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

# **HOUSE OF LORDS**

## **WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS**

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

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<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
<b>Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Wales Office
<b>Baroness Buscombe</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions
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<b>Baroness Williams of Trafford</b>	Minister of State, Home Office
<b>Lord Young of Cookham</b>	Whip
<b>Viscount Younger of Leckie</b>	Whip

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# Written Statements

*Wednesday, 10 January 2018*

## **Foreign Affairs (Trade): Post-Council Statement**

[HLWS390]

**Baroness Fairhead:** My Rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for International Trade and President of the Board of Trade (Dr Liam Fox) has today made the following statement.

The EU Foreign Affairs Council (Trade) met twice in Buenos Aires during the 11th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The first meeting of the FAC (Trade) took place on the 10th December before the formal opening of the WTO Ministerial. The second meeting of the FAC (Trade) took place on the 13th December just before the conclusion of the Ministerial. At both meetings, the Council adopted Conclusions. Both sets of Conclusions are attached to this Statement.

At the Ministerial Conference WTO members committed to securing a deal on disciplining certain forms of fisheries subsidies by the end of 2019. They also

committed to improve the reporting of existing fisheries subsidy programmes. In addition, Ministers decided to extend the practice of not imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions for another two years, and to continue negotiations in all areas. In addition, WTO Members agreed to the creation of the working party on accession for South Sudan.

The Ministerial met key UK objectives by setting the foundation for discussions on a number of new issues. A significant number of WTO Members agreed to advance discussions on: digital trade, domestic regulation in services, SMEs, and investment facilitation. The UK will work closely with the EU and other WTO Members to ensure that the momentum behind these initiatives is maintained in 2018.

At the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference, 118 WTO Members adopted a Joint Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment, committing to promote women's economic empowerment through trade. The UK supported this initiative.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Annex [Post Council Annex.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2018-01-10/HLWS390/>

## Written Answers

Wednesday, 10 January 2018

### Homelessness

Asked by **Baroness Kennedy of Cradley**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of people who are homeless in England. [HL4407]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** One person without a roof over their head is one too many and we are taking a number of actions to prevent and reduce homelessness and rough sleeping. This includes:

- implementing the most ambitious legislative reform in this area in decades, the Homelessness Reduction Act, which will mean children and their families will get the help they need sooner;
- establishing the Rough Sleeping and Homelessness Reduction Taskforce, to drive forward the implementation of a cross-Government strategy; and
- allocating over £1 billion to prevent homelessness and rough sleeping through to 2020.

As of September 2017, the latest homelessness data available, there were 15,290 households accepted as homeless and 79,190 living in Temporary Accommodation.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government publishes regular statistics on homelessness and rough sleeping which are published at national, London and local authority level. The latest statistics can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/homelessness-statistics>.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Statistical Release July to Sept 17- HL4407 [180102 Statutory Homelessness and Prevention and Relief Statistical Release Jul to Sep 17 - HL4407.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-12-21/HL4407>

### Sleeping Rough: Greater London

Asked by **The Lord Bishop of St Albans**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the finding of the APPG on Homelessness that, between January and March, 11 per cent of rough sleepers in London were care leavers; and what assessment they have made of the quality of housing support provision for care leavers. [HL4372]

Asked by **The Lord Bishop of St Albans**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the finding of the APPG on Homelessness that, between January and March, 37 per cent of rough sleepers in London had experience of being in prison; and what assessment they have made of housing support provision for ex-offenders. [HL4373]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** One person sleeping rough is one too many and this Government is determined to do something about this.

At Autumn Budget 2017, the Government announced £28 million of funding to pilot the Housing First approach for some of the country's most entrenched rough sleepers. We also announced that we will be providing £20 million of additional funding for schemes that will enable better access to the private rented sector for those who are homeless or sleeping rough or at risk, including specialist groups such as care leavers and ex-offenders. We will be engaging with relevant departments as we develop these proposals.

This action builds on wider action that we have taken to achieve our manifesto commitment of halving rough sleeping by 2022 and eliminating it altogether by 2027. This includes:

- establishing the Rough Sleeping and Homelessness Reduction Taskforce, to drive forward the implementation of a cross-Government strategy;
- allocating over £1 billion to prevent homelessness and rough sleeping through to 2020; and
- implementing the most ambitious legislative reform in this area in decades, the Homelessness Reduction Act, which will mean people will receive the help they need sooner.

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