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Tuesday 27 February 2018

# 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.

Minister	Responsibilities
<b>Baroness Evans of Bowes Park</b>	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
Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Housing, 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
Baroness Fairhead	Minister of State, Department for International Trade
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 and Social Care
Baroness Stedman-Scott	Whip
Baroness Sugg	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Transport, Whip
Lord Taylor of Holbeach	Chief Whip
Baroness Vere of Norbiton	Whip
Baroness Williams of Trafford	Minister of State, Home Office
Lord Young of Cookham	Whip
Viscount Younger of Leckie	Whip

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# Written Statements

Tuesday, 27 February 2018

# Armed Forces' Pay Review Body

### [HLWS474]

**Earl Howe:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Gavin Williamson) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I am pleased to announce that the Prime Minister has invited Mr John Steele to continue to serve as Chair of the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body for a further two month term of office, commencing on 1 March 2018. This allows Mr Steele to draw Pay Round 18 to a conclusion.

I would also like to take this opportunity to announce that the Prime Minister has appointed Mr Peter Maddison as the next Chair of the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body. His appointment will commence on 1 March 2018 and run until 28 February 2021.

Both the extension and the appointment have been conducted in accordance with the guidance of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

# **Banking Act 2009 Reporting**

#### [HLWS481]

**Lord Bates:** My honourable friend the Economic Secretary to the Treasury (John Glen) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The Treasury has laid before the House of Commons a report required under section 231 of the Banking Act 2009 covering the period from 1 April 2017 to 30 September 2017. Copies of the document are available in the Vote Office.

# Farming and our Countryside

### [HLWS475]

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

I am publishing today the first consultation on a wholly domestic agriculture policy in nearly half a century. 'Health and Harmony: The future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit' sets out our ambitions for farming in England and seeks the views of all readers on its proposals.

Leaving the European Union marks an unprecedented opportunity for fundamental reform of agriculture in the United Kingdom. The farmed environment is a source of food that nourishes the body and a landscape that nourishes the soul. We want an agricultural policy that values not only the great British food farmers produce but also the unique public goods that farming, horticulture and forestry provide.

We believe these proposals could work for the whole of the UK, but we recognise that devolution provides each

administration with the powers to decide its own priorities. We will continue to work closely with the devolved administrations to establish common frameworks, where these are necessary, in order to enable the functioning of the UK internal market or so that the UK can negotiate, enter into and implement new trade agreements. Overall, it is the government's expectation that the process will lead to an increase in decisionmaking powers for each of the devolved administrations.

UK farmers and land managers have operated within the constraints of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for decades. While the CAP has pioneered some of the world's first agri-environment schemes, which have helped to protect our wildlife and habitats, it remains flawed. Paying land owners for the amount of agricultural land they have creates an unjust, inefficient system that can drive perverse outcomes. The bureaucratic structure of the CAP has constrained our ability to deliver genuine improvements to our countryside and natural environment.

We now have an opportunity to transform agricultural policy. Our proposals are underpinned by the ambitions we have set out in the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan, so that we leave the environment in a better state than we found it for future generations. We want to incentivise methods of farming that improve soil health, create new habitats for wildlife, increase biodiversity, reduce flood risk and better mitigate climate change and improve air quality by reducing agricultural emissions.

Good environmental land management has benefits beyond improving the natural landscape. Human life can be enriched by a deeper connection to our countryside, be it through the air we breathe or access to public footpaths. Farmed animals are also an integral part of our countryside. We have a responsibility to maintain their health and welfare throughout their life and we want to safeguard the welfare of our livestock, building on our existing reputation for world leading standards.

We are proud to have some of the most productive and innovative farmers in the world. Leaving the EU presents a huge opportunity for UK agriculture to increase its competitiveness. This paper proposes various methods by which the industry could achieve this including developing the next generation of food and farming technology, adopting the latest agronomic techniques, reducing the impact of pests and diseases, investing in skills and equipment, and collaborating with other farmers and processors. We will ensure that in future public money is paid for public goods - principally environmental enhancement, but these could also include improving productivity, providing public access to farmland and the countryside, enhanced welfare standards for livestock and measures to support the resilience of rural and upland communities.

In England, Direct Payments will continue during an 'agricultural transition'. So that we can support farmers to prepare for change, we will need to redistribute some existing funds. To do this, we propose to apply reductions to farmers' Direct Payments, starting with the largest landowners, to free up money to pilot environmental land management schemes and to help farmers unlock their full potential for sustainable production.

We recognise that some sectors may find it more difficult than others to adapt – for example, those located in the most remote, wild and beautiful parts of the England. The upland way of life, the unique food produced, and the great art and literature that these landscapes have inspired attract visitors from around the world. In this paper, we ask how these rural communities can be supported for new generations and what the right support should be during the transition and into the future.

For the first time in more than forty years, the UK will also have its own trade policy. We want to maximise our trade opportunities globally and across all countries – both by boosting our trading relationships with old friends and new allies, and by seeking a deep and special partnership with the EU. We are proud to have some of the highest animal welfare standards in the world. Maintaining and enhancing our high standards of food safety, animal welfare and environmental protection will remain paramount.

We will introduce an Agriculture Bill that moves away from the CAP, providing us with the ability to set out a domestic policy that will stand the test of time.

This consultation marks the exposition of a new settlement for agriculture. As we leave the European Union, this is an historic chance to do something economically sound, socially just, and environmentally essential.

# Immigration

### [HLWS480]

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

New figures published on Thursday 22 February show that the UK is more than half way towards meeting its commitment to resettle 20,000 people through the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) by 2020.

The latest quarterly Home Office immigration statistics show that 10,538 refugees have been resettled on the VPRS, one of the largest global resettlement programmes, since it began.

The VPRS is just one of the routes by which the UK is helping to resettle refugees. In 2017, a total of 6,212 people were resettled in the UK - a 19% increase on 2016 - with 4,832 of these people coming through the VPRS. 539 people arrived under the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) which will resettle up to 3,000 at-risk children and their families from the Middle East and North Africa region by 2020. The latest figures take the total number of children that the UK has provided asylum or an alternative form of protection to since the start of 2010 to 28,000. As a country we can be proud that we are over half way towards honouring our commitment of resettling 20,000 of the most vulnerable refugees who have fled Syria by 2020 so they can rebuild their lives here in safety. Nearly half are children and more people are arriving every month.

The VPRS is a joint scheme between the Home Office, the Department for International Development and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

The UK's resettlement schemes are just one of the ways the Government is supporting vulnerable children and adults who have fled danger and conflict. The UK remains the second largest donor in humanitarian assistance and has pledged £2.46 billion in UK aid to Syria and the neighbouring countries, its largest ever response to a single humanitarian crisis.

# **Independent Police Complaints Commission**

#### [HLWS477]

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

I am pleased to announce that today my rt hon Friend the Financial Secretary to the Treasury and I are publishing the annual report of the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) [HC 798]. Copies of the report have been laid before the House and will be available in the Vote Office.

This is the thirteenth Annual Report from the IPCC, covering their work during 2016/17. This period has been pivotal for the IPCC as they prepare for their transition to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) headed by a Director General and unitary board set out in the Policing and Crime Act [2017]. They have continued to increase the numbers of independent cases they take on (590) and complete (496) whilst maintaining the average time to complete cases at around 11 months. A major milestone was reached with the Hillsborough Investigation, when following referral to the CPS, six people were subsequently charged.

As well as covering the police, the Annual Report also includes a section on the discharge of their responsibilities in respect of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

# Mathematics and English: Subject Content

#### [HLWS476]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** My right honourable friend the Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills (Anne Milton) has made the following written ministerial statement.

Functional Skills are qualifications that enable people to develop and demonstrate a good standard of mathematics and English for success in life and work. They are an important part of education provision, particularly for students over the age of 16, apprentices and adults seeking to retrain and improve their skills later in life. The Government is reforming these qualifications to make sure that they give people the best possible preparation for employment, further study and everyday life. We also want new Functional Skills qualifications to provide employers with a reliable measure of students' skills, knowledge and achievement.

As part of these reforms, today I am publishing revised subject content for Mathematics and English Functional Skills qualifications. This follows extensive engagement with employers, teachers, subject specialists, and a public consultation which ran from the 12th September to the 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2017.

The new content includes the skills employers tell us they need in their workforce and sets out the learning aims, requirements and standards of each Functional Skills qualification, moving from Entry Level 1-3 up to Levels 1 and 2. Functional Skills Level 2 is currently accepted as a completion requirement for Level 3 apprenticeships and higher, as an alternative option to a GCSE standard pass. Across all levels in both subjects we have improved how students learn to read, write, communicate, use numbers. measures. handle mathematical information and solve problems. In English, by Level 2, students are required to read, write and communicate using straightforward and complex instructive, descriptive, explanatory and persuasive texts on a range of technical and non-technical topics. In mathematics, by Level 2, students are required to use numbers of any size and form, including ratios, fractions, decimals and percentages, construct, interpret and handle a range of statistical information and data, and use their knowledge and skills to obtain solutions to complex problems.

The new content will be taught from September 2019. These changes aim to ensure that people have the opportunity to develop and demonstrate their mathematics and English skills through accessible, practical, rigorous and well-respected qualifications.

The Mathematics and English Functional Skills subject content documents, the Government's response to the consultation and the equality impact assessment are attached to this statement.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Functional Skills Reform- Consultation [Functional Skills Reform Consultation.pdf]

Functional Skills- Equality Impact Assessment [Functional Skils -Subject Content Equality Impact Assessment.pdf]

Functional Skills- Subject Content English [Functional Skils -Subject Content English.pdf]

Functional Skills- Subject Content Mathematics [Functional Skils - Subject Content Mathematics.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2018-02-27/HLWS476/

# Military Field Hospitals: Civilian Casualties

**Earl Howe:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Gavin Williamson) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

In all combat operations the Ministry of Defence does everything it can to minimise the risk to civilians through our rigorous targeting processes and the professionalism of the Armed Forces. We recognise, however, that there is always the risk of inadvertent civilian casualties, particularly in complex and congested urban environments.

The Ministry of Defence places a significant value on the preservation of life, both to our own forces and also to civilians. When a field hospital is deployed in support of either combat or humanitarian operations, our Armed Forces regularly and indiscriminately, treat civilian cases, to save life, limb or eyesight. This lifesaving work deserves to be acknowledged.

Recognising the important work being done by a number of UK registered charities, including Every Casualty Worldwide, Save the Children, and AirWars, to ensure that all lives lost to armed violence anywhere in the world are properly recorded, the Ministry of Defence is making a commitment to increase transparency by publishing the number of all civilians admitted to UK military field hospitals. This information will detail the following:

- Type of civilian (e.g. UK civilian, Local civilian, Detainees. The split by type of civilian vary dependent on the nature of the operation)

- Casualty type (e.g. Battle Injury, Non Battle Injury, Disease/Natural causes)

- Disposal (e.g. Death in hospital, Discharged home, Discharged to another hospital)

The information provided will be counts of casualties and not details of individuals (names etc.).

The Ministry of Defence hopes that the release of this information will provide the public with an informed picture of the efforts the UK Government takes whilst undertaking operations to provide urgent medical care to civilians.

# **Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Associations**

### [HLWS478]

**Earl Howe:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (Gavin Williamson) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I have today placed in the Library of the House a copy of the Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Associations (RFCAs) combined Annual Report and Accounts for 2016/17. I am very grateful to the RFCAs for their valuable work in support of the Reserve Forces and Cadet organisations.

<sup>[</sup>HLWS479]

# Written Answers

Tuesday, 27 February 2018

# **Asylum: Housing**

# Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the recent report by Refugee Rights Europe A Hostile Environment on the challenges facing asylum-seekers currently residing in asylum accommodation in the UK, particularly with regard to concerns about (1) safety, (2) welfare, and (3) sanitary conditions. [HL5561]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Accommodation providers are required to provide safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped accommodation that complies with the Decent Homes Standard in addition to standards outlined in relevant national or local housing legislation.

The contract requires Providers to visit and inspect each property every month and UKVI inspects a significant proportion of properties each year to ensure standards are being met. During inspections they ensure that the accommodation is safe. There are trained staff on site in initial accommodation to protect the safety and welfare of all service users.

Communal area of initial accommodation sites are cleaned regularly by service provider staff. It is the responsibility of the service user to ensure that their bedrooms and kitchens are kept clean.

Where asylum accommodation is found to be falling short of the required standards UKVI has procedures in place to hold suppliers to account to quickly resolve the issue.

# **Brexit: Economic Analysis**

# Asked by Lord Kinnock

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks made by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union on 30 January (HC Deb, col 687) that civil service economic forecasts "are always wrong, and wrong for good reasons", whether arrangements have been made for an alternative modelling and analysis of possible trade conditions after the UK's departure from the EU; and if so, what changes in forecasting methods are to be made. [HL5633]

Lord Callanan: The Government is undertaking a wide range of analysis and preparatory work that will contribute to our exit negotiations with the EU, to define our future partnership with the EU, and to inform our understanding of how EU exit will affect the UK's domestic policies and frameworks.

As ministers clearly set out in the House, the analysis that appeared in the media contains provisional internal analysis and does not represent Government policy. It is part of a broad ongoing programme of analysis, and further work is in train. The Government has been clear that it will not provide a running commentary on any aspect of this ongoing work.

# **Brexit: North East**

# Asked by Baroness Quin

To ask Her Majesty's Government what meetings are planned to discuss the impact of Brexit on the north east of England between Ministers and representatives of (1) business, and (2) local government. [HL5668]

**Lord Callanan:** Ministers from the Department of Exiting the European Union have visited the North East of England on a number of occasions since the Referendum. On the 26 January, the Secretary of State visited Tees Valley Port, where he gave a speech setting out the UK's vision for the Implementation Period and met local business leaders to discuss the opportunities for the Tees Valley from the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

The Government is committed to positive and productive engagement with key business stakeholders and local government in the North East, as well as all of the UK, to understand the potential impact and opportunities presented by EU Exit.

# **Carillion: Insolvency**

# Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton

To ask Her Majesty's Government when Ministers first met with representatives of Carillion to discuss the implications of that company's financial position. [HL4733]

Lord Young of Cookham: Departmental officials meet strategic suppliers to Government on a regular and ongoing basis. In respect of ministerial meetings, in October 2017 the then Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Justice met representatives of Carillion to discuss justice-related contracts during which the company's financial position was discussed among other issues.

As a routine, departments publish quarterly details of Ministers' meetings with external organisations on GOV.UK, including those with representatives from companies such as Carillion. Cabinet Office returns can be viewed using the following link: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ministerstransparency-publications

# **Economic Growth**

# Asked by Baroness Quin

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether it is their policy to ensure that no region of the UK will see economic growth reduce as a result of Brexit. [HL5666] **Lord Callanan:** We are committed to getting the best possible deal for the United Kingdom - a deal that works for all parts of the UK.

We continue to engage with businesses and industry bodies from all sectors of the economy, and all regions and nations of the UK, in order to inform our negotiations.

# **Future Large Aircraft**

#### Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the current estimated cost of the A400 Atlas aircraft programme; how many of the aircraft have been delivered to the RAF so far; how many are operational; and when they expect deliveries to be complete. [HL5714]

**Earl Howe:** The forecast UK acquisition cost of the A400M Atlas transport aircraft programme is £2.6 billion. The current UK fleet size is 18 aircraft and of these, 15 are operational while three are at a facility in Spain being modified to bring them up to the latest capability standard. 22 A400M aircraft have been ordered by the UK and the final delivery is expected in 2022.

# **Imports: Israel**

#### Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what military and crowd control equipment they purchased from Israel in 2017. [HL5685]

**Earl Howe:** This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

# **Intervention Stocks**

#### Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the value of the UK's powdered milk stockpile; what other products they are stockpiling under the Common Agricultural Policy; and in what quantity and value; and what they expect to be the final destination and selling price of the stockpiled products. [HL5661]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) public intervention system allows operators to request that a Member State buys certain agricultural products such as Skimmed Milk Powder (SMP) into public storage. Such stocks are subsequently resold when market prices recover. With the greater market orientation of the CAP, public intervention now operates as a safety net measure that is only relevant when prices are very low, as occurred during the "milk crisis" of 2015/16 when large quantities of SMP were bought into public intervention in the EU.

As at 22 February 2018, the UK held 7,731.85 tonnes of SMP in public intervention stores, equivalent to around 2% of total EU purchases. Based on the intervention price of  $\notin$ 1,698.00 per tonne, the total cost of purchasing these

stocks would have been  $\in 13,128,681.30$  (£11,678,155.88 using the 2/1/2018 European Central Bank exchange rate).

The European Commission has arrangements in place to sell a certain quantity of the older stock of SMP back onto the domestic market by means of a tendering procedure. The ability to sell the stocks and the price realised depends on a number of factors including the market price, the competitiveness of the bids and the quantities bid for. Sales of EU SMP stocks in February achieved a minimum price of  $\notin$ 1100 per tonne.

There are no other products held in public storage in the UK under CAP measures.

### Navy: Military Aid

#### Asked by Lord Naseby

To ask Her Majesty's Government which Royal Navy ship will undertake future tasks of the type that HMS Ocean undertook in the relief efforts following Hurricane Irene. [HL5798]

**Earl Howe:** Depending on the nature of the disaster relief efforts required, the Government can call on the versatile and highly capable ships of the Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary. These ships can deliver life-saving assistance and supplies in response to natural or manmade disasters around the world.

# Police and Crime Commissioners: Fire and Rescue Services

#### Asked by Baroness Pinnock

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to consider the views of fire service and governance experts when reviewing the independent assessments relating to Police and Crime Commissioners taking over responsibility from fire and rescue authorities. [HL5662]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** If a relevant local authority indicates that it does not support a PCC's proposal to take on governance of local fire and rescue services, the Secretary of State must obtain an independent assessment of the proposal. The Home Secretary and Minister for Policing and Fire Service appointed the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy to carry out independent assessments of the proposals submitted by the PCCs for Hertfordshire, Staffordshire, Cambridgeshire, West Mercia and North Yorkshire.

CIPFA has substantial public finance expertise and works closely with police and fire and rescue services and is therefore well placed to provide an independent, professional view on proposals. Whilst the conduct of the assessment is for CIPFA to determine, they may contact other organisations if they are of the view that additional input or expertise is necessary to help them make a judgement on whether the proposal is in the interest of the statutory tests. CIPFA secured the views of the local police force, fire service and local authorities during the independent assessment process.

The Secretary of State must consider the PCC's proposal, independent assessment, consultation outcomes, and any further representations along with the PCC's response to them, when coming to a view on whether the proposal is in the interests of economy efficiency and effectiveness or public safety. No additional weight is given to one stakeholder's views over another.

### Asked by Baroness Pinnock

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the principle that the governance of fire and rescue services should be determined by residents within the area served will continue in the light of proposals to make these services subject to governance by Police and Crime Commissioners. [HL5663]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** PCCs have clear local accountability and a strong mandate to transform and improve emergency services for their communities. The Policing and Crime Act 2017 enables PCCs to make a case to take on responsibility for the governance of fire and rescue services in their area where it is in the interests of economy, efficiency and effectiveness or public safety. The decision on whether to develop a proposal to take on fire governance rests with the PCC.

Before submitting a proposal to take on governance of the fire service, the PCC must consult each relevant local authority, the public within the commissioner's police area, and persons appearing to representing employees of the police and fire services. This ensures that the PCC is able to properly consider the views of the local community before deciding whether to submit a proposal to take on fire.

Where a PCC takes on responsibility for fire and rescue they will be known as the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and will be directly elected by the public with a clear mandate to oversee both policing and fire.

# Social Services: Minimum Wage

### Asked by Baroness Campbell of Surbiton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on personal budget holders as a consequence of the retrospective implementation of the change in guidance on the national minimum wage and national living wage for sleep-in shifts for care workers. [HL5601]

Lord Henley: Court and Employment Appeal Tribunal judgments have clarified, over time, what constitutes "work" in connection with sleeping time and therefore when the national minimum or living wage (NMW) is payable for sleep-in shifts. The Government recognises that cumulative financial liabilities relating to sleep-in shifts could pose challenges to some social care providers and individuals, including personal budget holders.

The Government is currently engaging with the social care sector to understand the impact of those liabilities and is exploring options to minimise the impact on the sector, including opening discussions with the European Commission to determine whether any support, if deemed necessary, would be subject to EU state aid rules.

The Government launched the Social Care Compliance Scheme (SCCS) on 1 November 2017. It aims to maintain care service provision, protect existing jobs and maximise the prospects of workers being paid arrears as soon as possible. The SCCS is open to all care sector employers, including personal budget holders and self-funders. It means that individuals affected can benefit from a certain period of time to review what is owed. In practice, where an individual is the subject of an NMW investigation, we expect local authorities to work closely with HMRC to ensure the right outcome in light of the individual's needs where any liability is identified.

# Visas: Migrant Workers

# Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the potential effect of new visa and immigration requirements on start-ups which do not have the resources to support visa applications. [HL5759]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** There have been no changes in recent years to the resource requirements for migrants in the Tier 1 Entrepreneur or Graduate Entrepreneur routes.

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