

**Vol. 786**  
**No. 19**



**Monday**  
**13 November 2017**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**  
**(HANSARD)**

# **HOUSE OF LORDS**

## **WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS**

**Written Statements ..... 1**

**Written Answers.....2**

[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/>

Members who want a printed copy of Written Answers and Written Statements should notify the Printed Paper Office.

This printed edition is a reproduction of the original text of Answers and Statements, which can be found on the internet at <http://www.parliament.uk/writtenanswers/>.

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

© Parliamentary Copyright House of Lords 2017

This publication may be reproduced under the terms of the Open Parliament licence, which is published at [www.parliament.uk/site-information/copyright/](http://www.parliament.uk/site-information/copyright/)

# Written Statements

*Monday, 13 November 2017*

## **Call-Out Order in Support of UK Operations in Afghanistan**

[\[HLWS233\]](#)

**Earl Howe:** My right hon. Friend the Minister for Defence People and Veterans (Tobias Ellwood) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

With the expiry of the call-out order made on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016, a new order has been made under section 56(1B) of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 to enable

Reservists to be called into permanent service in support of United Kingdom operations in Afghanistan.

Under the call-out order made on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016, 71 Reservists have been called out for operations. We anticipate a continued requirement for Reservists, with the right skills and experience, over the period the new order will be in force. This is fully in line with our policy of having more capable, usable, integrated and relevant Reserve Forces.

The order takes effect from the beginning of 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and ceases to have effect at the end of 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

## Written Answers

Monday, 13 November 2017

### Abortion: Northern Ireland

Asked by **Lord Alton of Liverpool**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what account they took of patient safety and the findings of recent Care Quality Commission reports that Marie Stopes International clinics had been in serious breach of safety guidelines, when deciding to extend the scheme under which free NHS abortions are made available to women from Northern Ireland to include the provision of free travel to those clinics. [[HL2659](#)]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** Clinics run by Marie Stopes International (MSI) continue to be registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and approved by the Secretary of State to perform abortions. We are aware that CQC inspections raised serious concerns about compliance by MSI clinics with requirements set by the Department and the CQC. MSI are continuing to take a range of actions to address the issues identified in the CQC's reports. The CQC re-inspected MSI earlier this year and has made clear that they will not hesitate to take further action if necessary, in order to guarantee MSI meets the standard of care they expect and that its patients deserve. The Department continues to closely monitor the situation with particular regard to the statutory approval responsibilities of the Secretary of State.

### ACL

Asked by **Lord Myners**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether ministers or officials have met with, or made representations to, Airline Coordination Limited in connection with (1) Monarch Airlines, and (2) Greybull Capital. [[HL2706](#)]

**Baroness Sugg:** Ministers have had no discussions with Airport Co-ordination Limited, the UK's independent slot co-ordinator, in connection with Monarch Airlines or Greybull Capital. Under European and UK regulations, the UK government has no role in the airport slot allocation process. Airport Co-ordination Ltd has kept Department for Transport officials updated on factual matters relating to the disposition of Monarch Airlines' slots at UK airports.

### Affordable Housing: South West

Asked by **Lord Taylor of Goss Moor**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many new affordable homes have been built in (1) Cornwall, and (2) Devon, in each year since 2010. [[HL2564](#)]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The numbers of additional affordable homes provided (new build and acquisitions) are shown in the table below.

*Total additional affordable dwellings provided*

	2010- 11	2011- 12	2012- 13	2013- 14	2014- 15	2015- 16	Total
Cornwall	860	770	780	590	1,160	720	4,880
Devon	900	620	480	870	1,260	530	4,660

### Aggregates: Marine Environment

Asked by **Baroness Kennedy of Cradley**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the amount that marine aggregates contribute to the sand and gravel requirements of England and Wales. [[HL2693](#)]

**Lord Henley:** Table 5 of the Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components published by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy shows that in 2016 there were 50,153,000 tonnes of sand and gravel sold in England and Wales, of which 11,770,000 tonnes were marine dredged – which is equivalent to 23%.

### Aggregates: Recycling

Asked by **Baroness Kennedy of Cradley**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the amount of recycled products used in aggregates produced in the UK. [[HL2695](#)]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** We do not collect this data as there is no domestic or EU legislation that obliges it and we do not want to burden business with unnecessary reporting requirements.

### Agriculture: Education

Asked by **Lord Greaves**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to expand the provision of courses in organic and agroecological practices in agricultural colleges and other appropriate institutions. [[HL2573](#)]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** The Government is not responsible for deciding which courses further education institutions deliver. This is the responsibility of the institutions themselves who will take account of Government priorities as well as skills demands identified by local stakeholders and employers.

As part of our reforms to technical education, we are establishing a common framework of 15 technical education routes that encompass all employment-based and college-based training. The implementation of the routes will be phased, and the Agriculture, Environment and Animal Care route will be rolled out in September 2022. Within the routes will sit new T level qualifications. As with all the routes, the content of T levels within the Agriculture, Environment and Animal Care route will be

determined by advisory groups of employers, professionals and practitioners.

On 11 October the government published a T level Action Plan, which set out progress on the technical education reforms. Later this year, the Government will hold a public consultation on the new T level qualifications.

### Agriculture: Subsidies

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Goss Moor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the value of agricultural support payments per capita in real terms

in (1) Cornwall, (2) Devon, and (3) England, in each year since 2010. [HL2568]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Rural Payments Agency makes agricultural support payments to eligible farmers in England. The following figures represent the total direct aid paid to Cornwall, Devon and England for 2015 and 2016 under the Basic Payment Scheme; and for each year between 2010 and 2014 under its predecessor, the Single Payment Scheme. The average payment value represents that paid to eligible claimants for each year. Data is relevant to the claimant population

#### SPS scheme 2010-2014

Year	England		Devon		Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	
	SPS GBP	Number	SPS GBP	Number	SPS GBP	Number
2010	1,781,954,062	104,285	£98,514,541	9,353	£52,546,385	4,775
2011	1,787,132,090	104,007	£98,169,419	9,357	£52,727,507	4,759
2012	1,649,543,922	103,899	£90,430,011	9,350	£48,462,249	4,738
2013	1,673,641,321	103,109	£91,655,239	9,309	£49,139,301	4,706
2014	1,538,089,242	101,584	£83,316,822	9,117	£44,847,068	4,657

#### BPS scheme 2015-2016

Year	England		Devon		Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	
	BPS GBP	Volume Paid	BPS GBP	Volume Paid	BPS GBP	Volume Paid
2015	1,407,810,704	86,931	77,634,876	7,710	£40,476,454	3,881
2016	1,650,041,395	85,316	90,852,407	7,582	£47,830,601	3,796

#### Average per claim (both schemes)

Year	Scheme	England	Devon	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly
		Average Per Claim	Average Per Claim	Average per Claim
2010	SPS	£17,087	£10,533	£11,004
2011	SPS	£17,183	£10,492	£11,080
2012	SPS	£15,876	£9,672	£10,228
2013	SPS	£16,232	£9,846	£10,442
2014	SPS	£15,141	£9,139	£9,630
2015	BPS	£16,195	£10,069	£10,429
2016	BPS	£19,340	£11,983	£12,600

### Alternatives to Prison

*Asked by Lord Laming*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to ensure that the courts have robust and reliable non-custodial sentences available to them. [HL2584]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** The sentencing framework already gives courts the flexibility to select community order requirements which are a robust alternative to custody, and are tailored to address the specific issues that contribute to reoffending. We are committed to ensuring that community penalties are tough, effective and command the confidence of sentencers, and are continuing to explore further improvements that could be made to probation services.

## Antigua and Barbuda: Hurricanes and Tornadoes

*Asked by Lord Howell of Guildford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to increase the eligibility of Antigua and Barbuda to receive aid and assistance following the recent hurricane damage. [HL2919]

**Lord Bates:** Antigua and Barbuda is eligible to receive Official Development Assistance (ODA). The island of Barbuda, with a population of 1,800 persons, was recently devastated by Hurricane Irma and the UK is providing humanitarian assistance, through the Red Cross and the Pan American Health Organisation, to the affected population. We have also released £14 million, to Antigua and Barbuda, for climate-resilient infrastructure projects to help the islands build back better and stronger. DFID is awaiting the World Bank's post disaster needs assessment and will review future needs accordingly, in collaboration with other donors. All of this UK support will be classified as ODA.

## Aphantasia

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they recognise the condition Aphantasia; and, if so, what support is offered to sufferers. [HL2721]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** Recognition and classification of disorders is a matter for clinicians and academics in the relevant field. Relatively little is known about aphantasia and the impact it may or may not have on health and wellbeing.

If someone believes they may have the condition and it is impacting on their health and wellbeing they should discuss this with their general practitioner.

## Armed Forces

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what comparative assessment they have made of the infantry fighting value of (1) line regiments, (2) the Parachute Regiment, (3) the Royal Marines, and (4) RAF regiments, to overall UK military capacity. [HL2654]

**Earl Howe:** Army infantry Regiments, the Parachute Regiment, the Royal Marines and the RAF Regiment all have distinct and discrete roles in the defence and security of the United Kingdom and are trained and equipped accordingly. There is no sensible or objective basis for a comparative assessment of their value and so no such exercise has been attempted.

## Aviation

*Asked by Lord Rosser*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the suitability of an agreement between the UK and the EU based on the EU-Swiss Air Transport Agreement following the UK's exit from the EU. [HL2649]

*Asked by Lord Rosser*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact that leaving the European Common Aviation Area and making new aviation agreements with the EU and other nation states will have on UK connectivity to (1) the EU; and (2) the rest of the world. [HL2650]

*Asked by Lord Rosser*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the length of time that it would take to negotiate aviation agreements between the UK and third party countries following the UK's withdrawal from the EU. [HL2651]

*Asked by Lord Rosser*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the potential loss of cabotage rights within the EU for UK airlines following the UK's exit from the EU. [HL2652]

**Baroness Sugg:** The UK is entering negotiations with the EU from a position of complete harmonisation with EU regulations. This will be the foundation upon which the UK will negotiate a bespoke relationship. We do not want to simply adopt a model already used by other countries, like Switzerland.

The importance of air services to the UK economy is recognised across Government and we continue to work closely with the aviation sector to ensure its ongoing success. Securing liberal market access to EU and global markets is a high priority for the Department for Transport.

My officials are in discussion with third countries regarding post-Brexit air services arrangements. They are on course to reach an understanding with each of those countries well before the UK leaves the EU.

The Government is considering carefully all the potential implications arising from the UK's exit from the EU, including upon cabotage rights, and plans to negotiate the best possible relationship between the UK and EU in the field of aviation. It will be in the interests of both sides in the negotiation to maintain closely integrated aviation markets.

## BBC World Service: Finance

*Asked by Lord Dobbs*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much the BBC World Service received in government subsidy in each of the last ten years. [[HL2673](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Prior to 2013/14 the Government provided the BBC World Service with Grant-in-Aid funding through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. From 2014/15 onwards core World Service activity was funded through the Licence Fee. In 2015 the Government announced additional funding for the World Service for the BBC World 2020 programme. £291 million will be invested from 2016/17 to 2019/20 to expand provision, including the creation of 12 new language services. New and enhanced services for BBC World Service will provide more people around the world with access to accurate, impartial and independent information.

The published BBC figures for government funding to the World Service, including Grant-in-Aid prior to 2014/15 and BBC World 2020 funding from 2016/17, are therefore as follows:

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>£m</i>
2008/09	265.0
2009/10	268.0
2010/11	265.5
2011/12	255.2
2012/13	244.2
2013/14	238.5
2014/15	0
2015/16	0
2016/17	34.0
2017/18	85.0

## Brexit

*Asked by Lord Myners*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have taken legal advice on whether they can revoke or pause the Article 50 two year timetable. [[HL2574](#)]

**Lord Callanan:** It has been the practice of successive Governments not to comment on legal advice that may or may not have been received. A clear majority of the electorate voted to leave the EU and we will respect the will of the British people. As a matter of firm policy, our notification will not be withdrawn, for the simple reason that people voted to leave. And we are determined to see through that instruction.

*Asked by Lord Smith of Finsbury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 23 October (HL2086) concerning constitutional advice on the possible revocation of the Article 50 notice, whether they will now answer the question asked. [[HL2596](#)]

**Lord Callanan:** It has been the practice of successive Governments not to comment on legal advice that may or may not have been received. A clear majority of the electorate voted to leave the EU and we will respect the will of the British people. As a matter of firm policy, our notification will not be withdrawn, for the simple reason that people voted to leave. And we are determined to see through that instruction.

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the European Commission about its representatives meeting UK Parliamentarians who are proposing different Brexit policies from Her Majesty's Government. [[HL2662](#)]

**Lord Callanan:** The Government does not provide assistance to MPs to set up non-Governmental visits with the Commission unless it helps to fulfill Government or Foreign and Commonwealth Office objectives. Meetings are directly set up by the MPs in question or the National Parliament Office in Brussels. Additionally, it is not for the Government to comment on the European Commission's private meetings.

## Brexit: Wales

*Asked by Lord Elystan-Morgan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Goldie on 17 October (HL Deb, col 511) on the update on the Brexit negotiations, whether they keep a record of informal meetings with Welsh Ministers; whether such meetings have agendas; whether minutes are prepared and formally kept; and if not, whether they plan to keep such records. [[HL2505](#)]

**Lord Callanan:** The Government has been engaging with the devolved administrations throughout the negotiation process. At formal meetings where Government business is discussed, officials attend and minutes are prepared in line with usual practice. A list of ministerial meetings is published with each quarterly transparency return. We are committed to positive and productive engagement with the devolved administrations going forward as we seek a deal that works for the entire United Kingdom.

## British Council: Finance

*Asked by Lord Dobbs*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the operational budget for the British Council in each of the last ten years. [[HL2674](#)]



**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The British Council has provided the following figures from their Annual Reports

which reflect the total resources expended for each of the last ten years.

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Total resources expended (£'000)	557,402	621,579	708,083	665,321	720,413	785,333	880,410	975,880	971,363	1,085,934

Further information on the British Council's finances are available from their Annual Reports which are online and in the parliamentary library.

### Burma: Rohingya

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what financial and practical assistance they have given to aid the Rohingya Muslim refugees in Bangladesh; and what further assistance they intend to give. [HL2528]

**Lord Bates:** The UK is the largest bilateral donor to the Rohingya refugee crisis, and in addition to the £35m the UK had committed since the start of this crisis, on October 23<sup>rd</sup> the UK announced a further £12m of support - bringing the UK total to £47m. This funding is already providing food to 174,000 people, safe water and sanitation for more than 138,000 people and emergency shelter for over 130,000 people. In addition, the new funding will allow emergency nutrition support to reach more than 60,000 children under five, counselling and psychological support to reach over 10,000 women suffering from the trauma of war and over 2,000 survivors of sexual violence, and will provide medical help for over 50,000 pregnant women to give birth safely. We will continue to monitor the situation closely.

### Central African Pension Fund

*Asked by Lord Goodlad*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 25 October (HL1890), whether they intend to make good the deficit in the Central African Pension Fund, as they did in 2010. [HL2585]

**Lord Bates:** The Central African Pension Fund will next be officially valued in July 2018. It is for Crown Agents, as Trustees of the Fund, to consider how to respond to any deficit.

### Charter of the Forest

*Asked by Baroness Royall of Blaisdon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to mark the 800th anniversary of the Charter of the Forest. [HL2720]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** We recognise the significant environmental, economic, and societal benefits that trees provide, with planting more trees at the heart of

our work to protect the environment for future generations.

Looking to the future, we remain committed to being the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we found it and we will deliver this through an ambitious 25-year environment plan.

The government made no specific plans to mark the 800th anniversary of the Charter of the Forest.

### Chernobyl

*Asked by Lord Jones*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there are any pastures in upland Wales and England still rendered unsuitable for grazing as a consequence of the Chernobyl nuclear plant fire. [HL2514]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Food Standards Agency has advised that there are no restrictions remaining on grazing in upland areas of England and Wales as a consequence of the Chernobyl nuclear accident. Between 1986 and 2012 restrictions and routine monitoring of sheep in certain upland areas of the UK were in place to protect food safety. The Board of the FSA agreed the lifting of the last of the restrictions with effect from 1 June 2012, following a review of the evidence and public consultation.

### Children: Poverty

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the forecast made by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in October that child poverty will increase by 4 per cent in southern England, and by 8 per cent in the Midlands, Wales and the North; and whether they intend to take remedial action. [HL2854]

**Baroness Buscombe:** Employment is key to helping people out of poverty and our welfare and tax reforms are designed to support people into employment. Employment is at historically high levels and the number of children living in a family where no one is working is 608,000 lower than it was in 2010.

This Government is committed to action that will make a meaningful difference to the lives of the most disadvantaged children and families. 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. A copy is attached.



The Answer includes the following attached material:

Improving Lives: Helping Workless Families [HL2854 Improving Lives - Helping Workless Families (web).pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-11-02/HL2854>

### Civil Servants: Location

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many civil servants employed by HM Government had their primary place of work in (1) England, broken down by region, (2) Scotland, (3) Wales, and (4) Northern Ireland, in each year since 2010. [HL2681]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply and I will place a copy of their letter in the Library of the House.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

UKSA Response [HL 2681 Lord Hunt.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-30/HL2681>

### Civil Servants: Midlands

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to re-locate civil servants from London to (1) Birmingham, (2) the West Midlands, and (3) the Midlands as defined in the Midlands Engine Strategy. [HL2680]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** Workforce planning is primarily the responsibility of each department to determine based on their individual operational and policy requirements. Each department has their own spending agreements with HM Treasury and are responsible for ensuring they have the right workforce and capability in place to deliver their commitments.

We are consolidating our estate in central London and, since 2010, have reduced the number of offices from 185 to 54. The Public Bodies Relocation Programme seeks to move significant numbers of civil servants and other public servants out of London. This is part of the Government's Industrial Strategy and seeks to help rebalance the UK economy.

### Comet Group: Insolvency

*Asked by Lord Myners*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the report of the Insolvency Service into the collapse of the retailer Comet has not been published; and whether they will reconsider that decision, in the light of the collapse of

Monarch Airlines and the role of Greybull Capital as an investor in both companies. [HL2730]

**Lord Henley:** I refer the noble Lord to the answer given by my noble Friend Lord Prior of Brampton to Question UIN HL5215

### Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport: Advertising

*Asked by Baroness Smith of Basildon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much they and their agencies spent on commercial advertising on (1) TV, and (2) radio, in each year since 2009, broken down by region. [HL2586]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** The Government only holds this information from 2011. The majority of spend is conducted on a network (national) basis and splitting this spend by region is not possible.

<i>Year</i>	<i>TV</i>	<i>Radio</i>
2011	£33,379,859	£9,186,954
2012	£48,351,924	£15,243,673
2013	£39,254,363	£17,577,155
2014	£32,729,643	£14,308,621
2015	£51,729,850	£18,884,897
2016	£48,669,686	£11,927,962

### Department for Education: Ministers

*Asked by Lord Foulkes of Cumnock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they carry out due diligence into the commercial activities in the education sector of prospective ministerial appointments in the Department for Education before making such appointments. [HL2601]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** On appointment to each new office, Ministers provide a list of all relevant interests to their Permanent Secretary, which are considered by the Cabinet Office, and the Prime Minister's Independent Adviser on Ministers' Interests.

### Driving Tests

*Asked by Lord Rosser*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to maintain equivalence with standard EU driving test requirements following the UK's exit from the EU. [HL2755]

**Baroness Sugg:** The Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency's (DVSA) current driving test exceeds the standard EU driving test requirements; we aim to ensure this remain the case in the future, irrespective of EU membership.

## Driving: Licensing

Asked by **Lord Rosser**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to maintain the mutual recognition of driving licences with EU member states following the UK's exit from the EU. [HL2761]

**Baroness Sugg:** The Government has made clear that we wish to minimise any disruption for both UK citizens and those of EU member states. This applies equally to motorists travelling between the UK and the EU. Mutual recognition of driving licences will be an important issue for the negotiations.

## Drugs: Misuse

Asked by **Lord Patel of Bradford**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of reports that drug-related deaths are increasing in the areas of England where cuts to drug treatment budgets have been among the greatest, whether they intend to establish a national inquiry and action plan to tackle this issue in order to reduce the number of deaths. [HL2712]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** Public Health England (PHE) led an inquiry last year into the rises in drug-related deaths. The inquiry report, *Understanding and preventing drug-related deaths: The report of a national expert working group to investigate drug-related death in England*, was published on 9 September 2016 and a copy is attached.

The Government is investing over £16 billion over the current five-year spending review period for local authorities (LAs) to spend on public health. LAs are responsible for making decisions on how to spend their local allocation, but the public health grant conditions make it clear that they must have regard to the need to improve the take up of and outcomes from their drug and alcohol misuse treatment services. Whilst there is considerable variation across the country, with some regions showing large increases in recent years, PHE will continue to support LAs in delivering tailored, accessible and effective services where people stand the best chance of recovery.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Understanding and preventing drug-related deaths [Understanding and preventing drug related deaths Sept 2016.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-30/HL2712>

## Education

Asked by **Lord Storey**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) how many children are taught at home, and (2) how many children are taught in unregistered schools. [HL2561]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** Data on the number of children educated at home are not collected centrally.

National statistics on the number of children being taught at unregistered schools are not collected centrally.

## Electricity Interconnectors

Asked by **Baroness Featherstone**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the continuity in operations of UK interconnectors with continental Europe under the current regulatory framework. [HL2903]

**Lord Henley:** Electricity and gas interconnection in the UK is regulated through a combination of domestic legislation, EU regulations and network codes, regulatory licences, and industry codes. These rules provide a robust framework for operation as demonstrated by current flows across the interconnectors, which respond efficiently to market signals.

The future of this framework will be subject to negotiations with the EU, and the Government has made clear that we seek to develop a deep and special partnership with the EU on energy. Interconnection benefits countries on both sides of the link, through the value of the energy traded, the increased diversity of energy supply, and the flexibility that interconnectors provide for the electricity system.

## Electronic Warfare

Asked by **Lord Alton of Liverpool**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they regard cyber warfare as a Tier One threat to national security; whether they are considering the creation of a new international Bletchley Park to counter that threat; and whether they are providing resources to develop machine learning algorithms and artificial intelligence to counter that threat. [HL2612]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** The 2015 National Security Strategy identifies cyber security as a tier one threat to the UK's national security. To counter this threat the Government published the National Cyber Security Strategy 2016-2021 supported by £1.9 billion of transformational investment. As part of the implementation of the strategy, a new National Cyber Security Centre was launched in 2016 to provide a central body for cyber security at a national level. In order to keep our cyber defences effective, the Government provides resources for research and development of technical and other measures, but it would not be appropriate to comment on specific technologies.

## Enterprise Investment Scheme

Asked by **Lord Mendelsohn**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have for revising the Enterprise Investment Scheme;

and what assessment they have made of the economic impact of any future reductions in support available through that scheme. [HL2700]

**Lord Bates:** The consultation *Financing Growth in Innovative Firms* set out the vital role the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) plays in incentivising investment into early stage, high-growth firms. In 2015-16 more than 3,400 companies raised £1.9 billion through the scheme. The consultation also noted an ongoing issue of low-risk 'capital preservation' investments structured around the relief and asked an open question about how best to target the relief to ensure it helps innovative, high-growth firms receive the investment they need. The government will set out its response to the consultation in the Budget.

### EU Nationals

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the proposed agreement on EU citizens living in the UK will provide certainty about residence and benefits; and if so, how; and whether there will be a qualifying period for payments into the social security system; and if so, how long that period will be. [HL2510]

**Lord Callanan:** We are within touching distance of reaching political agreement on the citizens' rights aspects of the Withdrawal Agreement, including on residence status and social security.

The UK Government's position is that to provide certainty on residence, all EU citizens lawfully residing within the UK with five years residence at a specified date, which is no earlier than the trigger of Article 50, and no later than the UK's exit from the EU, will be able to apply for settled status. Those EU citizens with less than five years lawful residence who arrive before the specified date will be given time to stay until they have the five years of residency necessary to obtain UK settled status.

For EU citizens in the UK with rights protected under the Withdrawal Agreement, those on the pathway to settled status will continue to be able to access the same benefits that they can access now (broadly, equal access for workers/the self-employed and limited access for those not working). Once they are granted settled status, EU citizens will have access to benefits on the same basis as comparable UK nationals. Following the UK's withdrawal from the EU, access to benefits for those EU citizens protected by the Withdrawal Agreement will mirror any future changes potentially made to UK nationals' entitlement. This means that an EU citizen protected by the Withdrawal Agreement will be no better or worse off than a UK national and will continue to enjoy equivalent access to benefits.

### European Regional Development Fund

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Goss Moor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the value of European Regional Development Fund support payments per capita in real terms in (1) Cornwall, (2) Devon, and (3) England, in each year since 2010. [HL2576]

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Goss Moor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the value of EU infrastructure support payments per capita in real terms in (1) Cornwall, (2) Devon, and (3) England, in each year since 2010. [HL2577]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) 2014-20 Programme in England, the funding available has been allocated to Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) areas and it is then for these partners to inform central Government when and where investments in their respective areas take place. The ERDF is the main source of EU funding used to support infrastructure in localities. This is complemented by the European Social Fund (ESF) which is also allocated to LEP areas in England and supports employment, skills and social inclusion.

The level of EU Structural Funds (the combination of the ERDF and the ESF) that has been allocated to each LEP area, including Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, Heart of the South West and England can be found (attached) here:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-structural-funds-uk-allocations-2014-to-2020>.

The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP area allocation is significantly greater than that of the Heart of the South West. This is because the EU categorises Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly as 'a Less Developed Region' whereas it categorises Heart of the South West as 'a More Developed Region'. These categories are assigned according to the per capita gross domestic product (GDP) of each of these areas.

Details of population by LEP area from 2010 onwards using the Nomis Database which can be found here:  
<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/lep/contents.aspx>

Details of projects that have been funded are available (attached) on GOV.UK:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/european-structural-and-investment-funds-useful-resources>

The government has committed to develop the UK Shared Prosperity Fund as a successor to EU structural fund programmes. This new Fund affords a fresh opportunity to spend money according to our own priorities, improve productivity and reduce economic inequality across the country.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

ERDF [171108 ERDF HL2577 2576.pdf]

EU Structural Fund [171108 EUstructural-funds-uk-allocations-2014-to-2020- HL2577 HL2576.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-26/HL2576>

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

*Asked by **Baroness Byford***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to introduce heavier fines for those convicted of fly-tipping, including seizure of vehicles. [HL2668]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Sentencing Guideline for environmental offences was reviewed and strengthened in 2014. The maximum penalty for indictment for fly-tipping is imprisonment of up to five years or a potentially unlimited fine. The Government will continue to provide information to the Sentencing Council as they monitor the impact of the guidance.

In 2015 we gave local authorities stronger powers to stop and seize vehicles of those suspected of fly-tipping and vehicle seizures have increased in 2016/17 by 34% from the previous year.

The Government is committed to tackling fly-tipping on a number of fronts. We have given local authorities the power to issue fixed penalty notices for small scale fly-tipping in addition to search and seizure powers. It is the responsibility of local authorities to use the powers available to them. The National Fly-tipping Prevention Group has published guidance for local authorities which sets out clearly the powers available to local authorities and other partners when tackling fly-tipping.

### **Fracking**

*Asked by **Lord Hunt of Chesterton***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Neville-Rolfe on 8 November 2016 stating that the re-injection of waste and produced waters will not be permitted from shale gas wells in the UK, what steps they are taking to inform the public about the possible risks associated with fracking, including those related to water injection. [HL2920]

**Lord Henley:** The Government has been clear that shale development must be safe and environmentally sound.

The Government believes that early engagement is vital with communities who may host shale gas developments and we acknowledge that public confidence in the process is important to the success of the industry. We are continuously working with the regulators to ensure that the public understand how our regulatory regime works, and with the industry to encourage effective engagement which addresses local communities' concerns.

### **Gambling**

*Asked by **Lord Porter of Spalding***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the prevalence of problem gambling among vulnerable groups, including (1) those with mental health issues, (2) those with substance abuse addictions, and (3) the homeless. [HL2713]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The Gambling Commission tracks the prevalence of problem gambling rates through its quarterly survey as well as the NHS Health Surveys. The Gambling Commission surveys can be found at:

<http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/news-action-and-statistics/Statistics-and-research/Levels-of-participation-and-problem-gambling/Gambling-participation-and-problem-gambling.aspx>

The 2015 NHS Health Survey can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/health-survey-for-england-health-survey-for-england-2015>

Both reports are attached to this question.

The NHS Health Surveys capture information on problem gambling and co-morbidities such as alcohol consumption, smoking and drug use, as well as physical and mental health conditions. However, due to the relatively small numbers of problem gamblers captured in surveys, demonstrating statistically significant correlations to other health and social issues is difficult.

The Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (RGSB) and GambleAware are leading work to measure gambling-related harm more effectively. This will involve exploring existing data, including around correlations with health and social issues, in more detail. In addition, GambleAware commissioned research by IPPR into the cost of public services provided to problem gamblers, including on health and housing costs which reported in December 2016. The attached report can be found at:

<https://www.ippr.org/research/publications/cards-on-the-table>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

2015 Health Survey summary [HSE2015-Sum-bklt.pdf]

Gambling participation: activities [Survey-data-YEAR-TO-December-2016.xlsx]

IPPR Problem Gamblers [Cards-on-the-table\_Dec16.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-30/HL2713>

### **Gaza: Economic Situation**

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the action necessary to reverse the process of de-development in Gaza. [HL2725]



**Lord Bates:** There is an urgent need to address the terrible situation in Gaza. The UN recently reported that that the water, economic and health situation has deteriorated even faster than feared in the 2012 assessment that predicted that Gaza would be unliveable not be fit to live in by 2020. The Rt Hon Alistair Burt, Minister of State for International Development, visited Gaza on 21 August and saw the extent of this first hand. Improvements in infrastructure, employment, energy and water are the priorities essential to improve living conditions. The UK will continue to urge all the parties to prioritise progress towards reaching a durable solution for Gaza and to take the necessary practical steps to improve conditions.

### Gaza: Humanitarian Aid

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what projection they have made of the percentage of people in Gaza who will need humanitarian aid in 2018; and how that aid will be delivered. [HL2726]

**Lord Bates:** The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' (UN OCHA) 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) assessed that 58% (1.1 million out of 1.9 million) of Gaza's population are acutely vulnerable and in need of humanitarian assistance in 2017. A new 2018 HRP will be published later this year. International humanitarian aid for Gaza is delivered by a range of UN agencies and NGOs, coordinated by UN OCHA. The UK will support approximately 1 million Gazans by providing clean water, rehabilitating sanitation facilities and promoting hygiene standards to stop the spread of disease through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). UK funding is also supporting basic service delivery, humanitarian access, enabling reconstruction efforts and investing in job creation.

### Gaza: International Assistance

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much funding has been provided to Gaza (1) through the Palestinian Authority, (2) directly to the government of Gaza, and (3) through the UN Relief and Works Agency, in each year since 2013–14. [HL2724]

**Lord Bates:** (1) *Palestinian Authority (PA)*

For financial years 2013/14 – 2015/16, UK financial assistance to the PA contributed to vetted public servant salaries through the EU PEGASE mechanism, covering both Gaza and the West Bank. From 2016/17 onwards earmarked UK funding to vetted PA health and education public servants' salaries does not cover the PA's Gaza payroll.

<i>Beneficiary</i>	<i>2013/14</i>	<i>2014/15</i>	<i>2015/16</i>	<i>2016/17</i>
Palestinian Authority	£41.6 million in the West Bank and Gaza	£22 million in the West Bank and Gaza	£24.8 million in the West Bank and Gaza	£25 million in the West Bank only

#### (2) *The Government of Gaza*

The UK does not fund the de facto authority in Gaza. The military wing of Hamas is proscribed by the UK, and the political wing subject to EU asset freezing legislation.

#### (3) *The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)*

Data for DFID's funding to multilaterals, including UNRWA, is available on the Statistics for International Development (SID) website. SID does not differentiate between DFID's spend in the West Bank and Gaza.

The UK is a long-term supporter of UNRWA's work in Gaza. We provide yearly core contributions to UNRWA's Programme Budget which supports the provision of basic services in the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. Additionally, the UK has previously supported an UNRWA Job Creation programme in Gaza and in 2014, contributed to UNRWA's Gaza Flash Appeal

### Gaza: Visits Abroad

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Government Ministers have applied to visit Gaza since 2014; and how many Ministers have been granted access. [HL2727]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** According to records held by our Consulate-General in Jerusalem, three Ministers have visited Gaza since 2014. We do hold information on the number of Ministers that applied to visit Gaza.

### Government Assistance

*Asked by Lord Macpherson of Earl's Court*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they propose to maintain the state aid regime following the UK's departure from the EU; and if so, how. [HL2809]

**Lord Henley:** The Government is aware that the EU negotiating mandate explicitly refers to state aid in the context of any future trade agreement between the EU and UK. This future relationship is subject to negotiation.

While the Government cannot speculate on outcomes at this stage, any future regime will be based on the principles of open and fair markets. As my Right Honourable Friend the Prime Minister said in Florence the Government believes "it would be a serious mistake to try to beat other countries' industries by unfairly subsidising one's own".

## Groceries Code Adjudicator

*Asked by Baroness Byford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they propose to take following their review into the role and remit of the Grocery Code Adjudicator published on 19 July. [HL2667]

**Lord Henley:** The Review found that the Adjudicator is making effective use of her statutory powers and is effectively enforcing the Groceries Code through collaborative working with the large retailers. The Government will continue to support the Groceries Code Adjudicator (GCA) in her work.

The Review also found that some direct suppliers are reluctant to raise legitimate grievances with the GCA due to a fear of commercial consequences. The Government will agree a strategic goal for the GCA to address this issue. The Government will also make it clear to retailers designated by the Code that it is not acceptable that direct suppliers face commercial consequences as a result of reporting potential breaches of the Code.

We will also work with Trade Associations to help their members understand how the Code works and the role of the GCA and encourage them to raise issues with the GCA and the retailers' Code Compliance Officers.

## Hamas

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what status they give to the political wing of Hamas; and what plans they have for dialogue with the newly formed unity government in Gaza. [HL2723]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK proscribes the military wing of Hamas, but does not proscribe its

political wing. Our policy on Hamas remains clear: Hamas must agree to the Quartet Principles: renounce violence, recognise Israel and accept previously signed agreements. We expect to see credible movement towards these conditions, which remain the benchmark against which its intentions should be judged. We welcome the reconciliation agreement which will see the Palestinian Authority resume administrative control of Gaza, and are monitoring the situation closely.

## Health Services: Republic of Ireland

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much they claimed in EEA medical costs from the Republic of Ireland under (1) Article 93, (2) Article 94, and (3) Article 95, during activity period 2016–17. [HL2766]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The Department, on behalf of the United Kingdom Government, reimburses other European Economic Area (EEA) countries and Switzerland for the cost of providing treatment to people we are responsible for under European Union law, based on pension and benefit eligibility and irrespective of nationality. In the same way, other EEA countries and Switzerland reimburse the Department, on behalf of the UK Government, for the cost of the NHS providing treatment to people they are responsible for under EU law, irrespective of nationality and including UK nationals insured in another EEA country or Switzerland.

Requested figures for 2016–17, the latest available, are provided in the following table, rounded to the nearest pound. Member states can submit claims up to 18 months in arrears so claims for any 12 month period do not necessarily reflect treatment provided in that period.

Country	Article 22.1c	Article 93	Article 94	Article 95	Total
Ireland	£6,445,232	£7,166,070	£0	£4,865,850	£18,477,152

*Source:* Resource Accounting and Budgeting exercise. Totals are based on estimates of the costs of EEA healthcare claims made annually for the purposes of provisions made in the Department of Health accounts in accordance with HM Treasury resource accounting rules.

*Notes:* Article 93 claims are combined claims for healthcare costs relating to temporary visitors (via European Health Insurance Cards), workers temporarily posted abroad by their employer, referrals for treatment in other EEA countries, or equivalent claims calculated on a formula basis under bilateral arrangements. Due to the nature of the claims system between member states, it is not currently possible to disaggregate the data consistently for all member states by either type of claim or type of treatment.

Article 94 claims are healthcare costs relating to dependents of workers not resident in same member state as the worker.

Article 95 claims are for healthcare costs relating to pensioners and dependents of pensioners.

Article 22.1c refers to patient referral claims.

## Hong Kong: Police

*Asked by Lord Goodlad*

To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 25 October (HL1889), what was their response to the letter from the Royal Hong Kong Police Association to the Minister of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Mark Field MP, dated 16 October. [HL2634]



**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Minister for Asia and the Pacific will be replying shortly to the letter from the Royal Hong Kong Police Association which was received on 16 October.

### Housing: South West

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Goss Moor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many new homes have been built in (1) Cornwall, and (2) Devon, in each year since 2010. [HL2563]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Estimates of the number of new homes built in Cornwall and Devon are published by the Department as part of 'House building: new build dwellings in England'. The number of new homes built, in Cornwall and Devon since 2010/11, is shown in the table below.

Table 1. House building: new build dwellings completed.

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Total (to June only)
Cornwall	1,450	1,820	1,680	1,430	1,880	1,760	1,750	520	12,300
Devon	1,870	2,220	1,770	2,840	3,030	3,110	3,340	920	19,100

A more complete picture of housing supply (including conversions and change of use) is provided by the 'net additional dwelling' statistics. The number of net additional dwellings delivered, in Cornwall and Devon since 2010/11, is shown in the table below.

Table 2. Housing Supply: net additional dwellings.

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Total (to 2015-16)
Cornwall	2,390	2,380	2,280	2,030	2,700	2,600	14,380
Devon	2,650	2,360	2,260	3,340	3,910	3,940	18,550

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Goss Moor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the average price of a home in (1) Cornwall, and (2) Devon, in each year since 2010. [HL2565]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The mean prices paid (in £s) for all house types for Cornwall and Devon are shown in the table below for the financial years 2010-11 to 2016-17 (where the years run to the end of March).

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Cornwall	227,594	219,055	221,614	223,804	228,585	242,553	245,222
Devon	239,530	230,984	235,467	237,269	252,763	260,514	268,481

### Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference

*Asked by Lord Hague of Richmond*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what engagement they intend to have with (1) non-governmental organisations, and (2) the private sector, during the Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference 2018. [HL2845]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The UK Government is engaging with non-governmental organisations and the private sector in advance of the Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference 2018. Our cross-sector engagement in the build-up to and at the conference will ensure we deliver ambitious goals and effective partnerships for globally coordinated action to combat the illegal wildlife trade.

### Insurance Premium Tax

*Asked by Baroness Golding*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to review the level of insurance premium tax. [HL2675]

**Lord Bates:** The Government keeps all taxes under review. Decisions on taxation are a matter for the Chancellor and are considered as part of the Budget process.

### Internet: Safety

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how the Government's Internet Safety Strategy Green Paper, published on 11 October, addresses the issue of the anonymity of internet users. [HL2765]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The Internet Safety Strategy recognises that the Internet can facilitate abuse and harassment, and enables individuals to attack people anonymously and those they have never met. As part of the Strategy consultation, we are gathering information on users' experience of online abuse.

We are also consulting on the introduction of a code of practice, as laid out in the Digital Economy Act 2017. The Act requires that the code addresses conduct that involves bullying or insulting an individual online, or other behaviour likely to intimidate or humiliate the individual. Our online survey consultation specifically asks whether the code of practice should include steps to tackle those who use anonymous social media accounts to abuse others.

We will use the information gathered during our consultation to inform future policy development.

### Israel: Gaza

*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding the need for tunnels to be used in the

Gaza area to provide food and medicine to the people of Gaza. [[HL2776](#)]

**Lord Bates:** The UK believes any imported food and medicine should be provided through established Gaza crossing points. We remain deeply concerned by attempts to rearm and rebuild militant infrastructure, including the tunnel network in Gaza. This activity undermines efforts to improve the situation in Gaza and harms the prospects for peace and stability in the Middle East. We have a regular dialogue with the Israeli Government about its security concerns in Gaza. We also consistently call on the Israeli Government to ease movement and access restrictions covering the import of goods. Additionally, we have encouraged the Palestinian Authority to ensure their policy in Gaza, which has included restrictions on the shipment of medical supplies, does not unnecessarily affect the civilian population. The UK is a long-term supporter of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA), which provides basic services to 1.3 million people in Gaza, including basic health care.

### **Ivory: Smuggling**

*Asked by Lord Hague of Richmond*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the issue of the illegal trade in ivory will be discussed at the forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in 2018. [[HL2846](#)]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Prime Minister has announced the four themes that the 2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting will focus on: prosperity, sustainability, security and fairness. The UK Government is working closely with Member States and the Commonwealth Secretariat to examine options for the summit agenda.

The UK Government recognises the need for robust action to protect elephants, one of the world's most iconic and treasured species. That is why the Government announced its proposals on 6 October to introduce a total ban on UK sales of ivory that could contribute either directly or indirectly to the continued poaching of elephants, with some carefully defined and narrowly targeted exemptions.

### **Kamal Foroughi**

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent actions they have taken to help secure the release of Kamal Foroughi from detention in Iran. [[HL2691](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and I raised all our dual national consular cases, including Mr Kamal Foroughi's, with our Iranian counterparts in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in September. Last month, the Foreign Secretary once again discussed the importance of these cases with Foreign Minister Zarif and Vice President

Salehi, as did the Minister of State for the Middle East in a phone call with the Iranian Ambassador to the UK. Our Ambassador in Tehran also raises these cases at every opportunity.

### **Lebanon: Refugees**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees figures showing that Lebanon is the country with the highest per capita concentration of refugees worldwide, what priority they give to providing refugee aid to Lebanon. [[HL2686](#)]

**Lord Bates:** Lebanon has shown enormous generosity in hosting around 1.5 million Syrian refugees – the highest concentrations per capita anywhere in the world. Building the resilience of the regional countries affected by the Syrian crisis has been, and continues to be, a top priority for the UK. The UK has led the international community in mobilising support for Syrian refugees, including by co-hosting pledging conferences in London (2016) and Brussels (2017). The UK has provided £466 million to support Syrian refugees in Lebanon and the Lebanese host communities. We remain at the forefront of delivering on pledges, having already allocated 97% of money pledged for 2017.

### **Littoral Warfare**

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have recently re-assessed the global strategic environment; and if not, whether the national requirement for amphibious capability will remain as predicated in the 1998, 2010 and 2015 strategic defence reviews. [[HL2655](#)]

**Earl Howe:** We keep developments in the global strategic environment under constant review. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is playing a full role in the Government's National Security Capability Review, which will help to ensure that the UK's investment in national security capabilities is as joined-up, effective and efficient as possible.

As part of this review, we have undertaken to look again at the full range of capabilities available to the MOD, to ensure that we continue to have the right capabilities in the right places to address current national security challenges.

### **Livestock: Antibiotics**

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the contribution of animal farming in the UK to the growing resistance to antibiotics; and whether they have set targets for the reduction of antibiotics use in animal farming. [[HL2571](#)]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Bacteria naturally adapt and find new ways to survive the effects of an antibiotic; any use of an antibiotic accelerates the risk that bacteria will develop resistance. In its response last year to the Independent Review on Antimicrobial Resistance, the Government set a target to reduce antibiotic use by 20% across all food-producing species from 2014 baseline data to 50mg/kg by 2018. Latest data show that antibiotic use in 2016 was 45 mg/kg. Defra also undertook to work with the livestock industry to set sector-specific targets for reducing antibiotic use by the end of this year. These targets have now been published which can be found here:

<http://www.ruma.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/RUMA-Targets-Task-Force-Report-2017-FINAL.pdf>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

RUMA - Targets Task Force Report 2017 [RUMA - Targets Task Force Report 2017.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-26/HL2571>

### **Lobbying: Charities**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Statement by Lord Bridges of Headley on 8 February 2016 (HLWS502), whether the policy announced in relation to the lobbying operations of charities applies to tax monies paid to charities in return for commissioned services. [HL2660]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** The policy referred to in the written statement (HLWS502) was subsequently withdrawn and replaced through a wider policy to introduce a set of Minimum Standards for Government Grants, which were published on GOV.UK on 2 December 2016.

The Standard guidance states that departments are required to ensure details of eligible expenditure are included in all their grants agreements. They should also include items of expenditure that are expressly ineligible. The terms of these agreement must be sufficiently clear, to provide assurance that the grant is only used for the purposes for which it was awarded. The expectation is that paid for lobbying - unless a requirement of the grant - and attempting to exert undue influence using taxpayer funding, will always be precluded under those terms.

The Standards policy applies only to all general grants including those made either wholly or partly using Exchequer funding.

### **Local Government: Borrowing**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether local authorities are free to borrow against the security of their capital assets, for example for new housing; if so,

whether such borrowing is treated as increasing the national debt; and if so, why. [HL2597]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Under the prudential system, local authorities in England are free to borrow without government consent, providing that their borrowing is affordable. When calculating an affordable level of borrowing, local authorities are required by statute to have regard to the Prudential Code issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. Borrowing in the Housing Revenue Account can be used to fund the delivery of new social housing. This borrowing is capped, but there remains unused borrowing headroom of £3.5 billion (up from £2.9bn in 2012).

The measure used in the Government fiscal mandate to measure the national debt is Public Sector Net Debt excluding public sector banks (PSND). This covers all institutions classified to the public sector by the Office for National Statistics apart from RBS and is produced on a consolidated basis. As part of the public sector, local authorities borrowing will therefore increase PSND.

### **Local Government: Devolution**

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many devolution deals are under discussion between local authorities and HM Government at the present time. [HL2644]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** We are working with the six city region mayors to understand the areas where they wish to undertake further work with Government. In addition, we are engaging with other areas around the country in order to understand where there is a strong case for devolution.

### **Maldives: Capital Punishment**

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations, if any, they have made to the authorities in the Maldives not to resume use of the death penalty. [HL2692]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK Government has engaged at Ministerial and official levels to urge the Government of the Maldives to reverse its decision to lift its de facto moratorium on the death penalty.

The Foreign Secretary wrote to the President of the Maldives on this matter on 29 August, as did my colleague the Minister for Asia and the Pacific on 31 August. The former Minister for Asia and the Pacific, Alok Sharma MP, also raised this issue with the Maldivian Minister for Foreign Affairs when they met at the UN Human Rights Council in February. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office 2016 Human Rights and Democracy report highlighted our concerns, including upholding death sentences against minors.

We have consistently made clear our opposition to the death penalty in all circumstances as a matter of principle. It is a violent and ineffective form of punishment that has no deterrent or protective value.

### **Marriage: Muslims**

*Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to ask the Law Commission to examine how to improve the protection of British Muslim women in marriage law. [HL2598]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** Muslims are free to enter into a legally valid marriage in their place of worship under the same provisions that apply to most other religious groups. The Government recognises that there are complex reasons that some do not, including conscious choice. We are considering the issues, but we have not seen evidence that changing the law would necessarily address the concern.

### **Minerals: Coastal Areas**

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the strength of environmental considerations when considering the further development of coastal mineral extraction. [HL2694]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** In the English marine area dredging to extract aggregates, including sand, gravel, and other marine minerals, from the seabed requires a licence from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO).

The MMO scrutinises every application to ensure that no unacceptable impacts will arise as a result of any permitted aggregate dredging operations. All applications must, therefore, contain sufficient data on which to base an informed decision. A number of assessments, including an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Coastal Impact Study (CIS), are undertaken to support aggregate dredging applications. The CIS assumes a "worst case scenario" and includes information on wave modelling, sediment transport and an assessment of the possibility of adverse effects on the coastline.

Should a licence be granted, the site will also be subject to a programme of monitoring throughout the duration of the licence, in order to validate conclusions from EIA and CIS. Should any unacceptable environmental impacts be identified during monitoring, the licence can be varied, suspended or revoked.

### **Monarch Airlines: Insolvency**

*Asked by Lord Myners*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the details of the agreement they reached with the Civil Aviation Authority, the Air Travel Organisers Licence (ATOL), and Greybull Capital to cover the cost of

repatriating the stranded UK passengers of Monarch Airlines; whether they have made any commitment to put in place similar arrangements in the event that another UK airline collapses; and whether ATOL members would be expected to cover some, or all, of the cost of repatriating passengers not covered by ATOL. [HL2707]

**Baroness Sugg:** We have entered into discussions with several third parties, including relevant card providers and travel providers through which passengers may have booked flights, with the aim of recovering the costs of the repatriation operation and will in due course be able to report back with more detail.

No further commitments have been made, but it is appropriate that we and the CAA should have robust contingency plans in place for a wide range of scenarios that can be put into practice quickly.

We are asking ATOL members who had their own (ATOL protected) customers on Monarch flights to contribute to the cost of the repatriation programme in respect of the passengers that they had a responsibility for.

*Asked by Lord Myners*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the matter of making claims for a contribution towards the cost of repatriating to the UK passengers of Monarch Airlines, they have (1) established the identity of the owners of Monarch Airlines, and (2) obtained confirmation of their willingness to contribute; and whether those owners include (a) Greybull Capital, and (b) Petrol Jersey. [HL2708]

*Asked by Lord Myners*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have engaged with the directors of Petrol Jersey to establish whether that company will reimburse or contribute towards the cost of repatriating customers of Monarch Airlines to the UK. [HL2709]

*Asked by Lord Myners*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the total cost to the taxpayer of repatriating to the UK passengers of Monarch Airlines; and who were the top ten recipients. [HL2710]

**Baroness Sugg:** The principal shareholder in Monarch Airlines is Petrol Jersey Limited with the Pension Protection Fund also holding a 10% stake. Greybull Capital is not itself a shareholder in Monarch Airlines but performs an advisory and management role for Petrol Jersey Limited.

There is no formal legal mechanism we can use to oblige Greybull to contribute towards the cost of repatriating passengers. However, Marc Meyohas, partner at Greybull has written <sup>[1]</sup> to the Transport Select Committee acknowledging a moral obligation (if they make a profit) to contribute to other stakeholders



including helping to defray the costs incurred by the Government in repatriating Monarch customers.

Our initial estimate was that the total costs of the repatriation operation will be around £60 million. We are currently unable to give a final figure as we are awaiting final invoices and cost recovery from third parties. We will be able to report in due course exactly how much the taxpayer has contributed and further detail on the recipients, where this information is not subject to a confidentiality clause.

We are focused on making sure that there is clear burden sharing of the repatriation operation, and that it is not only the government who pays.

We have entered into discussions with several third parties with the aim of recovering the costs of the repatriation operation. This includes Greybull Capital and relevant card providers and travel providers through which passengers may have booked flights. We will in due course be able to report back with more detail.

[1] <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/transport/Response-from-Greybull-Capital-LLP-to-Chair-re-Monarch-Airlines-collapse-24-10-2017.pdf>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Letter from Greybull Capital to TSC [Response-from-Greybull-Capital-LLP-to-Chair-re-Monarch-Airlines-collapse-24-10-2017.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-30/HL2708>

#### *Asked by Lord Myners*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to pursue the assets of Monarch Aircraft Engineering (MAE) in obtaining a contribution to public funds to cover the cost of repatriating customers of Monarch Airlines to the UK; and whether they plan to establish whether (1) MAE is still owned by Monarch Airlines or Greybull Capital, and (2) whether all or part of the capital of MAE has been sold and, if so, to whom the proceeds were paid. [HL2711]

**Baroness Sugg:** Monarch Aircraft Engineering Limited (MAEL) remains a standalone business, which continues to trade, after the Monarch Airlines and Monarch Tour Group entered Administration. We are not aware that there has been any change to the ownership of MAEL or that any shares have been sold in that company.

We are focused on making sure that there is clear burden sharing, and that it is not only the government who pays.

We have entered into discussions with several third parties with the aim of recovering the costs of the repatriation operation. This includes Greybull Capital and relevant card providers and travel providers through which passengers may have booked flights. We will in due course be able to report back with more detail.

#### *Asked by Lord Myners*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they asked Greybull Capital, or any other secured creditor of Monarch Airlines, to subordinate their security to grant precedence to HM Government in respect of costs incurred by the taxpayer in repatriating customers of Monarch Airlines. [HL2729]

**Baroness Sugg:** There is no formal legal mechanism we can use to oblige Greybull to contribute towards the cost of repatriating passengers. However, Marc Meyohas, partner at Greybull has written <sup>[1]</sup> to the Transport Select Committee acknowledging a moral obligation (if they make a profit) to contribute to other stakeholders including helping to defray the costs incurred by the Government in repatriating Monarch customers.

We have entered into discussions with several third parties, including relevant card providers and travel providers through which passengers may have booked flights, with the aim of recovering the costs of the repatriation operation and will in due course be able to report back with more detail.

We are focused on making sure that there is clear burden sharing of the repatriation operation, and that it is not only the government who pays.

[1] <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/transport/Response-from-Greybull-Capital-LLP-to-Chair-re-Monarch-Airlines-collapse-24-10-2017.pdf>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Letter from Greybull Capital to TSC [Response-from-Greybull-Capital-LLP-to-Chair-re-Monarch-Airlines-collapse-24-10-2017.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-31/HL2729>

#### *Asked by Lord Myners*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have sought a contribution from Vantage Guernsey, an associate of Greybull Capital, towards the cost to the taxpayer of repatriating to the UK passengers of Monarch Airlines. [HL2817]

**Baroness Sugg:** There is no formal legal mechanism we can use to oblige Greybull to contribute to the costs of repatriating passengers. However, Marc Meyohas, partner at Greybull has written to the Transport Select Committee acknowledging moral obligation (if they make a profit) to contribute to other stakeholders including helping to defray the costs incurred by the Government in repatriating Monarch customers.

We have entered into discussions with several third parties, including relevant card providers and travel providers through which passengers may have booked flights, with the aim of recovering the costs of the repatriation operation and will in due course be able to report back with more detail.

We are focused on making sure that there is clear burden sharing of the repatriation operation, and that it is not only the government who pays.

*Asked by Lord Myners*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Sugg on 2 November (HL2460), whether they intend to seek binding agreements with Greybull Capital and its associates to contribute towards the cost of repatriating passengers booked on Monarch Airlines; and if so, whether those agreements will be published, and what they intend to offer in return for those contributions. [HL2947]

**Baroness Sugg:** We have not discussed binding agreements with Greybull Capital and there is no formal legal mechanism we can use to oblige Greybull to contribute towards the costs of repatriating passengers.

However, Marc Meyohas, partner at Greybull has written <sup>[1]</sup> to the Transport Select Committee acknowledging a moral obligation (if they make a profit) to contribute to other stakeholders, including helping to defray the costs incurred by the Government in repatriating Monarch customers.

We also have entered into discussions with several third parties, including relevant card providers and travel providers through which passengers may have booked flights, with the aim of recovering the costs of the repatriation operation and will in due course be able to report back with more detail.

We are focused on making sure that there is clear burden sharing of the repatriation operation, and that it is not only the government who pays.

<sup>[1]</sup> <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/transport/Response-from-Greybull-Capital-LLP-to-Chair-re-Monarch-Airlines-collapse-24-10-2017.pdf>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Letter from Greybull Capital to Chair of TSC [Response-from-Greybull-Capital-LLP-to-Chair-re-Monarch-Airlines-collapse-24-10-2017.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-11-06/HL2947>

## MTCnovo

*Asked by Lord Laming*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many offenders have failed to keep appointments with probation officers employed by MTC Novo. [HL2583]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** The table below displays the number of offenders managed by an MTC Novo Provider (London Community Rehabilitation Company and Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company) with an absence recorded on nDelius (the national case management system for Probation) during the period of 1 April 2017 to 30 June 2017. This data is not limited to

contact with Probation Officers and includes all categories of enforceable contacts, including Unpaid Work, Accredited Programmes and other interventions.

	Thames Valley CRC	London CRC	All MTC Novo
Acceptable Absence	2,624	10,584	13,208
Unacceptable Absence	1,405	10,680	12,085
Attendance Not Recorded	776	1,785	2,561
Total Offenders managed	4,133	23,248	27,381

Absences are categorised as Acceptable or Unacceptable. Acceptable absences include contacts that have been cancelled for administrative reasons (for example, 15 days of Unpaid Work, which is typical for a 100 hours order, originally booked to be worked on a Thursday but later changed to a Wednesday to reflect childcare arrangements for an offender would count as 15 Acceptable Absences), as well as circumstances where an offender has provided good reasons for their failure to attend (for example, a letter from a GP to prove ill health).

Our policy is clear that offenders who fail to comply more than once with their order (without an acceptable explanation), should be subject to breach proceedings. We enforce this requirement robustly with all providers of Probation services.

## National Identity: Education

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that children taught at home or in unregistered schools meet the requirements that children are taught British values. [HL2562]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** The requirements on parents who educate children at home are contained in Section 7 of the Education Act 1996: these are that a child of compulsory school age receives an efficient full-time education suitable to his or her age, ability and aptitudes, and any special educational needs. There is no legal requirement that children educated at home are taught about the Fundamental British Values. A curriculum for a home-educated child which directly contradicted the Fundamental British Values might be deemed not suitable; that would be for the relevant local council to decide.

The Department has established a joint team with Ofsted and given them additional resources to step up investigations in to unregistered schools and to work with us to take whatever action is required, including closing the school or working with the police and Crown Prosecution Service as necessary.



## Natural Gas

*Asked by **Baroness Featherstone***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of asset closures the UK gas market could withstand without affecting energy prices or security of supply. [[HL2902](#)]

**Lord Henley:** The UK consistently has one of the largest and most liquid gas markets in Europe with extensive import infrastructure and a diverse range of gas supply sources. This winter we forecast 23% more daily capacity than peak demand. We are well placed to manage gas supply risks and any wholesale price impacts.

## Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe

*Asked by **Baroness Kennedy of Cradley***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent actions they have taken to help secure the release of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe from detention in Iran. [[HL2690](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and I raised all our dual national consular cases, including Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's, with our Iranian counterparts in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in September. Last month, the Foreign Secretary once again discussed the importance of these cases with Foreign Minister Zarif and Vice President Salehi, as did the Minister of State for the Middle East in a phone call with the Iranian Ambassador to the UK. Our Ambassador in Tehran also raises these cases at every opportunity.

## Nepal: Politics and Government

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the prospects for stable government and economic development in Nepal in the current political climate; and whether they are giving any assistance to non-governmental organisations or others in relation to local, provincial, and national elections. [[HL2550](#)]

**Lord Bates:** Nepal is at a pivotal moment. By early 2018, Nepal should have completed a set of elections bringing a new system of federal government into being, after a decade of insurgency and a similar period forming a new Constitution.

Broadly supported and inclusive elections would be a positive step towards greater stability. However challenges remain: expectations about what the new federal system can deliver will be high and not all communities are satisfied with the Constitution. Any associated political uncertainty or instability around the elections could dampen economic growth, which is currently forecast at 4% to 5% this fiscal year.

The Department for International Development is providing up to £1 million in assistance for local, provincial and federal elections in collaboration with the Embassy of Denmark and Swiss Development Cooperation. This includes support for long term national NGO and international organisation monitoring of the political and electoral environment before, during and after the elections.

## NHS: VAT

*Asked by **Lord Hunt of Kings Heath***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many approvals have been given to financial models that allow wholly owned subsidiaries of NHS Trusts and Foundation Trusts providing services to the NHS Trust or Foundation Trust that owns them to be established in order to claim VAT refunds. [[HL2679](#)]

**Lord Bates:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) does not have a role in specifically approving business models used by NHS Trusts and Foundation Trusts. It is HMRC's role to collect the taxes that are legally due, including VAT.

*Asked by **Lord Hunt of Kings Heath***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Mel Stride MP on 12 September (HC8140), why HMRC does not hold information on VAT revenues from NHS bodies at a sufficient level of detail that it would enable them to calculate how much revenue is lost as a result of NHS organisations setting up subsidiary companies with the purpose of reducing their VAT payments. [[HL2682](#)]

**Lord Bates:** Successive governments have aimed to keep the cost to businesses of VAT administration to the minimum necessary for HM Revenue and Customs to risk assess and assure tax receipts. HMRC routinely receives and maintains the information supplied on the 9 box return of a business, but not detailed information in respect of their suppliers and customers. However, businesses must retain for six years business records with that level of detail, and make these available for inspection.

## Northern Cyprus: Recognition of States

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Matthew Kidd, the British High Commissioner to the Republic of Cyprus, was acting on ministerial instructions when he publicly stated that recognition of the TRNC would be "dangerous"; whether they have repudiated recognition of the identity of Turkish Cypriots; and whether they intend to take any action, including disciplinary action. [[HL2699](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Whilst the Government recognises the Turkish Cypriot community, we do not recognise the self-declared "Turkish Republic of Northern

Cyprus". The Government is bound by relevant UN Security Council Resolutions condemning the Turkish Cypriot unilateral declaration of independence from the Republic of Cyprus. In a recent interview the British High Commissioner to Cyprus commented on how best to create conditions of security for the inhabitants of Cyprus, including the Turkish Cypriots. As he said, the Government continues to believe that a just and lasting settlement in Cyprus is the best means of resolving the difficulties caused by partition of the island for all its inhabitants, including matters relating to security. The High Commissioner enjoys the full and total confidence of Ministers.

### **Out of Area Treatment: Channel Islands**

*Asked by Lord Beith*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that NHS Trusts have been advised to charge residents of Channel Islands 150 per cent of the cost of specialist treatments received at English hospitals. [HL2757]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The United Kingdom has a residence based health care system, and entitlement to free National Health Service care is largely based on being ordinarily resident in the UK, or being otherwise exempt from charge under the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2015, as amended the Charging Regulations.

A person who is not ordinarily resident in the UK (an overseas visitor) is subject to the Charging Regulations, which require providers of NHS relevant services to make and recover charges from overseas visitors unless an exemption category in the Charging Regulations applies. Since April 2015, it is a requirement when making these charges to apply a charge of 150% of the national tariff to those overseas visitors who are resident outside the European Economic Area, including those resident in the Channel Islands.

### **Overseas Companies**

*Asked by Baroness Primarolo*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Nash on 18 September (HL1398), whether they have plans to review the corporate governance of UK-registered companies operating outside the UK, including through subsidiaries and other connected persons. [HL2719]

**Lord Henley:** UK-registered companies are subject to UK company law, which includes a statutory requirement under the Companies Act 2006 for medium sized and large companies to produce an annual strategic report. Parent companies that prepare group accounts must produce a consolidated strategic report relating to the undertakings included in the consolidation.

In the case of UK-registered quoted companies, the strategic report must include information about the

company's employees, and social, community and human rights issues, including any policies in relation to those matters and the effectiveness of those policies, to the extent necessary to assess the development, performance or position of the company's business.

Additionally, large companies which are public interest entities that employ 500 or more employees must include in the strategic report a non-financial statement containing information on employees and respect for human rights, to the extent necessary for an understanding of the company's development, performance and position and the impact of its activities.

As such, where a UK registered company operates outside of the UK, including through subsidiaries, its strategic report will, to the extent required by the reporting requirement, contain information in relation to its activities abroad.

The Government Response to the Corporate Governance Reform green paper consultation, published on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2017, announced a number of reforms to further strengthen and improve transparency in corporate governance at UK-registered companies, including to introduce secondary legislation requiring companies of a significant size to explain how their directors comply with the existing duty under Section 172 of the Companies Act to have regard to employee and other stakeholder interests.

The Government has no other current plans to review the corporate governance of UK-registered companies operating in the UK or overseas.

### **Overseas Students: Fees and Charges**

*Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the governing provisions in EU law that require universities to charge EU students the same as UK students. [HL2626]

*Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether universities are legally able to charge different fees to students domiciled in different non-EU countries. [HL2627]

*Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there are any limitations on the fees that can be charged by universities to undergraduate students domiciled in EEA countries that are not members of the EU. [HL2628]

**The Earl of Courtown:** Various provisions of EU law underpin fees legislation on higher education, including: Article 18 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the EU (TFEU), prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of nationality; Article 21 of the TFEU, covering the right to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States; Article 45 of the TFEU, covering freedom of

movement for workers within the Union and prohibiting discrimination based on nationality between workers of the member states; the Free Movement Directive 2004/38/EC and Regulation 492/2011.

Legislation enables universities to charge students, without a specified connection with the UK, fees at a higher level than eligible students with such a connection to the UK. This differential fee charging is not unlawful discrimination under the Equality Act 2010. The Equality Act prevents universities from discriminating, including when charging fees, on the basis of protected characteristics including nationality, except where the discrimination is permitted by other legislation.

In order to qualify for home fee status and be eligible for tuition fee caps, students must have a specified connection with the UK. Eligible European Economic Area migrant workers, self-employed persons, frontier workers and frontier self-employed persons and their eligible family members who meet the residency criteria may benefit from capped fees and home fee status.

### Overseas Trade

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the prospects for UK trade with (1) Kosovo, and (2) Georgia; and what initiatives they have taken in those countries in the last financial year, especially in respect of small and medium-size enterprises. [[HL2549](#)]

**Baroness Fairhead:** A UK/US Kosovo Trade and Investment Forum was held in London on November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016 and trade cooperation has steadily grown in line with Kosovo's economy. We look forward to increasing cooperation with the newly formed government, and hope to rearrange the postponed trade mission to Kosovo as a follow-up to the Forum.

In September 2017 a Trade Envoy to Georgia was appointed. In October the UK-Georgia 'Wardrop Dialogue' was held in London, attended by a Georgian Ministerial delegation, where the development of trade relations was discussed. My Rt hon Friend the Minister of State for Trade Policy (Greg Hands) met the Deputy Prime Minister of Georgia as part of this.

### Overseas Trade: Israel

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of increased trade opportunities with Israel following the UK's exit from the EU. [[HL2722](#)]

**Baroness Fairhead:** As we prepare to leave the EU, we will seek to transition all existing EU trade agreements and other EU preferential arrangements. This will ensure that the UK maintains the greatest amount of certainty, continuity and stability in our trade and investment relationships for our businesses, citizens and trading partners.

In March 2017, the UK-Israel Trade Working Group was launched, aiming to strengthen the trade and investment relationship between the two countries and ensure a smooth transition, as we leave the EU.

### Package Holidays: EU Law

*Asked by **Lord Rosser***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Lord Callanan on 25 October (HL Deb, cols 950–951), when the regulations associated with the EU Package Travel Directive 2015 will be published. [[HL2869](#)]

**Baroness Sugg:** Following on from the recently closed consultation on updating the Package Travel Regulations and the successful passage of the ATOL Bill, the Government will publish the proposed regulations that will implement the EU Package Travel Directive 2015 (PTD) into domestic law as soon as possible. The updated ATOL regulations that implement the PTD for package holidays which include a flight, will be published for consultation by the end of this year.

### Packaging: Waste

*Asked by **Lord Hayward***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they have taken in the last six months to encourage best practice in terms of limiting packaging waste by major retailers; and what action they are planning to take in the next six months. [[HL2592](#)]

*Asked by **Lord Hayward***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what meetings they have held in the last six months with major retailers to encourage best practice in terms of limiting packaging waste; what responses they received; and what further meetings are planned for the next six months. [[HL2593](#)]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Our priority is to prevent or reduce waste in the first place – keeping packaging produced to the minimum of protecting the product and communicating with the consumer. Our Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations require businesses to ensure that all their packaging does not exceed what is needed to make sure that the products are safe, hygienic and acceptable for both the packed product and for the consumer. These Regulations apply to those responsible for the packing or filling of products into packaging and those importing packed or filled packaging into the UK from elsewhere.

In September 2016, the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and an industry advisory group published a framework for greater consistency encouraging councils to recycle a common set of materials, as well as setting out actions to rationalise packaging, particularly plastics, into items that can be

collected for recycling while supporting innovation in packaging design.

Officials regularly meet with businesses and retailers to discuss a range of issues related to the recyclability of packaging. There will also be further opportunities for dialogue between officials and industry to inform the development of the new Resources and Waste Strategy.

*Asked by Lord Hayward*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken, and are planning to take, to discourage the use of packaging to promote multi-purchase discounts, and to encourage greater use of IT solutions as an alternative. [HL2594]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Government has not taken any direct steps to encourage greater use of IT solutions as an alternative to packaging promotions.

Buy-one-get-one-free deals represent a small proportion of supermarket promotions, and increasingly retailers are moving to more 'everyday low pricing' models or temporary price reductions. The Government has worked through the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to encourage retailers to provide alternative promotions for perishable food. If volume-based promotions are used (e.g. '3 for the price of 2'), then retailers should provide advice on how to store or freeze these foods to ensure that they are used and not wasted. This approach enables consumers to make savings but still buy the amounts or range of food that is right for them.

## Palestinians: Politics and Government

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what means they are employing to support and make effective the newly agreed Palestinian Government of National Unity. [HL2687]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Our Consul General in Jerusalem is in regular discussion with the Palestinian Authority (PA) about the process of reconciliation, making clear our support for the PA resuming government functions in Gaza and underlining the need for any future Palestinian unity Government to comply with the Quartet Principles: to renounce violence, recognise Israel and accept previously signed agreements.

## Passports: Interviews

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many face-to-face interviews were held at each passport centre in (1) 2010, (2) 2013, and (3) 2016. [HL2547]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** All first time adult applications are interviewed so the number of interviews will vary according to the number of adult applications. The table below shows the annual number of Face to Face

First Time Adult Interviews conducted per calendar year at Her Majesty's Passport Office Interview locations. This data also reflects the reduction in Interview locations from 2010 to 2016.

<i>Office</i>	<i>2010 FTA Interviews Conducted</i>
Aberdeen	1,871
Aberystwyth	549
Andover	10
Armagh	983
Belfast	3,717
Berwick on Tweed	73
Birmingham	20,337
Blackburn	6,856
Bournemouth	2,576
Brighton	3,411
Bristol	4,797
Bury St Edmunds	423
Carlisle	1,250
Chelmsford	9,562
Cheltenham	2,554
Coleraine	1,235
Crawley	6,094
Derby	6,909
Dover	260
Dumfries	139
Dundee	2,135
Edinburgh	3,891
Exeter	2,626
Glasgow	9,467
Inverness	818
Ipswich	2,374
Kendal	1,196
Kings Lynn	904
Kingston upon Hull	2,872
Leeds	10,784
Leicester	5,887
Lincoln	2,689
Liverpool	8,680

2010		2013		2016	
Office	FTA Interviews Conducted	Office	FTA Interviews Conducted	Office	FTA Interviews Conducted
London	57,543	Aberystwyth	652	Aberystwyth	299
Luton	12,226	Belfast	3,990	Belfast	3960
Maidstone	6,768	Birmingham	21,436	Birmingham	25905
Manchester	13,288	Blackburn	5,867	Blackburn	1204
Middlesbrough	3,561	Bristol	6,713	Bristol	1274
Newcastle	6,756	Carlisle	1,055	Chelmsford	7206
Newport	5,767	Chelmsford	9,827	Coleraine	113
Newport IOW	483	Coleraine	792	Crawley	1085
Northampton	3,840	Crawley	6,988	Dundee	439
Norwich	2,856	Derby	7,834	Durham	9873
Oban	25	Dundee	1,274	Edinburgh	6683
Oxford	3,074	Durham	9,702	Glasgow	9782
Peterborough	3,839	Edinburgh	6,351	Hull	527
Plymouth	1,870	Glasgow	9,860	IOW	166
Portsmouth	4,639	Hull	1,230	Leeds	16402
Reading	11,456	IOW	349	Leicester	1579
Ripon	545	Kingston upon Hull	244	Liverpool	12692
Scarborough	174	Leeds	12,835	London	59434
Selkirk	309	Leicester	6,743	Luton	10134
Sheffield	7,180	Liverpool	8,660	Maidstone	6554
Shrewsbury	1,895	London	68,868	Manchester	3311
Sleaford	144	Luton	12,236	Newport	11494
South Molton	156	Maidstone	6,673	Norwich	877
St Austell	1,584	Manchester	14,575	Peterborough	11519
Stirling	204	Newport	7,103	Plymouth	6017
Stoke on Trent	3,494	Newport IOW	125	Portsmouth	8157
Swansea	3,448	Norwich	2,190	Reading	11170
Swindon	1,993	Peterborough	7,293	Salford Quays	12211
Warwick	2,980	Plymouth	5,279	Sheffield	1686
Wick	149	Portsmouth	7,051	Swansea	318
Wrexham	2,816	Reading	13,153	VIS Host*	3675
Yeovil	1,666	Sheffield	8,172	Warwick	203
York	1,777	Swansea	1,689	Wrexham	470
Total for 2010	296,434	VIS Host*	2,030	Yeovil	314
		Warwick	1,119	Total for 2016	246733



	2013
<i>Office FTA Interviews Conducted</i>	
Wrexham	1,906
Yeovil	1,420
Total for 2013	283,284

\*Video Interview Service, typically used in the more remote parts of the country. The interview is undertaken by Her Majesty's Passport Office staff over a video link, and the customer is accompanied at all times by one of our partner organisations.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Table - HL2547 [Table - HL2547.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-25/HL2547>

### Police: Hong Kong

*Asked by Lord Goodlad*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was their response to the representations made by the Royal Hong Kong Police Association in its letter of 25 July to the Home Secretary. [HL2582]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The letter of 25<sup>th</sup> July has been responded to. However, a response to further representations from the Hong Kong Police Association is being drafted and will be released in due course.

### Policy Exchange

*Asked by Lord Foulkes of Cumnock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have given any financial, organisational or other support to the Policy Exchange in the last five years; and if so, what was the source of that support. [HL2602]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** The Department is not aware of having given any financial, organisational or other support to the Policy Exchange in the last five years.

### Prison Sentences

*Asked by Lord Trefgarne*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people are currently serving indeterminate prison sentences in the UK (except Scotland); and how many of those have now served longer than the maximum sentence for the offence for which they were convicted. [HL2728]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** The number of people currently serving indeterminate prison sentences in England and Wales can be viewed in the table below.

Data on the number of people currently serving indeterminate prison sentences who have now served

longer than the maximum sentence for the offence for which they were convicted is not routinely collected, so could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

*Table 1: Number of people currently service indeterminate prison sentences in England and Wales*

*On 30 September 2017*

Unreleased	10,378
Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP)	3,162
Life (all variations) <sup>(1)</sup>	7,216
Recalled	1,177
Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP)	792
Life (all variations) <sup>(1)</sup>	385

(1) Includes mandatory, discretionary, automatic life sentences and those relating to young adults and juveniles held in prison custody.

### Prisoners: Foreign Nationals

*Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people currently in prison are (1) citizens of other EU member states, and (2) non-EU citizens. [HL2785]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** The Government is committed to removing Foreign National Offenders from the United Kingdom, with a record number of over 6,300 removed from prisons, immigration removal centres (IRCs) and the community in 2016/17.

As at 30 September 2017, there were 4,125 (non-British) EU nationals in the prison population in England & Wales (including the HMPPS run IRCs); and a further 5,821 non-EU Foreign Nationals.

### Public Expenditure

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Goss Moor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the level of overall government spending per capita in real terms in (1) Cornwall, (2) Devon, and (3) England, in each year since 2010. [HL2567]

**Lord Bates:** Data is not available for the overall government spending per capita in real terms for Cornwall and Devon. However, the total identifiable public sector expenditure on services in England, per head and in real terms is provided in the following table:

<i>Year</i>	<i>£ per head</i>
2011-12	8,929
2012-13	8,791
2013-14	8,729
2014-15	8,754
2015-16	8,816



Source: 2015-16 – Country and Regional Analyses (CRA)

Note: A time series from 2011-12 to 2015-16 has been provided because these were collected in the most recent 'Country and Regional Analyses' exercise. Data in 2010-11 is not comparable with these later years due to changes to methodology between collection exercises.

### Public Transport: Crime

*Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what categories of crime have (1) increased, and (2) decreased, on (a) railways, and (b) buses, in each year since 2014. [HL2786]

**Baroness Sugg:** It is important to consider the following data in the context of an increase in passenger numbers on the railway, with crimes per million passengers remaining relatively low and indeed decreasing from 17.2 crimes per million passenger journeys in 2013/14 to 16.1 in 2016/17.

In terms of absolute numbers, on the railways, numbers recorded of violence against the person and sexual crimes have increased each year since 2014. Criminal damage/malicious mischief decreased in 2014 but has increased each year since then. Motor vehicle / cycle crime and robbery both decreased in 2015 and 2016 before increasing in 2017. Public disorder offences increased in 2014, decreased in 2015 and increased in 2016 and 2017.

Theft of railway or commercial property / burglary and fraud have decreased each year since 2014. Drug crime increased in 2014 but has decreased in every year since. Theft of passenger property has decreased each year since 2014 apart from a small increase in 2016.

The Government does not hold data on crimes on buses, which would be recorded by the local police force.

### Railways: Infrastructure

*Asked by Lord Rosser*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the UK's exit from the EU on the availability of EU funds for rail infrastructure projects in the UK; and whether this will affect any specific rail projects. [HL2754]

**Baroness Sugg:** On 13<sup>th</sup> August last year, my Right Honourable Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer made an announcement <sup>[1]</sup>, outlining the Government position on EU funding schemes, including those relating to transport infrastructure.

We are determined to ensure that people and businesses have stability and certainty in the period leading up to our departure, and that we use the opportunities that our EU Exit presents to determine our own priorities. The

Department for Transport is working closely with HM Treasury and stakeholders to that end.

<sup>[1]</sup> The following is a link to the announcement: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-philip-hammond-guarantees-eu-funding-beyond-date-uk-leaves-the-eu>

### Roads: Accidents

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what data are collected on the number of people killed and injured by road users who are breaking the law; and who collects those data. [HL2689]

**Baroness Sugg:** The Department for Transport's data on road accidents collected from police STATS19 returns reporting personal injury road collisions does not collect definitive information about whether any of the road users involved in a collision were breaking the law.

There is information in the STATS19 database to indicate, in the opinion of the police officer attending the scene, what contributory factors might have played a part in a particular road collision. However, this information is not recorded for all collisions and is based on the officer's initial opinion assessment only before any legal action has taken place. In addition, information about breath test results at the scene is collected but there is no record of whether this led to a prosecution or conviction.

Data on prosecutions are collected by the Ministry of Justice.

### Sierra Leone: Floods

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Chesterton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they are taking to support the funding and planning of the infrastructure of Freetown following the flooding in August; and whether they intend to provide support for a programme to train technical experts. [HL2588]

**Lord Bates:** Our deepest sympathies are with the people of Sierra Leone affected by the mudslide and flooding. The UK allocated £5m for emergency power and clean water, and to clear waterways to prevent further flooding.

Since Ebola, DFID has provided clean water and sanitation to over 500,000 people, including through new boreholes across Freetown. We are upgrading power supplies and doubling the number of households with access to solar energy. This support includes technical training for local workers, which will improve their ability to respond in times of crisis. The World Bank and UN are assisting the government to develop a long term strategy for urban planning, and we are working closely with them to assess the city's longer term housing needs.

## Small Business Commissioner

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 19 October (HL1856), how long after the planned launch date of 1 October they expect the Small Business Commissioner complaints scheme to launch; and what marketing activity they are carrying out to ensure that small businesses are aware that complaints dating back to April 2017 may be made retrospectively, once the service has launched. [HL2702]

**Lord Henley:** The Small Business Commissioner's complaints handling service, dependent on secondary legislation, is expected to be launched by the end of the year, subject to the will of Parliament. The service will be supported by an advice website which is also planned to launch at the same time and will provide details on how complaints from small businesses will be dealt with.

The Commissioner, Paul Uppal, and his team are in the process of setting up the office and engaging across the business community and with stakeholders to raise awareness of the SBC service.

## Small Businesses

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many civil servants in (1) the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and (2) the Department for International Trade, were responsible for small business policy in each year since 2010, broken down by grade. [HL2701]

**Lord Henley:** Both the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and the Department for International Trade have staff working in a wide range of policy development and delivery activities which support small businesses across the UK. The information is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate costs.

## Suicide: Young People

*Asked by Lord Dobbs*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people below the age of 26 took their own lives in each of the last ten years. [HL2671]

*Asked by Lord Dobbs*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people in full-time education took their own lives in each of the last ten years. [HL2672]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply and I will place a copy of their letter in the Library of the House.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

UKSA Response [HL2671 & HL2672 Lord Dobbs .pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-30/HL2671>

## Teachers: London Allowance

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government who is responsible for deciding the level of London allowances for teachers. [HL2560]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** Decisions on pay ranges and allowances are based on recommendations by the School Teachers' Review Body, the independent body that advises on teachers' pay and conditions.

## Trade Promotion: USA

*Asked by Lord Moonie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much was spent by the British Consulate General Los Angeles' office on external consultants during the Golden Globe Awards 2017, Grammy Awards 2017 and Academy Awards 2017; what were the objectives set for such expenditure; and what assessment was made of the performance of external consultants against those objectives. [HL2219]

**Baroness Fairhead:** The British Consulate General Los Angeles did not employ external consultants specifically to work on any of the events mentioned by the Noble Lord.

The Department for International Trade has used agency support in some of our work to promote the UK's excellent creative industries globally, often delivering through partnerships with organisations such as with Variety, BFI, BFC and BAFTA.

## Transport: EU Nationals

*Asked by Lord Rosser*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact that any change in the rights of EU citizens living and working in the UK will have on (1) the aviation sector; (2) the rail sector; (3) the road haulage sector; and (4) the maritime sector. [HL2648]

**Baroness Sugg:** The UK and the EU are both clear that we want to protect the broad range of rights and entitlements currently enjoyed by both EU citizens in the UK and UK nationals in the EU. The Prime Minister recently reiterated this in her open letter to EU citizens.

The Government is undertaking a wide range of analysis covering the entirety of the UK economy in order to support negotiations. This includes more than 50 sectors as well as cross-cutting areas.

In addition, I understand that a number of transport sector stakeholders have responded to the Migration Advisory Committee's call for evidence on EEA workers in the UK labour market, which the Committee intends to publish in due course.

## Travel

*Asked by Lord Rosser*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Lord Callanan on 25 October (HL Deb, cols 950), when they expect to publish their description of a linked travel arrangement; and whether Ministers have met with, or intend to meet with (1) online companies including online providers, and (2) consumer organisations, before determining their description of a linked travel arrangement. [HL2868]

**Baroness Sugg:** The Government has published the definition of a Linked Travel Arrangement (LTA) in the recently closed consultation on the updated Package Travel Regulations. The definition has been taken from the EU Package Travel Directive 2015 to ensure harmonisation across Europe. The forthcoming consultation on ATOL regulations, will set out how this will be transposed into UK regulations for holidays that include a flight. The practical points for implementation and operation will be published in the Civil Aviation Authority's Guidance that will accompany the updated ATOL regulations and the Package Travel Regulations.

In developing these proposals and bringing them in to law, Ministers have a full programme of engagement, which includes online companies, tour operators and consumer organisations. In addition, travel companies and organisations such as the European Technology & Travel Services Association (ETTSA), Trading Standards and ABTA, have attended the PTD implementation workshops.

## Universal Credit

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government by what methods they make it generally known that Universal Credit applicants can ask for 50 per cent advances, or other forms of emergency assistance, when faced with serious cash problems. [HL2683]

**Baroness Buscombe:** Any need for an advance payment or other financial or budgeting support is established at the outset of a claim for Universal Credit. In the initial new claim interview, work coaches are trained to offer personal budgeting support and assess whether claimants need help to manage until their first Universal Credit payment. We have taken steps to increase awareness of this support by amending guidance to ensure that claimants are aware at the start of their claim of the maximum amount they can receive and repayment period as an advance.

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what was the (1) shortest, (2), median, and (3) longest, delay in days in paying Universal Credit, in each of the last four quarters of the financial year for which figures are available; whether those figures are based on all Universal Credit payments or payments to a representative group of applicants; and if the latter, what was the size of that group, and how was it composed. [HL2688]

**Baroness Buscombe:** We do not have payment timeliness data broken down to the characteristics being requested. The latest data, published on 2 October on gov.uk, provides the most up to date information on payment timeliness and methodology, and is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Universal Credit Payment Timeliness Data [HL2688 universal-credit-payment-timeliness-statistical-ad-hoc.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-30/HL2688>

## Universal Credit: Housing

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the financial effect resulting from the Universal Credit (Housing Costs Element for claimants aged 18 to 21) (Amendment) Regulations 2017 on youth employment figures. [HL2678]

**Baroness Buscombe:** Such an assessment has not been made. If the policy has the anticipated effect of encouraging young people to remain in the parental home we would expect a positive impact on employment levels. The fact that such claimants receive a lower level of benefit results in them moving free of the Universal Credit earning taper at a lower level of wages. From that point they keep 100 per cent rather than 37 per cent of every additional £1 they earn, which provides a strong work incentive.

## Vocational Education: North East

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Durham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the current status of the proposed reform of technical education in the North East. [HL2502]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** The Government is committed to creating a world class technical education system and we are making progress on delivering the recommendations made by the Independent Panel on Technical Education, chaired by Lord Sainsbury.

In October, we published the attached 'Post-16 technical education reforms: T level action plan – October 2017', in which we outlined in more detail our plans for implementation. We announced the introduction of T

levels in three routes in 2020 – Digital, Construction and Education & Childcare – with the remaining eight routes launched in two waves in September 2021 and 2022. We expect the first T levels to be delivered by a small number of providers initially and we will begin engaging with providers later this year.

We want every student studying a T level to undertake a substantial work placement. In September 2017 we launched a work placement pilot scheme to test different models and approaches to delivering T level placements. 21 providers are piloting these in academic year 2017/18, working with a range of employers and approximately 2500 students. This includes a pilot scheme in the North East at Sunderland College, information of which can be found on their website: <http://sunderlandcollege.ac.uk/2017/10/college-pilots-government-project/>.

We will launch a public consultation on T levels later this year.

### Work Experience: Minimum Wage

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many successful prosecutions were made against employers for failing to pay the National Minimum Wage for internship roles in each year since 2010; and what were the details of those prosecutions. [HL2703]

**Lord Henley:** Details of the employers prosecuted for National Minimum Wage offences up to the end of 2016/17 are included in Table 1 below and are also published in Annex C of the 2017 *Government Evidence to the Low Pay Commission on compliance and enforcement*. HMRC does not have any records of prosecutions in relation to interns.

Table 1: NMW Prosecutions, 2007/08 to 2016/17

	Name of employer	Trading Name	Area	Date	
1	T Aguda	Rascals Day Nursery Ltd	Walthamstow	31 (5) (a)	28/08/2007
2	Torbay Council		Torquay	31 (5) (b)	01/10/2007
3	R Singh	Pound Mania	Nottingham	31 (5) (b)	30/04/2008
4	David Jackson	Jackson's Butchers	Sheffield	31 (1); 31 (2); 31 (3); 31 (4).	02/07/2008
5	Pauline Smout	Jackson's Butchers	Sheffield	31 (1); 31 (2); 31 (3); 31 (4)	02/07/2008
6	Zaheer Ibrahim	The Jewel in the Crown	Nottingham	31 (5) (b)	21/07/2008
7	Ahmed Yassine	The Pheonix Hotel	Rotherham	31 (2); 31 (5) (b)	13/02/2009
8	B G Optical		Manchester	31(1); 31(2); 31(3); 31(4); 31(5)(a); 31(5)(b)	23/06/2010
9	Widescope Security		London	31(1); 31(5)(b)	26/02/2013
10	Amanda Barrett	Amanda's Precious Bubbles Day Nursery Ltd	Birmingham	31(1); 31(2)	11/05/2016
11	Richard Hunt	The Rock Hotel (Weymouth) Ltd	Weymouth	31(5)(a); 31(5)(b)	13/05/2016
12	L.UK/Euro (Brighton) Ltd	3D Telecon	Oldham	31(1); 31(5)(a)	04/08/2016
13	Dida Brothers Car Wash		Southampton	31(1); 31(2)	08/12/2016

Source: BEIS/HMRC enforcement data

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Evidence and analysis to the Low Pay Commission [Attachment to HL2703.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-30/HL2703>

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in each year since 2010, how many complaints were referred to HMRC from (1) ACAS, (2) Citizens Advice, and (3) individuals, relating to workers being unpaid or paid less than the National Minimum Wage for internship roles; how many of those complaints were investigated by HMRC; and how many resulted in a prosecution against an employer. [HL2704]



**Lord Bates:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) only holds data on referrals that resulted in an investigation being opened.

HMRC began receiving complaint referrals from Acas on 17 March 2015. From this date until 31 March 2016 HMRC opened 6 investigations relating to interns that were referred by Acas.

HMRC began receiving complaint referrals from Citizens Advice from September 2016. HMRC has recorded no investigations opened after referral from Citizens Advice that specifically relate to interns.

The following numbers of investigations were opened as a result of direct complaints in relation to interns from 1 April 2010 to 17 March 2015:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Investigations opened from direct complaints</i>
2010/11	0
2011/12	30
2012/13	28
2013/14	44
2014/15	56
2015/16	5

HMRC has recorded no prosecutions in relation to interns and the National Minimum Wage.

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the details of their awareness-raising campaign to promote compliance with National Minimum Wage legislation as it relates to internships; what assessment they have made of the impact of HMRC's Promote programme on reducing the number of unpaid internships; and what other action they are taking to reduce the number of unpaid internships. [[HL2705](#)]

**Lord Henley:** The Government launched a £1.75m communications campaign in January 2016, which aimed to raise awareness among employers and to encourage

workers who are entitled to the National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage – including interns – to check their pay. The campaign ran across radio, billboards, digital and print media and directed workers to a dedicated campaign website.

HMRC works with a broad range of employers, agents and worker groups to support compliance and raise awareness of worker rights through a combination of webinars, targeted mail shots, face to face contact, digital contact and project work with sector specific bodies. As part of their Promote programme, HMRC has written to employers who advertise unpaid internships, reminding them of their obligations to comply with NMW legislation.

Earlier this year, Matthew Taylor completed his independent review into the UK's modern employment practices. The Government will give careful consideration to his recommendation to improve the interpretation of the law and to increase enforcement action relating to unpaid internships. We will respond in full later this year.

### **Yemen: Armed Conflict**

*Asked by The Earl of Sandwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the extent of civilian casualties in the civil war in Yemen; and what response they have made during 2017 to appeals from humanitarian agencies and non-governmental organisations providing relief in Yemen. [[HL2871](#)]

**Lord Bates:** In September 2017, the UN Human Rights Office reported that at least 5,144 civilians have been documented as killed by conflict in Yemen and at least 8,749 injured between March 2015 and August 2017.

We have increased our support for Yemen to £155 million this financial year, making the UK the second-largest donor to the UN appeal. Delivered by UN agencies and NGOs, our humanitarian assistance will provide enough food for 1.8 million people for at least a month, nutrition assistance to 1.7 million people, and clean water and sanitation to an expected 1.2 million people.

## Index to Statements and Answers

<b>Written Statements.....</b>	<b>1</b>	Electronic Warfare.....	8
Call-Out Order in Support of UK Operations in Afghanistan .....	1	Enterprise Investment Scheme .....	8
<b>Written Answers.....</b>	<b>2</b>	EU Nationals.....	9
Abortion: Northern Ireland.....	2	European Regional Development Fund.....	9
ACL.....	2	Fly-tipping: Fines .....	10
Affordable Housing: South West .....	2	Fracking.....	10
Aggregates: Marine Environment .....	2	Gambling .....	10
Aggregates: Recycling.....	2	Gaza: Economic Situation .....	10
Agriculture: Education .....	2	Gaza: Humanitarian Aid.....	11
Agriculture: Subsidies .....	3	Gaza: International Assistance .....	11
Alternatives to Prison .....	3	Gaza: Visits Abroad.....	11
Antigua and Barbuda: Hurricanes and Tornadoes.....	4	Government Assistance .....	11
Aphantasia .....	4	Groceries Code Adjudicator .....	12
Armed Forces .....	4	Hamas .....	12
Aviation.....	4	Health Services: Republic of Ireland.....	12
BBC World Service: Finance .....	5	Hong Kong: Police .....	12
Brexit.....	5	Housing: South West.....	13
Brexit: Wales.....	5	Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference .....	13
British Council: Finance.....	5	Insurance Premium Tax.....	13
Burma: Rohingya.....	6	Internet: Safety .....	13
Central African Pension Fund .....	6	Israel: Gaza .....	13
Charter of the Forest.....	6	Ivory: Smuggling .....	14
Chernobyl.....	6	Kamal Foroughi.....	14
Children: Poverty.....	6	Lebanon: Refugees .....	14
Civil Servants: Location .....	7	Littoral Warfare .....	14
Civil Servants: Midlands .....	7	Livestock: Antibiotics.....	14
Comet Group: Insolvency.....	7	Lobbying: Charities .....	15
Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport: Advertising .....	7	Local Government: Borrowing.....	15
Department for Education: Ministers .....	7	Local Government: Devolution .....	15
Driving Tests .....	7	Maldives: Capital Punishment.....	15
Driving: Licensing.....	8	Marriage: Muslims .....	16
Drugs: Misuse.....	8	Minerals: Coastal Areas.....	16
Education.....	8	Monarch Airlines: Insolvency .....	16
Electricity Interconnectors.....	8	MTCnovo.....	18
		National Identity: Education.....	18
		Natural Gas .....	19



## Index to Statements and Answers

Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe .....	19
Nepal: Politics and Government .....	19
NHS: VAT .....	19
Northern Cyprus: Recognition of States .....	19
Out of Area Treatment: Channel Islands .....	20
Overseas Companies .....	20
Overseas Students: Fees and Charges .....	20
Overseas Trade .....	21
Overseas Trade: Israel .....	21
Package Holidays: EU Law .....	21
Packaging: Waste .....	21
Palestinians: Politics and Government .....	22
Passports: Interviews .....	22
Police: Hong Kong .....	24
Policy Exchange .....	24
Prison Sentences .....	24
Prisoners: Foreign Nationals .....	24
Public Expenditure .....	24
Public Transport: Crime .....	25
Railways: Infrastructure .....	25
Roads: Accidents .....	25
Sierra Leone: Floods .....	25
Small Business Commissioner .....	26
Small Businesses .....	26
Suicide: Young People .....	26
Teachers: London Allowance .....	26
Trade Promotion: USA .....	26
Transport: EU Nationals .....	26
Travel .....	27
Universal Credit .....	27
Universal Credit: Housing .....	27
Vocational Education: North East .....	27
Work Experience: Minimum Wage .....	28
Yemen: Armed Conflict .....	29