

Vol. 786
No. 22



Thursday
16 November 2017

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

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

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

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Written Statements

Thursday, 16 November 2017

Civil Society Strategy

[HLWS249]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (Tracey Crouch) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

I wish to inform the House today of the government's intention to develop a Civil Society Strategy.

Civil society plays a vital role in the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities across our country, and in helping to address some burning injustices.

This Strategy will provide an opportunity to explore ways to build new partnerships within and between sectors and communities, so that we can better mobilise resources and expertise and find practical new solutions to the problems we face. It will reaffirm the value that government places on civil society. It will explore what more government can do to support its work.

Civil Society in England is broad. It encompasses the work of individuals, charities, youth organisations and communities. Civil Society is increasingly diverse, with growing numbers of social enterprises, mission led businesses and public service mutuals, as well as many more private businesses and investors that want to make a meaningful contribution.

I would like the Strategy to help shape the future direction for our work with and for civil society, and encompass all who have a role to play in building a stronger and fairer society.

It will be developed through dialogue and debate with people, groups, and organisations across government, businesses and wider civil society. It will build on engagements to date, including work with young people and youth organisations, as well as work to grow social impact investing, among others.

The Office for Civil Society, in the Department for Digital Culture Media and Sport, will lead this work, with input from the Department for Communities and Local Government and other departments. A listening exercise will be launched in the new year and findings reported later in the year.

Contingent Liability: Mercator Ocean

[HLWS250]

Lord Henley: My hon. Friend the Minister for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation (Joseph Johnson) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

Today I will lay before Parliament a departmental minute describing the purchase of a shareholding in Mercator Océan and the resulting contingent liability.

Copernicus is the EU Earth Observation programme that monitors the global health of the planet. Mercator Océan is the 'Coordinating Entity' for the Copernicus Marine Services which provides free and open access to constantly updated information about the global ocean and the seas of the European region. Mercator-Océan is currently owned by five French public institutions with an interest/obligation to deliver research aligned to operational oceanography. It is broadening its ownership structure to be more in line with other delegated authorities.

The Secretary of State, acting through the Met Office, intends on 29 November 2017 to buy a 5% (€100k) share of Mercator Océan, alongside equivalent organisations from Norway, Germany, Italy, Portugal and Spain.

The organisation is a "Société Civile" (a not for profit organisation) under French law, meaning it has unlimited liability, and its shareholders are exposed to liability risk in proportion to their shareholding. A remote contingent liability will therefore exist as long as the Secretary of State retains a shareholding in Mercator Océan.

The organisation protects its shareholders through contractual mechanisms and through insurance. Also any residual claim would first be met from the assets of the company. Any contingent liability is considered to be extremely remote. In addition any contingent liability will cease to exist should the Met Office dispose of the shares, which it is able to do so at cost at any point within the first 3 years of ownership, and with 6 months' notice after this point.

Regrettably, on this occasion pressing commercial requirements to procure the shares have meant that it has not been possible to provide the full 14 Sitting Days prior to taking on the contingent liabilities.

Disclosure and Barring Service: Annual Report

[HLWS251]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability (Victoria Atkins) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The 2016-17 Annual Report and Accounts for the Disclosure and Barring Service (HC 178) is being laid before the House today and published on www.gov.uk. Copies will be available in the Vote Office.

Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council

[HLWS256]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: My Rt Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (Karen Bradley) has made the following Statement:

The Education, Youth, Culture and Sport (EYCS) Council will take place in Brussels on 20 and 21 November 2017. The UK's Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU will represent the interests of the

UK at the Youth, Culture and Sport sessions of this Council.

Youth The Council will seek to gain a General Approach among EU Member States on the proposals laying down the framework for the European Solidarity Corps. The UK is proposing to vote in favour, subject to scrutiny. Also tabled is the adoption of draft Council conclusions on Smart Youth Work, which the UK supports. This will be followed by a policy debate as proposed by the Presidency. The Commission will also provide information on a new narrative for Europe.

Culture/Audiovisual The Council will begin by presenting, for adoption, draft Council conclusions on promoting access to culture via digital means, which will have a focus on audience development. The UK intends to support the adoption of these conclusions. This will be followed by a policy debate on the role of culture in building cohesive societies in Europe, as proposed by the Presidency.

On Audiovisual, the Presidency is expected to provide an update on the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD). This update will act as the first reading since the General Approach was achieved at the last EYCS Council in May 2017. The discussion is expected to focus on the progress, thus far, of Trilogue discussions between the Council and the European Parliament.

In addition to these files, the German delegation will provide information pertaining to the file on the Regulation of the Import Cultural Goods. This file is at an early discussion stage, however it is anticipated that it will be implemented by January 2019, DCMS and HMRC are engaging with the Member States in developing this policy.

Additional agenda items include for information items on international cultural relations, offences relating to cultural property, defense of cultural heritage, re-establishing Europe through culture and the mobility of artists.

Sport There will be two non-legislative activities tabled regarding sport. Firstly, the adoption of the draft Council conclusions on the role of coaches in society. Secondly, adoption of the Council resolution on the EU structured dialogue on sport. The UK intends to support the adoption of both sets of conclusions. These will be followed by a policy debate on the main challenges facing sport in the 21st century and cooperation between the EU, governments and sport movement, as proposed by the Presidency in accordance with the Council Rules of Procedure

Information will be provided from the EU Member States representatives in the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA Foundation Board). This will act as a follow up to WADA meetings in Seoul on 15-16 November 2017. The Greek delegation will also provide information to the Council on supporting the Olympic Truce during the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

Other The Council will be receiving information from the Bulgarian delegation, as the incoming presidency in

the first half of 2018, to set out their work programme for the next six months.

General Affairs Council

[HLWS255]

Lord Callanan: I will be attending the General Affairs Council in Brussels on 20 November 2017 to represent the UK's interests. Until we leave the European Union, we remain committed to fulfilling our rights and obligations as a full member.

The provisional agenda includes:

Preparation of the European Council, 14-15 December 2017

There will be a discussion on the agenda for the December European Council. This includes: defence, focusing on the launch of PESCO (Permanent Structured Cooperation) and a review of EU-NATO cooperation; social, education and culture, which includes a follow up to the November Gothenburg Social Summit; migration, involving a leaders' debate on both the internal and external dimensions of migration as part of Donald Tusk's Leader's Agenda; and external relations.

European Council follow-up

The Presidency will give an update on the implementation of the October European Council Conclusions on migration, digital Europe, security and defence, and external relations.

Legislative Programming - Commission's Work Programme for 2018 (CWP 2018)

Commission First Vice-President Frans Timmermans will present the CWP 2018, which sets out the legislation and other initiatives that the Commission intends to present to the Council of Ministers and European Parliament over the coming year.

Interinstitutional Agreements (IIA) Implementation

The Presidency will lay out what progress has been made on the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making (IIA), signed by the Presidents of the European Council, Commission and Parliament in April 2016. The IIA set out the commitments of these institutions regarding better regulation, interinstitutional relations and the legislative process.

European Semester 2018

The Presidency will introduce the timetable for the European Semester 2018, which will provide a framework for the coordination of economic policies across the EU.

Local Plans

[HLWS253]

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

On 7 February we published our Housing White Paper in which we made clear that the housing market in this

country is broken, and the cause is very simple: for too long, we haven't built enough homes. We have identified three systemic problems: not enough local authorities planning for the homes they need; house building that is simply too slow; and a construction industry that is too reliant on a small number of big players.

Up-to-date plans, including local plans, are essential because they provide clarity to communities and developers about where homes should be built and where not, so that development is planned rather than the result of speculative applications. At present too few places have an up-to-date plan.

On 21 July 2015 we made a Written Ministerial Statement to the House on this same subject. At that point 82 per cent of authorities had published a Local Plan under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 regime. Today that figure stands at 92 per cent.

In the 13 years that have passed since the 2004 Act received Royal Assent, over 70 local planning authorities have yet to adopt a plan and of those 27 authorities still have failed to reach the publication stage. I am particularly concerned about the 15 local planning authorities that have recently either failed the duty to cooperate or failed to meet the deadlines set out in their Local Development Schemes, the public timetable that all local planning authorities are required to put in place.

I am therefore writing today to the local planning authorities of:

Basildon, Brentwood, Bolsover, Calderdale, Castle Point, Eastleigh, Liverpool, Mansfield, North East Derbyshire, Northumberland, Runnymede, St Albans, Thanet, Wirral and York.

These letters will start the formal process of intervention we set out in the Housing White Paper. We set out that we will prioritise intervention where:

- the least progress in plan-making has been made
- policies in plans had not been kept up to date
- there was higher housing pressure; and
- intervention would have the greatest impact in accelerating Local Plan production

We also made clear that decisions on intervention will also be informed by the wider planning context in each area (specifically, the extent to which authorities are working cooperatively to put strategic plans in place, and the potential impact that not having a plan has on neighbourhood planning activity).

I am writing today to give the local authorities the opportunity to put forward any exceptional circumstances, by 31 January 2018, which, in their view, justify their failure to produce a Local Plan under the 2004 Act regime. I will take responses received into account before any final decisions on intervention are taken.

The remaining authorities who are not making progress on their plan-making and fail to publish a plan for consultation, submit a plan to examination or to keep policies in plans up to date are on notice that consistent failure to make sufficient progress will no longer be

tolerated. My Department will begin formally considering the case for intervention as deadlines are missed.

We will also bring forward the important provisions we legislated for earlier in the year through the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017. I will shortly lay the Regulations under section 12 to prescribe that local planning authorities must review their plans every five years.

We will also shortly be commencing Section 8 of the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 which will place a requirement on all local planning authorities to have plans in place for their area which set out their strategic policies. Those strategic priorities are set out at paragraph 156 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

As we set out in July 2015 we recognise that production of Local Plans is resource intensive. On 19 October 2017 we laid the regulations which, subject to approval of both Houses, will bring forward our White Paper commitment to increase planning fees by 20%. This delivers on our commitment to increase resources for local planning authorities where they commit to invest the additional fee income in their planning department. All local planning authorities in England have given this commitment. We will shortly announce details of the £25m of funding to help local authorities plan for new homes and infrastructure in their area that we announced in the White Paper.

We have, and we will continue to, support local planning authorities in plan-making, through the Planning Advisory Service, with support from officials of my Department and the Planning Inspectorate.

Where local planning authorities continue to fail to produce a plan to provide certainty to their community on where future development will be brought forward, we will use our intervention powers to ensure plans are put in place.

Machinery of Government Change: Gender Recognition Act

[HLWS252]

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

This written statement confirms that responsibility for the Gender Recognition Act 2004 will transfer from the Ministry of Justice to the Government Equalities Office. This change will be effective immediately.

Pensions

[HLWS248]

Baroness Buscombe: My honourable Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Pensions & Financial Inclusion (Guy Opperman MP) has made the following Written Statement.

The Government has now completed the examination of the cap that applies to member-borne charges in default

investment funds within defined contribution (DC) pension schemes used for automatic enrolment (AE).

After seeking a range of industry and consumer views and considering the findings of the recent Pension Charges Survey, which captures data from providers covering 14.4 million scheme members, we do not feel that now is the right time to change the level or scope of the cap.

The cap is working broadly as intended, helping to drive down member-borne costs, whilst allowing flexibility to allow asset diversity or tailored services for members and employers. It appears some small schemes are less able to take advantage of the most competitive market rates, and we have launched proposals to simplify the scheme consolidation process. This will allow smaller schemes who cannot secure value for money in the long term to exit the market and secure a better deal for their members elsewhere.

There continues to be a lack of transparency on transaction costs, which is hindering trustees and Independent Governance Committees' (IGC) attempts to monitor and evaluate whether these represent value. We believe that it is vital to get disclosure right before deciding on whether a cap on transaction costs is appropriate. Recently announced DWP legislative proposals will ensure trustees have sight of these costs and can give that information to members. The FCA is developing similar rules for providers.

The Government remains committed to ensuring AE members are protected from unreasonable and unfair charges, and recognises that there is on-going concern amongst consumers.

We will actively monitor the situation, by reviewing the information which trustees of DC schemes will be required to publish from April 2018, and which providers will publish in due course, to monitor whether the downward trend in charges is continuing.

That will also inform our next review. In 2020 we intend to examine the level and scope of the charge cap, as well as permitted charging structures, to see whether a change is needed to protect members. This will also allow us to evaluate the effects of the next stage of AE and the new master trust and transaction costs regimes.

Whilst we are not pre-judging the decision, we expect there to be a much clearer case for change in 2020.

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000: Codes of Practice

[HLWS254]

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

I am today publishing three revised codes of practice for consultation under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

The consultation is in relation to the following codes:

1. The Covert Surveillance and Property Interference Code of Practice.

2. The Covert Human Intelligence Sources Code of Practice

These codes provide guidance on the authorisation of directed surveillance, intrusive surveillance and covert human intelligence sources under Part 2 of RIPA, as well as property interference under the Police Act 1997 and Intelligence Services Act 1994. These powers are available to law enforcement and intelligence agencies as well as a number of other public authorities specified under RIPA, for use where necessary and proportionate for purposes such as the prevention or detection of crime, and the protection of national security. The codes reinforce the safeguards provided by the Acts, for the careful and lawful deployment, management and oversight of the powers.

3. The Investigation of Protected Information Code of Practice

This code sets out guidance on the use of powers under Part 3 of RIPA governing the investigation of protected electronic information, usually in pursuance of a criminal investigation.

The three codes are being updated to reflect changes in the Investigatory Powers Act 2016 which will impact on the use of the powers covered by the codes. In particular the codes reflect the creation of the new Investigatory Powers Commissioner, who has replaced the three existing oversight bodies, the requirement for public authorities to report errors to the Commissioner, and the new arrangements for authorisation of equipment interference which will apply in future to some techniques currently authorised under property interference provisions, and be relevant for use of the power under Part 3 of RIPA. At the same time the guidance in the codes under Part 2 of RIPA are being updated to reflect best practice in authorisation and management of the powers, to strengthen the safeguards relating to handling of confidential or legally privileged material, and to clarify the application of the RIPA framework to online investigation and research.

The consultation will last for six weeks. Copies of the consultation document and draft codes will be placed in the House Library. Online versions will be available on the www.gov.uk website.

Schools and Early Years Update

[HLWS259]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: My Honourable Friend, the Minister of State for Children and Families (Robert Goodwill), has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Today the Government is launching a public consultation on its proposed approach to revising the entitlement criteria for free school meals and the early years pupil premium, in light of the national roll out of Universal Credit.

Universal Credit is replacing a number of qualifying benefits for free school meals, such as Job Seeker's Allowance, Child's Tax Credit and Income Support.

Subject to the outcome of this consultation, we propose to introduce a net earned income threshold of £7,400 per annum for those in receipt of Universal Credit. A typical family earning around £7,400 per annum would, depending on their exact circumstances, have a total household income between £18,000 and £24,000 once benefits are taken into account. A threshold of £7,400 will increase the free school meals cohort by approximately 5% once Universal Credit is fully rolled out and in steady state. This equates to approximately 50,000 additional pupils being eligible to receive a nutritious free school meal than currently.

Furthermore, to ensure that no child who currently benefits from a free school meal loses this entitlement as a result of this criteria change, we aim to protect current beneficiaries' eligibility up until the end of the roll-out of Universal Credit. From that point on, all children should retain this protection for the rest of their current phase of education.

The economic eligibility criteria for the early years pupil premium are the same as for free school meals. We believe that this consistency is important so that the most disadvantaged families benefit from this additional funding across the whole age range. As such, we propose to apply the same threshold as mentioned above for free school meals to the early years pupil premium, and to mirror the protection arrangements for current beneficiaries during the UC roll-out period.

If, following the public consultation and subject to the will of the House, the Government decides to take forward its proposals, we expect the revised regulations to come into force in April 2018.

The '*Eligibility for free school meals and early years pupil premium under Universal Credit*' consultation will commence today and run for eight weeks. The consultation document containing full details of the proposals and inviting responses will be published on the Department for Education's website. Copies of the consultation document will also be placed in the House Libraries.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Consultation on FSM and EYPP eligibility under UC
[Consultation - Free school meals and EYPP under Universal Credit.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2017-11-16/HLWS259/>

Social Care Update

[HLWS258]

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

Today the Government is setting out plans to publish a Green Paper by summer recess 2018 presenting its proposals to reform care and support for older people. Reform of this vital sector has been a controversial issue for many years, but the realities of an ageing society mean that we must reach a sustainable settlement for the long-term.

To achieve reform where previous attempts have failed, we must look more broadly than social care services alone, and not focus narrowly on questions of means-testing, important though these are. Our vision for care must also incorporate the wider networks of support and services which help older people to live independently, including the crucial role of housing and the interaction with other public services. It must consider how care is provided at present and challenge the system to embrace new technology, innovation and workforce models which can deliver better quality and value.

To deliver a lasting solution, it is right that we take the time needed to debate these complex issues and listen to a range of perspectives to build consensus. For this reason, over the coming months, we will work with experts, stakeholders and people using care and support services to shape the long-term reform which is urgently needed. The Government has already established an Inter-Ministerial Group to oversee development of the Green Paper, and as part of this initial engagement we have asked a number of independent experts in this area to provide their views to the group. The Government will also engage closely with representatives from local government, the NHS, the voluntary sector and care providers, as well as with people who use care and support, to underpin development of the Green Paper. And when the Green Paper is published, it will then be subject to a full public consultation, providing a further opportunity for interested parties to give their views.

We recognise that many MPs and Peers are already engaging in the debate about the future of care and support, and we want to hear their views. I am therefore writing today to invite the Chairs of relevant All Party Parliamentary Groups to meet with me in the coming weeks to listen to their perspectives and priorities for the reform agenda.

Whilst the Green Paper will focus on care for older people, the Government recognises both the challenges faced by people of working age with care needs and the many common questions about the sustainability of the care system. Many of the discussions on the Green Paper reforms will impact on care and support for adults of all ages. However, to ensure that issues for working-age adults with care needs are considered in their own right, the Government will take forward a parallel programme of work, led jointly by the Department of Health and the Department for Communities and Local Government, which will focus on this group. This work will also be overseen by the Inter-Ministerial Group to ensure alignment with the Green Paper.

The Green Paper presents a unique opportunity to build consensus around reforms which can last. There is no

escaping that building a sustainable care and support system will require choices about what that system should provide and how it is paid for. But getting this right promises a better system that everyone can have confidence in, where people understand their responsibilities, can prepare for the future, and know that the care they receive will be to a high standard and help them maintain their independence and wellbeing.

Universal Credit: Northern Ireland Implementation

[HLWS257]

Lord Duncan of Springbank: My Honourable Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Chloe Smith) has today made the following statement:

In the light of recent questions in the House, I wish to set out the policy and respective responsibilities regarding the non-consensual conception exception to the policy to provide additional support in Child Tax Credit and Universal Credit, and its interaction with Northern Ireland criminal law.

There has been particular focus on section 5 of the Criminal Law Act (NI) 1967. This provides that where a relevant offence has been committed, it shall be the duty of every other person who knows or believes that the offence has been committed and that has information which is likely to secure, or to be of material assistance in securing the apprehension, prosecution or conviction of any person for that offence, to give the information, otherwise they shall be guilty of an offence, unless they have a reasonable excuse. This provision is not new, nor has it been affected in any way by the implementation of Universal Credit in Northern Ireland. Its implications for those who are victims of crime, including rape, date back to 1967. And as criminal law is a devolved matter, the UK Government has no role in determining the appropriateness of this particular provision, nor in proposing any amendment to it. What is more, we understand that there has not been a single prosecution of a victim of rape under section 5 of the 1967 Act in 50 years. That means that there is no recorded case where it has been considered that those limbs of the prosecutorial test have been met since 1967.

As to the non-consensual conception exception more broadly, it is an important part of the two-child limit policy. It is in place to protect those who are not always able to make choices about the number of children in their family. But given its complex and sensitive nature, great care is taken in its application right across the United Kingdom. And we have worked with the Department for Communities, given that the administration of Universal Credit is a devolved matter, to ensure the same is true in Northern Ireland.

In particular, the legal position is made very clear on the forms and guidance for Child Tax Credits and Universal Credit, so that both the claimant and the third party professional are clear before any disclosure is made:

“Please be aware, that in Northern Ireland, if the third party knows or believes that a relevant offence (such as rape) has been committed, the third party will normally have a duty to inform the police of any information that is likely to secure, or to be of material assistance in securing, the apprehension, prosecution or conviction of someone for that offence”.

In addition, claimants applying for this exception will be told that they do not have to tell the third party professional the name of the child’s other biological parent. Nor is there a requirement on the approved third party professional to seek any further evidence to confirm the circumstances around the conception of the child beyond what the claimant has described to them. The role of a third party professional will simply be to confirm, by ticking boxes on a form, that the claimant has made a declaration to them which is consistent with the criteria for the non-consensual conception exception in relation to their child. No officials of either the UK Government or the Northern Ireland Civil Service will question a claimant about an incident. You can find details of the guidance and the forms online (<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/publications/form-ncc1niis-support-child-conceived-without-your-consent>).

Taken as a whole, therefore, the implementation of Universal Credit in Northern Ireland has been undertaken in a way that reflects the interests of claimants on the one hand, and the interests of those taxpayers who support themselves solely through work on the other. Ultimately, however, given the devolution settlement, the questions raised are properly for a restored Northern Ireland Executive.

Water Protocol: England and Wales

[HLWS247]

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

In conjunction with the Secretary of State for Wales I will today lay before the House a water protocol for England and Wales, agreed between the UK government and the Welsh Government. The protocol, which the Welsh Ministers are laying in the National Assembly for Wales in parallel, is made under section 50 of the Wales Act 2017.

The protocol reaffirms the close working between the two governments on matters relating to water resources, water supply and water quality. It underlines our commitment that no action or inaction by either administration should have any serious adverse impact on either England or Wales and crucially, that the interests of water consumers on both sides of our borders are safeguarded.

Agreement of the protocol paves the way for the Secretary of State’s powers of intervention in relation to water to be repealed. These powers, in the Government of Wales Act 2006, enable the Secretary of State to intervene if they believe an Assembly Bill, or the exercise of a

devolved function, risks having a serious adverse impact on water resources, water supply or water quality in England.

The protocol replaces these intervention powers with a reciprocal agreement. The intervention powers will be repealed when the new reserved powers model of Welsh devolution come into effect on 1 April 2018.

Written Answers

Thursday, 16 November 2017

Academies

Asked by **Lord Storey**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the difference between (1) a multi-academy trust with only one school, and (2) an academy. [HL2875]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: A multi-academy trust (MAT) is an independent charitable company that is set up to run more than one academy. A MAT may be set up with one academy initially, with the intention of identifying other schools to join the trust later. An “academy” is a school or educational institution established under academy arrangements, as per the Academies Act 2010.

Asked by **Lord Grocott**

To ask Her Majesty's Government which academy trusts manage more than five schools; and how many schools are managed by each of those trusts. [HL2914]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: As at 1 November 2017, there are 282 multi-academy trusts (MATs) that manage more than five schools.

Please find attached the list of MATs with the number of academies managed by each trust.

This information was sourced from the “Get Information About Schools” website on 1 November 2017. Further information can be found here: <https://get-information-schools.service.gov.uk/>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

MATs Managing More Than Five Schools [MATs managing more than 5 schools.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-11-06/HL2914>

Academies: Pay

Asked by **Lord Storey**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there is a cap on the amount of money that can be paid to the chief executive of a multi-academy trust. [HL2873]

Asked by **Lord Storey**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many current trustees of multi-academy trusts are paid; and whether there is a cap on the amount they can be paid. [HL2874]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: It is essential that we have the best people to lead our schools if we are to raise standards. The responsibilities of school leaders have changed significantly in recent years, with many now

running several academies in a multi-academy trust (MAT).

Academy trusts are free to set their own salaries for staff and we would expect this to reflect the size and complexity of the trust, as they must deliver value for money.

The 2017 Academies Financial Handbook, a copy of which I have placed in the House Library, emphasises that decisions about levels of executive pay must follow a robust evidence-based process and are reflective of the individual's role and responsibilities.

Trusts must disclose senior staff pay annually in their audited accounts. The academies' sector annual report and accounts we have published means there is now more information available than ever about academy trusts' finances. The Education and Skills Funding Agency follow up where non-compliance is identified. Disclosure must include: the number of employees earning more than £60k, set out in £10k bands; names of all trustees who received remuneration in each band, and the amounts they received. This will consist of the salaries of the principal in a single academy trust and the chief executive in a MAT, unless in the exceptional case they have chosen not to be a trustee.

Payments by academy trusts to their trustees must be disclosed in the trust's annual accounts. These are independently audited and published for transparency. The disclosures will comprise payments to those staff who are also trustees, paid in their capacity as staff not as trustees. In addition, Charity Commission approval would be required if an academy trust wished to pay an individual for acting as trustee.

Aviation: Egypt

Asked by **Lord Stone of Blackheath**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Sugg on 7 November (HL2559), when they last carried out an assessment of Sharm el Sheikh airport; and whether that assessment involved UK officials visiting that airport. [HL3158]

Baroness Sugg: Further to my response on 7 November (HL2559), Department for Transport officials have regularly visited Sharm el Sheikh airport. However, it is long-standing government policy not to publish the detail of aviation security assessments, including the dates of those assessments, for any location for reasons of both security and protecting international relations.

Burma: Rohingya

Asked by **Lord Hague of Richmond**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative experts have been deployed to Bangladesh in response to the atrocities committed against the Rohingya people. [HL2848]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Head of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s PSVI Team recently visited Bangladesh, including Dhaka and Cox's Bazar, with the UN Secretary General's Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Pramila Patten. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG)'s mission will meet survivors, service providers, government officials and security services. The FCO, working with the Stabilisation Unit, is deploying two Deployable Civilian Experts to Bangladesh this month to conduct a needs assessment. These experts in gender issues and criminal law, including sexual violence in conflict, will build on the SRSG and Head of PSVI's assessment to look at the extent of reported incidents of sexual violence, services being provided, identify gaps and make recommendations for the UK Government. Part of the assessment will be a deep dive on investigation and documentation of sexual violence.

Asked by Lord Hague of Richmond

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they have taken at the UN Security Council regarding the Rohingya people. [HL2849]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The British Government played a central role in the Presidential Statement on Rakhine agreed by the UN Security Council (UNSC) on 6 November. The Statement calls, among other things, for the safe return of the Rohingya refugees to Rakhine, a transparent investigation of human rights violations, including those of sexual violence, as well as cooperation of the Government of Burma with UN organisations and access for humanitarian and media organisations to Rakhine. The Statement also calls on the Government of Burma to address the root causes of the conflict, including through the implementation of the Rakhine Advisory Commission recommendations.

This comes as a result of several weeks of British Government activity at the UN Security Council. We have raised Burma four times since 25 August. On 13 September we secured the first agreed UNSC press statement on Burma in eight years. On 28 September we instigated the first open session of the Security Council on Burma in almost a decade. The Security Council then discussed Burma on 13 October. We will continue to work to ensure continuing P5 unity on the gravity of the situation in Burma.

Conservation Areas

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of Historic England's announcement that it now lists 512 conservation areas in its Heritage at Risk Register. [HL2952]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The findings of the 2017 Heritage at Risk survey indicate that, since figures were first collated in 2010, the number of the 8000+ conservation areas in England considered to be 'at risk' has declined from 549 to 512. Historic England is looking

to build on these improvements by working with local authorities and other partners to target grant aid through its Partnership Scheme in Conservation Areas programme, and by investing in ten Heritage Action Zones. The Heritage Lottery Fund is also continuing to invest in the enhancement of conservation areas through its Townscape Heritage grant scheme.

Free Schools

Asked by Lord Grocott

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the total cost of establishing free schools in each of the last five years. [HL2913]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The total cost of establishing a Free School includes the capital cost of acquiring a suitable site and construction or refurbishment of that site and pre and post opening grants to the school. The Department's total capital costs of establishing Free Schools in each of the last five financial years are:

<i>Financial year</i>	<i>Total capital costs</i>
2012-13	£275m
2013-14	£704m
2014-15	£761m
2015-16	£931m
2016-17	£965m

On average, the construction costs of newly built free schools are 29% lower (per square metre) than schools built under Building Schools for the Future and similar to schools built under the Priority Schools Building Programme. The department has reduced costs by taking advantage of central economies of scale and standardised building specifications.

We are in the process of making a routine update to the data that we hold on pre and post-opening grant allocations for Free Schools, University Technical Colleges and Studio Schools, following the opening of new schools in September. We will be publishing the latest data on the GOV.UK website in the coming weeks.

Gambling: Internet

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the practice of certain online gambling providers contacting infrequent users via email in order to advise them to return to the service or risk having their accounts frozen and winnings removed; and what assessment they have made of the likely effect of that practice on gambling addiction. [HL3001]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: All licensed gambling operators providing gambling facilities to customers in Great

Britain are required to ensure that the terms on which gambling is offered are fair and open.

As part of a joint programme of work to tackle unfair terms and practices in the gambling industry, the Gambling Commission and the Competition and Markets Authority are investigating the obstacles people face when trying to withdraw their money after gaming or betting online, including ‘dormancy’ charges on players’ accounts after a period of inactivity, or terms which remove all funds from inactive accounts.

It is a further licensing requirement that marketing should be socially responsible, and should not be sent to those who have self-excluded. A new online self-exclusion scheme called ‘Gamstop’ is due to be launched by spring of next year. The scheme will allow customers to self-exclude from all British licensed operators in a single step and will significantly strengthen the self-exclusion arrangements available for online gamblers.

Hate Crime: Prosecutions

Asked by Lord Vinson

To ask Her Majesty's Government under what authority the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has agreed a definition of racially and religiously aggravated crime that is wider than the legal definition under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and Criminal Justice Act 2003, as indicated in the CPS Public statement on prosecuting racist and religious hate crime published in August. [HL2876]

Lord Keen of Elie: In order to charge and prosecute hate crimes, the CPS uses the legal definition provided by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and Criminal Justice Act 2003. The shared police and CPS definition of hate crime is based on the perception of the victim or any other person and allows for case flagging and monitoring as well as appropriate victim support, it does not affect the charge.

This flagging definition comes from the recommended definition in the Macpherson report which was published in 1999 as a result of the inquiry into the murder of Stephen Lawrence. The Macpherson Report found a lack of confidence within communities that hate crime was being treated seriously by the police and Criminal Justice System and recommended that the definition of a racist incident should be, ‘any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person’. Putting the victim’s perception at the heart of the definition gives a clear signal that, once flagged as a hate crime, an appropriate investigation will follow and evidence to support the law on hostility will be proactively sought. The definition seeks to encourage victims to report and to increase confidence in the Criminal Justice System.

High Speed 2 Railway Line

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have for renewals and large-scale maintenance projects

on existing rail lines between cities that will eventually be served by HS2; and what is the timescale for those works. [HL2957]

Baroness Sugg: The Government has recently announced an expected Rail expenditure of around £47.9bn for Network Rail in England and Wales over the new Control Period from 2019 to 2024. This includes funding to support a significant increase in renewals activity across the network compared with the current Control Period and increases maintenance spending to deliver a more reliable railway.

Network Rail are currently developing their proposals for the delivery of renewals and maintenance projects between 2019 and 2024. These proposals will then be subject to the scrutiny of the independent Office of Rail and Road which will establish final outputs and deliverables by the Autumn of 2018.

Regarding HS2 specifically, the Department is working with Network Rail and HS2 Ltd to optimise upcoming works, and for example are reviewing how the planned renewals and HS2 work at Crewe will deliver the best service for all passengers on the rail network.

House of Lords: Sexual Offences

Asked by Baroness Hollins

To ask the Senior Deputy Speaker whether any independent service is available to those working on the Lords part of the Parliamentary estate who wish to report a sexual assault. [HL2916]

Asked by Baroness Hollins

To ask the Senior Deputy Speaker what protocols and procedures with respect to harassment and bullying are available to those working on the Lords part of the Parliamentary estate, regardless of employment status or political party. [HL2917]

Asked by Baroness Hollins

To ask the Senior Deputy Speaker what support is available to those working on the Lords part of the Parliamentary estate who have reported sexual assault or sexual harassment. [HL2918]

Lord McFall of Alcluith: All reports of sexual assault or sexual harassment should be dealt with appropriately and with the right support. The Leaders of the two Houses have set up a Working Group on an Independent Complaints and Grievance Policy to draw up and implement a new bicameral bullying and harassment procedure. Officials from the Lords Administration are working with their Commons counterparts to support that working group.

Currently, there are a number of support services available to those who work on the Lords part of the Parliamentary Estate and who wish to report, or have reported, a sexual assault or sexual harassment. Members, Members’ staff and staff of the House have access to the Parliamentary Health and Wellbeing Service and the five

Parliamentary Workplace Equality Networks. Members' staff and House staff may also get independent support from Employee Assistance Programmes [Health Assured for Members' staff and Workplace Options for House staff].

For employees of the Administration, the Staff Handbook sets out the procedures for reporting harassment or bullying of any type and the support available to them. For Members and Members' staff, reports of bullying and harassment are currently dealt with through the relevant Whips Offices or through the Convenor's office.

Members of the House of Lords are subject to a Code of Conduct which provides guidance on the standards of conduct expected of members in the discharge of their parliamentary duties and includes a requirement to act on their personal honour. An individual can make a complaint about the conduct of a Member to the independent Commissioner for Standards who would make a preliminary assessment of whether the allegation was linked to the discharge of parliamentary duties and, if so, whether it could constitute a breach of the Code. If the preliminary assessment concluded that these two tests had been met the Commissioner would investigate the allegation in accordance with the current procedures set out in the Code. The procedures and processes for investigating complaints made under the Code were not designed with complaints of this nature in mind and this is something the Commissioner would need to advise any potential complainant about, it is also something the Committee for Privileges and Conduct will need to consider. Anyone wishing to establish whether the particular behaviour of an individual member could amount to a breach of the Code should contact the Commissioner for further information.

In addition, anyone working on the Lords part of the Estate has independent access to ACAS services and can report a sexual assault or sexual harassment to the Police.

Iraq: Community Relations

Asked by Lord McInnes of Kilwinning

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they are providing to the government of Iraq to promote reconciliation within civil society in Iraq. [HL2859]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We recognise that reconciliation is critical to defeating Daesh and ensuring long-term stability within Iraq. At both official and ministerial levels we continue to promote action to ensure that those responsible for human rights abuses are held to account. Through the Conflict, Security and Stability Fund we are supporting community-level reconciliation, reintegration and transitional justice efforts in liberated areas. The UK is also at the forefront of international efforts to bring Daesh to justice. On 21 September, the United Nations Security Council voted unanimously to adopt UK-proposed Daesh Accountability Resolution

2379, which requests the UN Secretary General to establish an Investigative Team to collect, preserve and store evidence of Daesh crimes, beginning in Iraq. The UK has pledged £1 million as a voluntary contribution to help establish the Investigative Team.

Museums and Galleries: Copyright

Asked by Lord Freyberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether National Museums will review their imaging policies in the light of recent calls to abolish image fees for out of copyright paintings, prints and drawings. [HL2904]

Asked by Lord Freyberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the charging of image fees for academic use by National Museums on their use in academic lectures and publications. [HL2905]

Asked by Lord Freyberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether National Museums will consider providing open access to images of publicly owned, out of copyright paintings, prints, and drawings so that they are free for the public to reproduce; and whether they have held discussions with non-UK museums about such access. [HL2906]

Asked by Lord Freyberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they sanction each National Museum's interpretation of image copyright law; and if not, what measures are in place to review whether National Museums are interpreting image copyright law correctly. [HL2907]

Asked by Lord Freyberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much income was raised by each National Museum by licensing images of out of copyright works in the last five years. [HL2908]

Asked by Lord Freyberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government how National Museums assess whether the image fees they charge for academic use are reasonable; and what representations they have made to academic communities to evaluate their fees. [HL2909]

Asked by Lord Freyberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government why National Museums charge fees to reproduce images of historic paintings, prints and drawings in their collections; whether they have received legal advice relating to the copyright issues applying to such reproductions; and if so, what that advice was. [HL2997]

Asked by Lord Freyberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the use of Commons Creative

Licences by each National Museum; what proportion of those Licences permit amendments to be made to them; and whether they intend to review their use. [HL2998]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: Decisions about image licensing and fees, and related copyright, are operational matters for the national museums as arm's length bodies of government. As such, we do not hold data on the amount of income raised by image fees, on licences offered or the impact of fees on academic use.

Details of the process for requesting permission to reproduce images can be found on the respective websites of the national museums. The policies of both the National Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery for example, allow some print reproduction of images for scholarly purposes free of charge, and several national museums offer or may offer a discount where image reproduction is for an academic purpose. Others, such as the British Museum and Science Museum, allow images to be used by the public under a Creative Commons licence. Additionally, many national museums have demonstrated significant efforts towards digitising their collections and in doing so are making our national collections accessible to the nation in new ways.

National museums are bound to provide free, in person, access to the permanent collections as a condition of government Grant-in-aid (GIA) funding and this policy has been a great success. Provided this condition is met, national museums are permitted and encouraged to pursue commercial activities, which may include image licensing. Such activities are an important supplement to museums in supporting their objectives to facilitate participation for people of all ages and backgrounds.

National Insurance Credits

Asked by Baroness Altmann

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their most recent estimate of the number of women who are in part-time low-paid employment with more than one employer who fail to receive National Insurance credits as a result of each employment falling below the Lower Earnings Threshold. [HL2882]

Baroness Buscombe: DWP analysis suggests that at any one time around 50,000 people, 40,000 of whom are women, have multiple jobs with earnings in each job below the Lower Earnings Limit (LEL) (£113 per week in 2017/18), although their combined earnings exceed that limit. The LEL is the threshold for treating contributions as having been paid for the purpose of determining contributory benefit entitlement.

This analysis also estimates that of the women in this group, around 30 per cent are getting a childcare credit for their State Pension. Others in this group may be receiving credits through another route or be paying voluntary national insurance contributions.

Prisoners: Mothers

Asked by Baroness Healy of Primrose Hill

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consultations they have conducted in preparation for their strategy on female offenders to ensure that the criminal justice system creates an environment which promotes the reunification of imprisoned mothers with their children; and what assessment they have made of the impact, both short and long term, of such imprisonment on children living in care. [HL2852]

Lord Keen of Elie: We are developing the Female Offender Strategy in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. We issued a Call for Evidence in March 2017 and regularly consult with key stakeholders through our Advisory Board on Female Offenders, which is chaired by the Minister with responsibility for female offenders. The Minister has met with a number of organisations to discuss a wide range of issues pertinent to female offenders, including the imprisonment of mothers and the impact on their children.

The Department for Education has not made any formal assessment of the impact of parental imprisonment in children living in care, but the Government has funded a contract worth over £1.4m for Barnardo's to operate the i-HOP service – an England wide one-stop information service for all professionals who come into contact with the children and families of offenders – to share evidence on practice and advise commissioners and practitioners on the options available to support the families of offenders.

Prisons: Libraries

Asked by Lord Bird

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many, and what proportion of, prison service establishments have a library with facilities to use and exchange books. [HL2982]

Lord Keen of Elie: All prisons in England and Wales have a library with the facility to use and exchange books.

Prisons should be places of safety and reform, and it is vital we use the time in prison productively. Having basic English skills helps people get jobs on release and helps them lead law abiding lives, and I am determined to make sure that we achieve better outcomes for all prisoners.

Public Libraries

Asked by Lord Hunt of Chesterton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance they have given to local authorities concerning the maintenance of mobile library and information service vehicles in rural areas and outlying urban areas; and how those services are integrated with other relevant council and Government services. [HL2921]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: In September 2014 the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs published a report “Rural library services in England: exploring recent changes and possible futures”. The report provided information to help local communities and authorities to better understand the issues, challenges and opportunities for rural areas arising from changes to library services and what can be done to deliver a comprehensive, efficient and sustainable library service in rural areas that meets local need.

Railways: Standards

Asked by Lord Hunt of Chesterton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the performance of privatised rail services in the past year; and whether they intend to review the case for returning those services to the public sector. [HL2922]

Baroness Sugg: The benefits of franchising to passengers and taxpayers are clear. Passenger numbers have doubled since privatisation. The private sector have invested billions in new trains and improved services whilst Government subsidy to the industry has reduced by over £2bn over ten years. We always assess franchising decisions against the best interests of passengers and taxpayers.

Schools: Governing Bodies

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their policy on whether school governors should be paid. [HL2872]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The Government strongly supports the principle that being a school governor should be a voluntary activity. There is currently a prohibition against payments to governors of maintained schools and payments can only be made to academy trustees in very limited circumstances and subject to approval by the Charity Commission.

Social Media: Children

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the potential effects of involving social media providers in educating children on the use of social media. [HL3003]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: We believe that protecting children online is everyone's responsibility and that social media providers can positively contribute to our aim of making Britain the safest place in the world to be online.

By incorporating online safety messages and highlighting safety tools within their platforms, social media providers can remind children about how to stay safe and help parents understand the best ways of protecting their children.

As part of the work on the Digital Charter announced in the Queen's Speech, the Government is considering a range of options to counter internet harms.

This includes an Internet Safety Strategy which will look at how we can support users so that everyone can access the benefits of the Internet safely. The Strategy, which was published by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) on 11 October, considers the responsibilities of companies to their users, the use of technical solutions to prevent online harms and government's role in supporting users. The Strategy also considers the role that technology companies can play in awareness and education for users, including children.

Taxis: Licensing

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what powers a local authority has to limit the total number of private hire vehicles and taxis licensed to operate in its area. [HL3032]

Baroness Sugg: Licensing authorities in England and Wales, outside London, may restrict the number of taxi (hackney carriage) vehicle licences they issue in order to limit numbers, providing there is no significant unmet demand for hackney carriage services in their area. There is no equivalent power for taxis in London, or for private hire vehicles.

The Department for Transport's Task and Finish Group on taxi and private hire vehicle licensing is considering the regulation of the trade as one of its key areas for discussion and will report its findings to the Minister in the New Year.

Taxis: Regulation

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to update regulations for taxis and private hire vehicles. [HL3030]

Baroness Sugg: At the request of the Department for Transport, the Law Commission undertook a comprehensive review of taxi and private hire regulation in England and Wales.

Since this report the sector has undergone profound and rapid change. At a Westminster Hall Debate on 5 July, my Rt Hon Friend, the Minister of State for Transport (John Hayes MP) announced the formation of a working group which is considering regulatory issues and remedies, including the Commission's recommendations. The group will report in the New Year.

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the committee established by the Department for Transport to examine regulations for taxis and private hire vehicles has concluded its work; and who the members of that committee are. [HL3031]

Baroness Sugg: The Task and Finish Group on taxi and private hire vehicle licensing was set up by my Rt Hon Friend the Minister of State for Transport (John Hayes MP) to consider regulatory issues in the sector, and produce focussed recommendations for action. The group met for the first time in September and will report its findings to the Minister in the New Year.

The members of the group are:

Chairman: Professor Mohammed Abdel-Haq

Helen Chapman, General Manager, TfL Taxi and Private Hire

Rt Hon Frank Field MP (Birkenhead)

Saskia Garner, Policy Officer, Suzy Lamplugh Trust

Ellie Greenwood, Senior Adviser (Regulation), Local Government Association

Michael Grenfell, Executive Director of Enforcement, Competition and Markets Authority

Steve McNamara, General Secretary, Licensed Taxi Drivers Association

Anne Main MP (St Albans)

Mick Rix, National Officer, GMB

Donna Short, Director, National Private Hire and Taxi Association

Vocational Guidance and Work Experience: Young People

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of career advice and work experience

services provided to young people by local authorities. [HL3017]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: Local authorities do not have direct responsibility for providing careers advice and work experience to young people. Responsibility was devolved to schools in 2012, when they were given a legal duty to secure independent careers guidance for years 8-13 pupils. Statutory guidance underpins this duty and makes clear that schools should offer work placements, work experience and other employer-based activities as part of their careers programme.

The Government has established The Careers & Enterprise Company to improve opportunities for young people to learn about the world of work. There are now 2,019 Enterprise Advisers appointed in the Company's Enterprise Adviser Network, connecting with just under 2,000 schools and colleges to improve young people's, careers and enterprise strategies and engagement with employers.

Local councils continue to play an important role in supporting young people to participate in education or training. They ensure that 16 and 17 year olds have agreed post-16 plans and have received an offer of a suitable place in post-16 education or training under the 'September Guarantee', and that they are assisted to take up a place. Schools work closely with local councils to identify those at risk of not participating post-16.

We will publish a careers strategy this year, with a clear focus on social mobility. We have worked with a number of external partners, including the Local Government Association, to examine best practice and develop proposals to improve the quality and coverage of careers guidance.

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