016 elections to the National Assembly for Wales.

We are grateful to the Commission for preparing its report and for its ongoing work to support the administration of elections. We note that, following the implementation of the Wales Act 2017, powers over Assembly elections will be devolved to the National

Assembly for Wales and Welsh Ministers. It will therefore be the responsibility of the Welsh Government to implement the Commission's recommendations in respect of the next scheduled Assembly elections in 2021. The Government will consider the Commission's wider recommendations in respect of polls that remain non-devolved.

Copies of the Government's response will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Primary Assessment: England

[HLWS140]

Lord Nash: My right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Education and Minister for Women and Equalities (Justine Greening) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Primary education is fundamentally important to ensuring that every child receives the best possible start in life. As I set out in my statement to Parliament in March this year, the primary assessment and accountability system has a crucial role to play in ensuring that every child, no matter what their background or where they go to school, benefits from a high-quality primary education.

Last October, I set out my intention to establish a settled, trusted primary assessment system. To help us move towards this, we published earlier this year parallel consultation documents on the long-term future of primary assessment and on future assessment arrangements for children working below the standard of the national curriculum tests. These consultations considered a number of the key issues facing the primary assessment and accountability system, including how the assessment system can help teachers to prepare pupils to succeed at school, the starting point from which to measure the progress that schools help children make in primary school, and how end of key stage teacher assessments could be improved. The consultations closed in June and I am grateful to the many people and organisations, and particularly the headteachers and teachers, who took the time to provide thoughtful, considered responses.

Having considered the views expressed, I am today publishing the government's responses to both consultations, which set out how we will establish a stable and effective primary assessment system. These documents include commitments to:

- improve the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile by: revising the Early Learning Goals to make them clearer and align them more closely with teaching in key stage 1; this will support us to meet our manifesto commitment to strengthen the teaching of literacy and numeracy in the early years. We will also strengthen the way assessment information is passed on to Year 1 teachers; and review the guidance and moderation process to reduce administration burdens;
- improve school-level progress measures, and give schools credit for the education that they provide to their pupils in the reception year, year 1 and year 2, by

introducing a statutory assessment in reception to replace the existing key stage 1 baseline;

- reduce workload and administration burdens on teachers by making end-of-key stage 1 assessments non-statutory in all-through primary schools, once the new reception baseline has become established, with national sampling to be introduced so that we can continue to monitor standards;

- remove the statutory duty to report teacher assessment in reading and mathematics at the end of key stage 2 from the 2018 to 2019 academic year onwards which will form part of our drive to bear down on unnecessary administrative burdens, while keeping our rigorous key stage 2 national curriculum tests in these subjects, which will enable schools to uphold high standards while also reducing workload and administrative burdens on teachers;

- improve the way that writing is assessed, so that teachers have more scope to use their professional judgment when assessing pupil performance;

- aid children's fluency in mathematics through the introduction of a multiplication tables check, from the summer of 2020, to be administered to pupils at the end of year 4. This will help us to deliver on our commitment that every child will know their times tables off by heart by the time that they leave primary school; and

- improve the statutory assessment of pupils working below the standard of national curriculum tests by extending the interim pre-key stage standards to cover all pupils engaged in subject specific learning, and by piloting the Rochford Review's recommended approach to assessing pupils who are not yet engaged in subject specific learning.

We will continue to work closely with headteachers, teachers and all those with an interest in primary education as we implement these changes, building on the dialogue started by the consultation. It is by working together that we will achieve our goal of a proportionate

assessment system that supports every child to meet their full potential.

Copies of both of these government responses will be placed in the libraries of both Houses of Parliament. Written Statement missing, please insert manually.

Trade Matters

[HLWS133]

Baroness Sugg: My Rt hon Friend The Secretary of State for Department for International Trade and President of the Board of Trade (Dr Liam Fox) has made the following statement

EU-Canada Comprehensive and Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) – Provisional Application

The Government wishes to inform the House that on 21 September 2017, the Comprehensive and Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) between the EU and Canada will be provisionally applied. The date of provisional application was confirmed by the European Commission to EU Member States in the last meeting of the Trade Policy Committee.

The UK has always been a strong supporter of CETA and remains a constructive partner in support of EU free trade agreements.

Canada is one of the world's most developed economies and a significant trading partner for the UK. The provisional application of CETA will benefit consumers and provide opportunities for British businesses with 98% of all Canadian tariff lines being eliminated.

This will create major opportunities for UK businesses across the whole economy and the Government is now working with our Canadian partners to ensure that UK businesses take full advantage of the provisional application of this agreement.

Written Answers

Thursday, 14 September 2017

Agriculture: Accidents

Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) deaths, and (2) serious injuries, (a) on farms, and (b) in the agricultural sector, have occurred in each year since 1990 until the last year for which records are available. [[HL1384](#)]

Baroness Buscombe: The available information is given in the following tables.

Table 1: Number of fatal injuries to both workers (employees and the self-employed) and members of the public (a) on farms and (b) in the agricultural sector each year (where data is available) from 1990/91-2016/17

Source: Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR)

Year	Farms (a)		Agriculture Sector (b)	
	Workers	Members of the public	Workers	Members of the public
1990/91	-	-	52	15
1991/92	-	-	50	5
1992/93	-	-	40	12
1993/94	-	-	38	3
1994/95	-	-	46	5
1995/96	-	-	40	5
1996/97	-	-	55	9
1997/98	-	-	40	11
1998/99	-	-	46	9
1999/00	-	-	36	8
2000/01	-	-	46	7
2001/02	37	2	39	2
2002/03	29	3	35	3
2003/04	19	6	44	6
2004/05	30	3	37	3
2005/06	32	8	33	8
2006/07	28	7	33	7
2007/08	41	1	46	2
2008/09	22	5	25	5
2009/10	35	5	39	5
2010/11	30	7	34	8
2011/12	27	6	35	6
2012/13	29	5	31	5
2013/14	26	4	27	4

Year	Farms (a)		Agriculture Sector (b)	
	Workers	Members of the public	Workers	Members of the public
2014/15	30	3	32	4
2015/16r	26	2	27	2
2016/17p	26	3	27	3

Table 2: Number of reported non-fatal injuries to employees (a) on farms and (b) in the agricultural sector each year (where data is available) from 1990/91 to 2015/16

Source: Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR)

Year	Farms (a)	Agriculture sector (b)
1990/91	-	1,761
1991/92	-	1,827
1992/93	-	1,844
1993/94	-	1,760
1994/95	-	1,721
1995/96	-	1,687
1996/97	-	2,135
1997/98	-	2,005
1998/99	-	1,863
1999/00	-	2,067
2000/01	-	1,967
2001/02	1,852	2,066
2002/03	1,488	1,680
2003/04	985	1,175
2004/05	951	1,147
2005/06	892	1,058
2006/07	806	986
2007/08	908	1,117
2008/09	967	1,143
2009/10	996	1,183
2010/11	800	948
2011/12	881	1,110
2012/13 (c)	681	861
2013/14 (c)	688	861
2014/15r (c)	785	936
2015/16p (c)	727	883

Footnotes

Non-fatal injury data for 2016/17 will be published in November 2017

(a) Farms defined as Division 02, Crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities, of the 2007 Standard Industrial Classification.

(b) Agriculture defined as Section A, Agriculture, forestry and fishing, of the 2007 Standard Industrial Classification.

(c) Due to a major change in the RIDDOR reporting requirements in April 2012, injuries reported prior to 2012/13 are not directly comparable with later years.

- Due to changes in the Standard Industrial Classification, data only available for Farming from 2001/02

r- revised; p- provisional

Anticoagulants

Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there have been any cases brought against the NHS during the past five years that have referenced (1) anticoagulation, (2) warfarin, or (3) non-vitamin K antagonist oral anticoagulants; and if so, how many of those cases were successful and what were the damages awarded. [HL1268]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: NHS Resolution (NHSR) provides indemnity cover for negligence claims against the NHS in England on behalf of member organisations. NHSR has provided the following information.

The number of clinical claims received from 2012/13 to 2016/17 and payments made on successful cases where 'anticoagulation', 'Warfarin' or 'Non-Vitamin K antagonist' is mentioned in the incident details as at 31 August 2017 is shown in the attached table.

Where a claim has been settled by way of a Periodical Payment Order the total value of the damages paid will not be realised until the patient dies. The information in the tables only includes payments to date on such cases.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Clinical claims [HL1268 attachment.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-09-05/HL1268>

Buses: Standards

Asked by Lord Carlile of Berriew

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any proposals to review construction and use regulations relating to public service vehicles, with particular reference to the continuing use on such vehicles of aged critical parts which are incapable of in-service testing, such as tyres. [HL1238]

Lord Callanan: The ageing of vehicle parts is a complex matter, and whilst the Government does not currently have any proposals to amend construction and use regulations, it will continue to review scientific evidence to inform policy decisions.

Buses: Tyres

Asked by Lord Carlile of Berriew

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the deaths of two children and a coach driver on 11 September 2012 as a result of the failure of a tyre which was over 19 years old fitted to the coach and of the resulting Traffic Commissioner's Public Inquiry and the inquest into the deaths, whether they have any proposals to introduce legislative requirements relating to the use of tyres of more than 10 years old on public service vehicles. [HL1237]

Lord Callanan: The Government has no proposals to introduce legislation restricting the use of tyres on the basis of their age.

Expert advice suggests that tyre ageing is a complex issue where use and maintenance are significant factors rather than simply chronological age.

However, applying the precautionary principle, in 2013 the Department distributed guidance to bus and coach operators on how to establish the age of a tyre and advised that tyres over 10-years of age should only be fitted as part of a twin-wheel arrangement on a rear axle. Enforcement staff of the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency continue to advise operators if a non-compliance is identified.

The Department consulted with experts from the tyre industry in both the UK and Europe and the free "Guide to Tyre Management on Heavy Vehicles" was produced with the support of the tyre industry and Senior Traffic Commissioner Bell. In October 2016, copies of this guide were sent to every registered bus and coach operator in the country ensuring that, no matter the size of fleet and irrespective of affiliation to a trade association, these important messages reached as wide an audience as possible.

The Department for Transport has gone to the market twice to commission scientific research regarding the effect of chronological age on tyre integrity. These approaches have not been successful in establishing a robust programme of research and the Department is considering how to proceed. Scientific evidence will inform any future policy decisions and the Department will publish the outcome of the research once completed.

Business Interests

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effectiveness of business appointment rules for former ministers and senior civil servants in ensuring public confidence in the work of government. [HL1376]

Lord Young of Cookham: The Government is considering a report from the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee into the operation of the Business Appointment Rules, and will respond in due course.

Carillion

Asked by Lord Stunell

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the current financial situation of Carillion; and what consideration they have given to mandating the use of bank accounts in England for public infrastructure projects in order to protect smaller sub-contractors on such projects. [HL1334]

Lord Young of Cookham: The Cabinet Office tracks the financial status of all of HMG's Strategic Suppliers and manages risks accordingly. Carillion plc is a Strategic Supplier to Her Majesty's Government, publicly listed company and is required to comply with all rules and regulations of the London Stock Exchange. We are expecting the company to be publishing its half-year results on the 29th September.

The Government Construction Strategy, as set out by the Infrastructure and Projects Authority (IPA), does not mandate the use of Project Bank Accounts (PBAs) in England for public infrastructure projects. However, the policy states they are recognised as an effective mechanism for facilitating fair payment to the construction supply chain and that departments have committed to use them unless there are compelling reasons not to do so. The use of PBA's can be found in the Government Construction Strategy, which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-construction-strategy-2016-2020>.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Government Construction Strategy
[Government_Construction_Strategy_2016-20 (1).pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-09-05/HL1334>

Asked by Lord Stunell

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with representatives of (1) HS2 Ltd, and (2) Carillion, about the use of discrete project bank accounts in relation to Carillion's HS2 contract, with regards to the protection of SME sub-contractors from late payments. [HL1335]

Lord Callanan: I can advise that the Department for Transport has not had any discussions with either HS2 Ltd or Carillion regarding the use of discrete project bank accounts in relation to HS2 contracts.

Charities: Freedom of Information

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to making it possible for citizens to make freedom of information requests to UK-based registered charities. [HL1315]

Lord Young of Cookham: A small number of public authorities subject to the FOI Act are also registered as charities. Other charitable bodies do not meet the conditions for inclusion within Schedule 1 of the FOI Act. However, the Government keeps the scope of the Act under constant review.

Children: Poverty

Asked by Lord Ouseley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take to improve the quality of life and future prospects for the four million children living in relative poverty in the UK. [HL1309]

Baroness Buscombe: This Government is committed to action that will make a lasting difference to the lives of disadvantaged children. This requires an approach that goes beyond the safety net of the welfare state to tackle the root causes of child poverty and disadvantage. Work is key to alleviating poverty; children in workless households are five times more likely to be in poverty than those in households where all adults were working. This Government's policies to support and encourage work mean that there are 608,000 fewer children in workless households compared with 2010. *Improving Lives: Helping Workless Families*, published on 4 April, set out a framework for a continued focus on improving children's outcomes, now and in the future.

Communism

Asked by Lord Blencathra

Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to commemorate in October the many millions who have died, since the October Revolution 1917, as a result of the actions of the governments of the USSR, the National Socialist government of Germany, the Communist Party of China, the Democratic Republic of Kampuchea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic, the Republic of Cuba, the People's Republic of Angola, the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and other countries which established governments founded on Marxist-socialist principles. [HL791]

Lord Young of Cookham: There are currently no such plans.

Cycling

Asked by Lord Birt

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to encourage compliance with laws governing cycling. [HL1218]

Lord Callanan: As with all road users, cyclists need to adhere to the rules set out in the Highway Code regulations 59 to 82. Anyone not doing so is at risk of a penalty, fine or imprisonment. Enforcement is a matter for individual police forces. The Government also promotes road safety, including encouraging safe cycling, through its Think! campaigns. The Government continues to keep road safety and road traffic offences under review to ensure that the current legislative framework is adequate.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the total amount of fines for failure to pay the Dartford Crossing Charge that have been written off in the last 12 months; and what are the reasons those fines could not be collected. [HL1402]

Lord Callanan: Highways England is currently finalising the 2016/17 Dartford River Crossing accounts which will be audited by the National Audit Office in October 2017. As a result, we are unable at present to provide figures relating to fines for the last 12 months.

Department for Communities and Local Government: Written Questions

Asked by Lord Jopling

To ask the Leader of the House what explanation, if any, she has received from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government as to why six questions for written answer tabled on or before 19 July had not been answered by 6 September; and when she expects those questions to be answered. [HL1446]

Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: As Leader of the House I take very seriously the responsibility incumbent on all Ministers to provide full, timely and comprehensible answers to Questions for Written Answer (QWAs).

In this instance I am informed by the Department that delays to five of these late responses were as a result of administrative errors. I have been advised that these issues have now been identified and resolved. I have been reassured that the Secretary of State takes this seriously and that he has made clear to officials that it is essential it does not happen again. The members concerned were contacted by the Department to apologise for the delay and these questions have now been answered.

With regard to question number HL1066 from Lord Pearson of Rannoch, this remained unanswered by 6 September due to an error with IT systems maintained by the House which meant that it was not allocated to the correct department. The technical issue which was causing problems with transfers and amendments has now been resolved and the question has now been answered.

My office will continue to work with all departments to ensure prompt and satisfactory answers to QWAs.

Devolution: Yorkshire and the Humber

Asked by Lord Scriven

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the merits of (1) establishing a Yorkshire-wide devolution settlement, and (2) members of the Sheffield City Region devolution deal joining that settlement at a later date. [HL1485]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Government is committed to implementing and has legislated for the Sheffield City Region devolution deal. The Government has not received any proposal for a Yorkshire wide deal and any assessment of the merits of such a deal would have to take account of this pre-existing legislative commitment. The Sheffield City Region having implemented its devolution deal is not precluded in future from joining a wider Yorkshire devolution deal, were this to be agreed with Government and all the authorities involved.

Diesel Vehicles: Urban Areas

Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have decided which restrictions are to be introduced on access to major conurbations for Euro 6 emission standard compliant diesel engine powered vehicles. [HL1236]

Lord Callanan: In May 2017, the Government published a Clean Air Zone Framework for England setting out the expected approach to be taken by local authorities when implementing and operating Clean Air Zones. This does not include restrictions on Euro 6 vehicles. Local authorities are currently developing local plans to determine which measures are implemented and what their extent will be.

Doctors: Refugees

Asked by Baroness Finlay of Llandaff

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many refugee doctors have been able to become registered by the General Medical Council in the last five years; and in which medical specialties those doctors are practicing. [HL1257]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The information requested is not held by the Department.

The General Medical Council (GMC) is the independent regulator of doctors in the United Kingdom. It has advised that from 1 September 2012 to 31 August 2017, the GMC has registered 117 refugee doctors. Of these doctors, currently 105 are registered, and 104 with a licence to practise.

The GMC has informed us that the numbers of practising refugee doctors split per medical specialities are very small and could lead to identification of individuals, and we are therefore not providing this information.

Asked by Baroness Finlay of Llandaff

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many refugee doctors are currently enrolled in active refugee doctor programmes in the UK, specifically (1) Reache North West (Salford), (2) Building Bridges (London), (3) WARD (Cardiff), (4) The Bridges Programme (Glasgow) and (5) North-East England (Stockton-on-Tees); and how much annual funding each of those programmes receive from Health Education England. [HL1258]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: Health Education England (HEE) does not provide funding for programmes in Scotland and Wales. Funding for the requested programmes in England is shown in the following table.

<i>Refugee doctor programme</i>	<i>HEE funding (2017/18)</i>	<i>Doctors currently enrolled in programme</i>
Reache North West (Salford)	£363,357	54
Building Bridges (London)	£290,510	-
North-East England (Stockton-on-Tees)	£63,180	12

Source: HEE

Notes: Data for Cardiff and Glasgow is not available as these programmes do not fall within HEE's remit. Breakdown for the numbers of doctors currently enrolled on the Building Bridges programme (London) is not available.

Driving: Licensing

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support is available for adults applying for a driving licence who do not have access to a computer or are not IT literate. [HL1333]

Lord Callanan: All applications for a driving licence can be made by completing a paper form. Application forms are available from the Post Office or direct from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. A limited number of Post Office branches also offer an electronic service to capture and transmit data for some driving licence applications.

Customers who have previously been issued with a photocard driving licence can also apply for a new or replacement driving licence by telephoning the DVLA's Contact Centre.

Elections: Costs

Asked by Lord Rennard

Her Majesty's Government what are the estimated costs of holding (1) the 2016 EU referendum, and (2) the 2017 general election. [HL1052]

Lord Young of Cookham: In reference to the costs of the 2016 EU Referendum, please see the Written Statement, presented to Parliament on 23rd March 2016, Column 64WS, by the then Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office, John Penrose.

The Written Statement presented to Parliament on 13th September 2017, Column 24WS, gave the cost of the 2017 General Election.

Electric Vehicles: Batteries

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the annual number of used electric vehicle batteries that will require disposal or recycling per year once the sale of petrol and diesel cars and vans has ended. [HL1305]

Lord Callanan: We do not hold estimates of this. We recognise that once batteries used in electric vehicles (EVs) no longer meet the needs of the motorist they will still have significant capacity remaining for alternative uses. The second-use of batteries is still in its research phase but we expect second use applications to develop significantly as EV numbers increase. The benefits of secondary uses for these batteries could include better EV residual values; and provide benefits to consumers and utilities including grid balancing and energy storage for intermittent renewable generation.

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many lithium-ion car battery recycling facilities are currently in operation; and how many such facilities they expect to be in operation once the sale of petrol and diesel cars has ended. [HL1306]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: There are no lithium-ion recycling facilities in the UK. All batteries collected are subject to sorting and initial processing but are exported for final reprocessing.

With the increased number of larger lithium-ion batteries entering the waste stream in future, we expect there to be interest from industry in establishing reprocessing facilities.

However, this would be a decision for the industry to make, based on the economic viability and the expected

numbers of these batteries being collected for reprocessing.

Family Planning

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether GPs receive in-service training on family planning service provisions; and if so, how often. [HL1344]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: General practitioners (GPs) are responsible for maintaining their continuing professional development (CPD), ensuring that they can provide high quality care to all patients. CPD is one of the sources of information required for appraisal and revalidation. GPs can draw on a variety of accredited training, for example from the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare, on safe and effective sexual and reproductive healthcare in community, primary and secondary care settings.

Female Genital Mutilation

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have considered the introduction of annual medical examinations of young girls in order to detect and prevent female genital mutilation; and what assessment they have made of the effectiveness of such examinations in other countries such as France. [HL1341]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Government has no current plans to introduce annual medical examinations to identify female genital mutilation (FGM); we believe that prevention and support are where efforts are best focused. Medical examinations may take place in individual child protection cases, however.

Medical examinations in France and elsewhere take place within a different social and legal framework than in England and so are not comparable.

As part of the Department's £4 million FGM Prevention Programme, which is in partnership with NHS England, we have introduced a range of training and guidance for health professionals. This includes:

- Specialist FGM safeguarding guidance to help health professionals protect against FGM;
- Specialist guidance to help health professionals commission appropriate FGM services;
- Awareness-raising roadshows and outreach work across the country – this has directly reached over 3,500 professionals;
- Educational films about FGM and updated content on the NHS Choices website;
- Comprehensive e-learning on FGM, free of charge to all National Health Service staff (this was developed by Health Education England, with more than 4,000 staff having used this to date); and:

- Supported a number of projects with health partners including the Royal Colleges. These have delivered a range of practical measures to improve clinical skills, awareness and preparedness to treat and safeguard women and girls with FGM.

Food Poverty

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 3 August (HL1163), and on the basis of the data sources in that response, what is their assessment of the levels of household food insecurity in the UK. [HL1284]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The UK has a high degree of food security, as shown by the 2010 UK Food Security Assessment. It is a comprehensive piece of work, covering all aspects of food security, including household food security. Defra has just commenced a review of the assessment.

The Office for National Statistics Living Costs and Food Survey includes questions on household spend on food, including that of the lowest 20 per cent income households, which has remained constant between 16 per cent and 16.5 per cent for many years.

The Food Insecurity Experience Scale, developed by the 'Voices of the Hungry' project of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, is used to collect data on household food security in up to 150 countries worldwide, including the UK. The latest survey results will be available shortly.

Food: Imports

Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the context of any international trade agreement entered into once the UK has left the EU, how they plan to ensure that the current environmental, animal welfare and food safety standards of British food are protected against competition from imported food that is produced to lower standards. [HL1292]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: When we leave the European Union, we will maintain our current environmental, animal welfare, and food safety standards. We will keep our existing UK legislation, and the EU Withdrawal Bill will convert EU law into UK law as it applies at the moment of exit.

These standards will continue to apply to both our own great British produce and that imported from our trading partners overseas. It is vital that we explore new trading opportunities, but these should not mean a dilution of the standards for which British food is world renowned. Any future trade agreements must work for consumers, farmers, and businesses in the UK.

Government Departments: Disclosure of Information

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that government departments meet their obligations to publish transparency data in a timely fashion. [HL1377]

Lord Young of Cookham: The UK Government is among the most transparent in the world and each Department is responsible for publishing a range of data on its activities. Ministers in the Cabinet Office will be working with departments over the coming months to improve the publication process to ensure we continue to meet our obligations in this important area.

Groceries Code Adjudicator

Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to report on the outcome of the call for evidence into whether there should be an extension of the remit of the Groceries Code Adjudicator. [HL1293]

Lord Prior of Brampton: We are planning to report the outcome of the Call for Evidence on extending the Groceries Code Adjudicator's remit in the autumn.

High Speed 2 Railway Line

Asked by Lord Truscott

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the HS2 project is within budget and on schedule; and what steps they are taking to ensure that it is delivered within budget and on schedule. [HL1352]

Lord Callanan: HS2 is on time and on budget.

The Development Agreement between the Secretary of State for Transport and HS2 Ltd sets out a series of obligations and commitments on cost control and schedule. This agreement was originally signed by both parties in 2014 and has recently been extensively reviewed and republished in July 2017.

Asked by Lord Truscott

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are their estimates of (1) the final cost of HS2, and (2) its completion date. [HL1353]

Lord Callanan: The Spending Review 2015 confirmed a budget for the delivery of HS2 of £55.7 billion at 2015 prices. We are committed to delivering HS2 on time and on budget.

HS2 will run between London and Birmingham from 2026, extend to Crewe by 2027 and then link to Manchester and Leeds from 2033.

Horse Racing

Asked by Lord Trefgarne

To ask Her Majesty's Government what arrangements, if any, they propose to put in place to enable the free movement of racehorses following Brexit. [HL1345]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Government is negotiating our exit from the European Union. Defra is working with the Department for Exiting the European Union to look at future arrangements including for the health conditions that will be applicable to movements of animals between the UK and the European Union.

Mental Health Services: Staff

Asked by Lord Bradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the national guidelines on safe, sustainable and productive staffing in mental health will be published. [HL1225]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: NHS England is working with the National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health and key stakeholders, including experts by experience and carers, to develop national guidelines on effective, safe, compassionate and sustainable staffing. The expected date for publication will be in the summer of 2018.

NHS: Data Protection

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to implement all the recommendations contained in the report Review of data releases made by the NHS Information Centre led by Sir Nick Partridge in 2014; and if so, how many recommendations remain to be implemented. [HL1271]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: NHS Digital has advised that it is working towards implementing all the recommendations in Sir Nick Partridge's *Review of Data Releases by the NHS Information Centre*. The majority have already been implemented in full and NHS Digital expects the remaining aspects of the one outstanding recommendation to have been implemented by the end of the year.

Pacific Alliance: Conferences

Asked by Baroness Coussins

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the UK was represented at the meeting of the Pacific Alliance in Cali in June; and if so, by whom. [HL1243]

Baroness Sugg: The Deputy Director of Americas Directorate in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office represented the UK at the 12th Summit of the Pacific Alliance in Cali, Colombia in June.

Palace of Westminster: Repairs and Maintenance

Asked by Baroness Stowell of Beeston

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the main recommendations put forward by the Joint Committee on the Palace of Westminster in its report of September 2016; and when they intend to bring forward a motion for both Houses to debate and decide how the restoration and renewal works should progress. [HL1424]

Lord Young of Cookham: The Government is grateful for the valuable work conducted by the Joint Committee on the Palace of Westminster and has considered the recommendations in its report carefully. It intends to bring forward a motion in both Houses to debate this important matter in the Autumn.

Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman

Asked by Baroness Finlay of Llandaff

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many complaints were submitted about the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman in 2016; and what were the main themes of those complaints. [HL1259]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Department does not collect these data. The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO) is independent of Government, being accountable to Parliament through the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee.

This would be a matter for the PHSO to address.

Pedicabs: Greater London

Asked by Baroness Stowell of Beeston

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they intend to take to regulate rickshaws and pedicabs in London. [HL1408]

Lord Callanan: The Government understands the concerns that have been raised about pedicabs and the lack of regulatory regime to control their operations. We are considering the options for regulation and working to identify a suitable legislative slot if required.

Physician Associates: Regulation

Asked by Baroness Finlay of Llandaff

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of remarks made by the Secretary of State for Health to the NHS Providers annual conference on 30 November 2016, when they will launch a consultation on the regulation of Physician Associate roles. [HL1260]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Government supports the development of a modern health and care workforce as

part of the continuing drive to provide safe, accessible and high quality care for patients and service users.

The Department has developed proposals relating to the regulation of physician associates and remains committed to consulting on these in 2017.

Pigmeat: Hepatitis

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the EU Food Safety Agency first became aware that Hepatitis E was present in pig meat from the Netherlands and Germany; and when that information was first communicated to authorities in England. [HL1222]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) does not hold information on when the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) first became aware of hepatitis E in pig meat from the Netherlands and Germany. This is outside of the FSA remit as EFSA does not fall within the United Kingdom's jurisdiction.

As far as we are aware, the EFSA has not informed the FSA of any concerns regarding the presence of hepatitis E virus in pig meat from Germany or the Netherlands. The UK did, however, present a report on viruses in the food chain at the 55th EFSA Advisory Forum meeting in March 2015, which included a review of hepatitis E. European member states took this opportunity to share information and experience on hepatitis E in pork products, identifying possible opportunities for further collaboration to support risk assessments in this area.

Public Sector Debt

Asked by Lord Vinson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the annual cost of servicing the UK's external debt (1) in total, and (2) expressed as an amount per UK taxpayer. [HL1417]

Lord Young of Cookham: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

UKSA response to HL1417 [HL1417 LY .pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-09-06/HL1417>

Road Works

Asked by Lord Trefgarne

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are satisfied with the regulatory arrangements relating to the conduct of roadworks on public highways undertaken by public utility companies. [HL1346]

Lord Callanan: The Government wants to deliver better journeys for drivers. Utility works are essential, but

they should not be in place any longer than is absolutely necessary.

Whilst we are satisfied that the regulatory arrangements are working well, we continue to keep them under review to modernise and update legislation and statutory guidance where necessary, and where it will lead to improvements in the way that these works are managed.

Recent examples include a consultation on lane rental powers published on 2nd September. Lane rental allows local authorities to charge utility companies for works on the busiest roads at the busiest times. We will shortly be publishing updated statutory guidance relating to inspections. In 2015, we updated regulations and guidance on permit schemes that are now in place in almost 60% of local authority areas and which are resulting in more effective management of street works and reductions in their duration. We continue to work with stakeholders to encourage more local authorities take up and adopt permit schemes.

Sheffield-Rotherham Tram-train Pilot Scheme

Asked by Lord Bradshaw

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much the change from DC to AC electrification or the new specification of the Sheffield Tram Train cost, or will cost, in terms of (1) the associated infrastructure, and (2) the trains. [HL1226]

Lord Callanan: The new tram train vehicles for use between Rotherham and Sheffield have been specified with the ability to operate on either 750v DC or 25kv AC power and therefore these units are already capable of operation on both systems at no additional cost.

Network Rail has designed the overhead electrification equipment on their network to operate initially at 750v DC, however passive provision (such as installing 'mainline' standard masts) has been made to facilitate conversion to 25kv AC should this be required in future. The costs however of such conversion are not known at this time but the work undertaken by this project will reduce the overall cost of any such future scheme in the area.

Small Businesses: Regulation

Asked by Lord Mawson

Her Majesty's Government who within the Cabinet Office has responsibility for monitoring (1) the overall impact of Government legislation, and (2) the burden of regulation, on small and medium-sized enterprises. [HL810]

Lord Young of Cookham: This is no longer the responsibility of the Cabinet Office and is now the responsibility of the Depart for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

Social Security Benefits

Asked by Lord Ouseley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to review the operation of the benefits system, in particular its impact on vulnerable people. [HL1310]

Baroness Buscombe: The government keeps the delivery of benefits under constant review, which includes consideration of how benefits are delivered to vulnerable groups.

South Africa: Bell Pottinger Group

Asked by Lord Hain

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any UK High Commission staff stationed in South Africa (1) assisted, (2) advised, or (3) were in contact at any time with, Bell Pottinger over its activities in South Africa on behalf of President Zuma's business supporters. [HL1265]

Asked by Lord Hain

To ask Her Majesty's Government what meetings, telephone calls, or formal or informal contacts UK High Commission staff stationed in South Africa had with Bell Pottinger inside or outside that country in 2016 and in 2017 to date. [HL1266]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK High Commission in South Africa were not involved in this work, nor were they consulted in advance. There was no contact between UK High Commission staff in South Africa and Bell Pottinger during the period 2016 to 2017 to date.

Strokes

Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure progress in the treatment of stroke throughout the country once the National Stroke Strategy comes to an end in December. [HL1269]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: Although the National Stroke Strategy comes to an end in December, NHS England continues to lead an effective programme of work on prevention and treatment.

NHS England is improving acute treatment through the centralisation of care in centres that can provide the highest level of care at all times of the day and week. Stroke is one of the five conditions chosen to deliver the urgent and emergency care standards by this autumn.

NHS England has established a cardiovascular disease (CVD) collaborative to bring together relevant stakeholders in the field of CVD and provide a forum where relevant work being undertaken in this area and potential new initiatives can be discussed and responsibilities for action determined.

CVD prevention is a key theme in NHS England's *Five Year Forward View* and its NHS RightCare programme.

NHS England have also recently announced that it will be commissioning the new treatment of thrombectomy (extracting the blood clot causing the blockage to blood flow through a catheter inserted into the artery). This will initially be provided in the neuroscience centres, but in due course additional centres may need to provide this treatment to ensure complete population coverage.

Transparency of Lobbying, Non-party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Act 2014

Asked by Lord Hain

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they intend to take, if any, to review the Transparency of Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Act 2014 following Bell Pottinger's expulsion from the Public Relations and Communications Association. [HL1472]

Lord Young of Cookham: The Government is of the view that the Transparency of Lobbying Act 2014 has increased transparency around the work of consultant lobbyists. This legislation complements the existing framework of industry-led regulation such as subscription to industry codes of conduct, alongside the publication of ministerial diaries. Therefore, the Government has no plans to review the current legislation to expand the remit of the Registrar or her office.

Asked by Lord Hain

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will review the Transparency of Lobbying, Non-Party

Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Act 2014, in the light of the Registrar's inability to remove organisations such as Bell Pottinger from the Register of Consultant Lobbyists. [HL1473]

Lord Young of Cookham: The Transparency of Lobbying Act 2014 does not confer powers on the Registrar to remove consultant lobbyists from the Register unless they cease to be consultant lobbyists. The Government position continues to be that the current regulations are designed to complement rather than replace existing industry-led self-regulation.

Turkey: Press Freedom

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the effect of recent arrests of journalists in Turkey on the UK's relationship with that country; and whether they have made any representations to the government of Turkey on this matter. [HL1314]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We regularly raise concerns with the Turkish authorities about arrests, including of journalists, under the State of Emergency following last year's attempted coup. British diplomats engage in frequent dialogue with civil society and regularly attend trials, including those of journalists, together with other EU Member States and like-minded missions. We will continue to urge the Turkish authorities to uphold international standards with regard to the rule of law, including the presumption of innocence, and to protect fundamental rights including freedom of expression and assembly.

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