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Tuesday
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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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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
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, 13 March 2018

Foreign Affairs Council

[HLWS520]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: My Right Honourable Friend, the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Sir Alan Duncan), has made the following written Ministerial statement:

My Rt Hon Friend, the Minister for Asia and the Pacific attended the Foreign Affairs Council on 26 February. The Council was chaired by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HRVP), Federica Mogherini. The meeting was held in Brussels.

Foreign Affairs Council

Current Affairs

Ministers called for urgent implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2401 of 24 February which demanded a cessation of hostilities in Syria to enable delivery of humanitarian assistance. They agreed that the High Representative would send a letter to the Foreign Ministers of Russia, Turkey and Iran (the three guarantors of the Astana Process), to ask them to work on implementation of the resolution.

Moldova

Ministers discussed the Republic of Moldova and adopted Conclusions. Ministers reiterated the EU's commitment to strengthening bilateral relations whilst underlining the need to continue adopting and implementing key reforms for the benefit of Moldovan citizens.

Venezuela

Ministers exchanged views on the political stalemate in the country following the suspension of the Santo Domingo talks between the Government and the Opposition and the announcement of Presidential Elections scheduled for 22 April.

Ministers expressed their solidarity with Spain, following the decision by the Venezuelan authorities to declare the Ambassador of Spain in Caracas persona non grata and agreed to continue closely monitoring the situation and to keep channels of communication open, both with the opposition and with the government.

Middle East Peace Process

Ministers discussed recent developments in the Middle East Peace Process in preparation for the lunch with representatives of the League of Arab States.

Informal lunch

Over lunch with the Secretary General of the League of Arab States (LAS) and members of the LAS Ministerial Delegation on Jerusalem, Ministers discussed options for reviving the Middle East Peace Process in an inclusive manner, with the objective of achieving a two-state

solution and Jerusalem as the future capital of both states. Ministers also discussed the importance of increasing collective, international support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

Ministers agreed a number of measures without discussion:

The Council adopted conclusions on Burma;

The Council adopted conclusions on Cambodia;

The Council adopted conclusions on the Maldives;

The Council adopted conclusions on Climate Diplomacy;

The Council adopted conclusions on EU priorities at United Nations human rights fora in 2018;

The Council adopted conclusions on human trafficking in South / South-East Asia;

The Council increased the restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

The Council added the Minister of Industry and the Minister of Information of the Government of Syria to the list of those targeted by EU restrictive measures;

The Council adopted legal texts imposing restrictive measures on one person for his activities in support of Da'esh;

The Council adopted the Common Military List of the EU;

The Council adopted a decision on the continuation of EU funding for the activities of the European Network of Independent Non-proliferation and Disarmament Think Tanks;

The Council approved an extension for the implementation of EU Strategy against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;

The Council adopted a decision on continuing to provide assistance to the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organisation;

The Council agreed the annotated agenda for the first meeting of the EU-Cuba Joint Council;

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption of five Commission food regulations (Health)

Spring Statement

[HLWS521]

Lord Bates: My right honourable friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Elizabeth Truss) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Making a success of EU exit is a priority for the Government and the Treasury. At the Autumn Budget 2017, my right honourable friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Philip Hammond) committed £3 billion over the next two financial years to helping departments and the devolved administrations to prepare. Working with colleagues across government to prioritise the essential programmes to realise the opportunities from EU exit, the

Treasury has allocated funding to departments as follows in 2018-19:

<i>Department</i>	<i>£m</i>
Cabinet Office	49.4
Competition and Markets Authority	23.6
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy	185.1
Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport	26.2
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	310.0
Department for International Trade	74.0
Department for Transport	75.8
Department of Health and Social Care	21.1
Food Standards Agency	14.0
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	29.6
HM Revenue & Customs	260.0
HM Treasury	24.8
Home Office	395.0
Ministry of Defence	12.7
Ministry of Justice	17.3
Northern Ireland Office	0.4
Office for National Statistics	2.0
Scotland Office	0.3
The National Archives	1.2
Wales Office	0.3

This has generated the following Barnett consequentials for the devolved administrations:

	<i>£m</i>
Northern Ireland Executive	15.2
Scottish Government	37.3
Welsh Government	21.4

This Government is committed to seeking a new future economic partnership with the European Union and this funding will help us to prepare for all eventualities. As the negotiations continue, we will need to reflect upon any progress and consider requirements accordingly. I will work with my colleagues across government to ensure these allocations achieve value for money for the taxpayer. Final allocations will be made at the 2018-19 Supplementary Estimates in early 2019.

Spring Statement: Consultations

[HLWS522]

Lord Bates: My right honourable friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Philip Hammond) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Today I set out the Government's first Spring Statement, as part of the move to a single fiscal event. As described in the paper HM Treasury published in December, the new fiscal cycle provides opportunities for the Government to consult more openly at earlier stages of policy-making. This Statement delivers on that commitment. It does not make tax or spending changes, but sets out some areas on which the Government will consult over the Summer.

Tax and the digital economy

Today the Government will publish the following policy documents that set out our approach to adapting the tax system to meet the challenges and opportunities of the digital economy:

- Corporate tax and the digital economy – an update on the Government's position paper on the challenges posed by the digital economy for the international corporate tax framework. This sets out the Government's proposed approach to addressing those challenges to ensure the corporate tax system is fair across different types of businesses, while protecting the UK's start-up culture and position as a global tech leader.

- Alternative methods of VAT collection - split payment – a consultation on a proposed split payment model to reduce online VAT fraud and improve how VAT is collected.

- The role of online platforms in ensuring tax compliance by their users – a call for evidence to explore what more online platforms can do to help their users pay the right amount of tax.

- Cash and digital payments in the new economy – a call for evidence looking at the role of cash and digital payments in the new economy. This will explore how the Government can further support digital payments, ensure the ability to pay by cash is available for those who need it, and crack down on the minority who use cash to evade tax and launder money.

- Business rates: delivering more frequent revaluations – a summary of responses to a consultation on the implementation of more frequent revaluations of non-domestic properties for business rates purposes, and the announcement that the next revaluation will be brought forward by one year to 2021. This means three-year revaluations will take effect in 2024.

Growth & productivity

Today the Government will publish the following consultations on changes to help boost productivity and growth across the UK economy:

- Self-funded training – a consultation on improving the way the tax system supports self-funded training by employees and the self-employed. This will explore extending the scope of tax relief currently available to employees and the self-employed for work-related training costs to support upskilling and retraining.

- The VAT registration threshold – as set out at Autumn Budget 2017, the Government is not minded to reduce the VAT threshold. This call for evidence will seek views on

whether the design of the VAT threshold could better incentivise small business growth.

- Allowing Entrepreneurs' Relief on gains made before dilution – a technical consultation on changes to Entrepreneurs' Relief to ensure that it does not discourage entrepreneurs from seeking external finance for their companies.

- Knowledge intensive Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) fund – a consultation on the introduction of a new knowledge intensive EIS fund structure with additional incentives to attract investment.

- VAT, Air Passenger Duty and tourism in Northern Ireland – a call for evidence that will look at the impact of VAT and Air Passenger Duty on tourism in Northern Ireland.

In the coming months the Government will publish:

- Improving business productivity - BEIS will publish a call for evidence to understand how best we can help the UK's least productive businesses to learn from, and catch-up with, the most productive.

- Delivering a fair payment culture for small businesses - BEIS will launch a call for evidence on how to eliminate unfair payment practices to small businesses.

- Prompt payment by government suppliers – the Cabinet Office will launch a consultation on making a supplier's approach to payments to its own suppliers part of the selection process for larger government contracts.

- Transferable Tax History (TTH) for oil and gas – a consultation on draft legislation to introduce a transferable tax history for oil and gas companies, to encourage new investment in UK oil and gas fields.

- Petroleum Revenue Tax (PRT) deduction for decommissioning costs - a consultation on draft legislation to allow a petroleum revenue tax deduction for decommissioning costs incurred by a previous licence holder, to encourage investment in UK oil and gas fields.

Green growth

The tax system can be a lever to encourage people and businesses to make healthier, more environmentally responsible choices. The Government is committed to improving air quality in the UK's towns and cities, and protecting the environment for future generations.

Today the Government will publish:

- Single-use plastics waste – a call for evidence seeking views on how the tax system or charges could reduce the amount of single-use plastics waste, to protect the environment. This will look at the whole supply chain for single use plastics, including alternative materials, reusable options and recycling opportunities, to consider how the tax system and charges can help drive technological progress and behavioural change.

In the coming months the Government will publish:

- Red diesel use in non-agricultural, non-road mobile machinery – a call for evidence into whether the use of red diesel tax relief discourages the purchase of cleaner engines. The primary focus of this call for evidence will

be on improving air quality outcomes, particularly in urban areas. Red diesel for agricultural use will be outside the scope of the call for evidence, as will home heating use and other static generators.

- Reforming VED rates for vans – a consultation on reducing VED rates for the cleanest vans through creating a graduated first year rate, as is already in place for cars, to encourage cleaner choices and improve environmental outcomes.

Tax avoidance, evasion & non-compliance

Today the Government will publish:

- Extension of security deposit legislation – a consultation on how to extend existing security deposit policy to include corporation tax and Construction Industry Scheme deductions for taxpayers deemed at high risk of not paying and with a history of non-compliance.

In the coming months the Government will publish:

- Off-payroll working – a consultation on how to tackle non-compliance in the private sector, drawing on the experience of the public sector reform. The Government will work with businesses and individuals to mitigate the potential administrative burdens of any future changes.

- Tackling Corporate Insolvency and phoenixism risks – a discussion document exploring further means for tackling the small minority who deliberately abuse the insolvency regime in trying to avoid or evade their tax liabilities, including through the use of phoenixism.

- Tackling construction sector supply chain fraud – a technical consultation on draft legislation for a VAT reverse charge. This will help to eliminate the threat of 'missing trader' fraud in construction industry supply chains, which is where the supplier retains the VAT that it collects on its sales. The reverse charge will achieve this by shifting responsibility to the customer for paying VAT to HMRC where the customer is a VAT-registered construction business.

- Profit fragmentation – a consultation on the best way to prevent UK traders or professionals from avoiding UK tax by arranging for UK trading income to be transferred to unrelated foreign entities.

Other/maintaining the tax system

Today the Government will publish:

- Heated tobacco – a response to the consultation on the tax treatment of heated tobacco products.

In the coming months the Government will publish:

- Gaming Duty: review of accounting periods – a consultation to seek views on bringing the administration of gaming duty more into line with the other gambling duties.

- Short term business visitors – a consultation on how to simplify the tax treatment of short-term business visitors from the foreign branch of a UK company, to ensure the UK is an attractive location to headquarter a business.

- Capital Gains Tax payment window – a technical consultation on the design of the system requiring capital

gains tax due on a disposal of residential property to be paid within 30 days of completion.

- VAT and vouchers – a response to a consultation on changes to the VAT treatment of vouchers. This change will amend VAT law to ensure that when customers pay with vouchers, businesses account for the same amount of VAT as when other means of payment are used.

- Taxation of trusts – a consultation on how to make the taxation of trusts simpler, fairer and more transparent.

- Large business compliance – a response to the consultation into HMRC’s process for risk-profiling large businesses, to improve HMRC’s Business Risk Review process, reflecting and further enhancing the shift in large business compliance behaviours.

Written Answers

Tuesday, 13 March 2018

Accident and Emergency Departments

Asked by *Lord Dobbs*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many patients treated by NHS Accident and Emergency departments were under the influence of drugs or alcohol in each year from 2007 to 2017; and what is their estimate of the gross cost of such treatments in each of those years. [HL5944]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The data requested is not held centrally.

Ali Mohamed Hakeem al-Arab

Asked by *Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Bahrain regarding (1) the alleged torture of Ali Mohamed Hakeem al-Arab at the Criminal Investigation Directorate and the Dry Dock prison; and (2) the sentencing to death of Mr al-Arab on 31 January. [HL5892]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The British Embassy in Bahrain and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have been monitoring the case of Ali Mohamed Hakeem al-Arab and will continue to do so. We encourage those with concerns about treatment in detention to report these to the appropriate oversight body and we encourage the oversight body to conduct swift and thorough investigations.

The United Kingdom is firmly opposed to the use of the death penalty. It is the Government's longstanding position to oppose capital sentences in all circumstances and countries. We continue to make this clear to the Government of Bahrain.

Borders: Northern Ireland

Asked by *Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what specific measures they will take to address the issues with the Northern Ireland border in the withdrawal negotiations with the EU. [HL5896]

Lord Callanan: In our position paper on Northern Ireland and Ireland, the UK Government set out two broad approaches to a future customs relationship with the EU; a highly streamlined customs arrangement between the UK and the EU, streamlining and simplifying requirements, leaving as few additional requirements on UK-EU trade as possible; and a new customs partnership with the EU, aligning our approach to the customs border in a way that removes the need for a UK-EU customs border.

The Joint Report issued by the UK and EU sets out our plan to address Northern Ireland's unique circumstances and the border in the context of the wider UK-EU deep and special partnership. We want a deal that works for all parts of the UK and we will faithfully deliver on that policy. The Joint Report also addressed the question of a fall-back option to avoid a hard border and disruption to businesses and supply chains both sides of the border if we cannot reach the deep overall agreement that we want.

The Government's agreed proposals for the Northern Ireland border were most recently set out in the Prime Minister's Mansion House speech. One option is for the UK to mirror the EU's requirements for imports from the rest of the world, applying the same tariffs and the same rules of origin as the EU for those goods arriving in the UK and intended for the EU. This approach, would remove the need for customs processes at the UK-EU border. Another option would be to jointly agree to implement a range of measures to minimise frictions to trade and make specific provisions for Northern Ireland such as exempting smaller traders who would be allowed to continue to operate as they do currently, with no new restrictions. For larger traders, the proposal would be to introduce streamlined processes, including a trusted trader scheme which would be consistent with our commitments. Both of these options for our future customs arrangement would leave the UK free to determine its own tariffs with third countries - which would simply not be possible in a customs union. On goods, a fundamental principle in our negotiating strategy is that trade at the UK-EU border should be as frictionless as possible with no hard border between Northern Ireland and Ireland. We believe this can be achieved via a commitment to ensure that the relevant UK regulatory standards remain at least as high as the EU's and a customs arrangement.

Brexit

Asked by *Viscount Waverley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ascertain the views of each of the EU 27 parliaments on the UK's current position on Brexit. [HL6080]

Lord Callanan: The Government continues to engage with Member States and our partners in the EU, alongside our formal negotiations with the European Commission. Ministers, senior officials and our diplomatic missions in Europe speak to a wide range of people and groups. Engaging representatives from national European Parliaments is an important element of our work.

Asked by *Baroness Jolly*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to the petition handed to 10 Downing Street by Stuart Bonar on 3 February, calling on the Prime Minister to negotiate with the EU for UK nationals to have the right to retain their EU citizenship on an individual basis after Brexit, should they so wish. [HL6111]

Lord Callanan: EU treaty provisions state that only citizens of EU Member States are able to hold EU citizenship. Therefore, when the UK ceases to be a member of the European Union, British nationals will no longer hold EU citizenship, unless they hold dual nationality with another EU Member State.

However, we know that in the future, many UK nationals will wish to continue to travel, live and work within the European Union, just as EU citizens will still wish to do so in the UK. We look forward to discussing our future relationship with the European Union, one which will work in the interest of both the UK and the EU.

Council Housing: Construction

Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the levels of capital receipts available for building new council housing in each year since 2010, broken down by local authority. [HL5934]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: (a) Only since 01 April 2012 has a portion of Right to Buy receipts been calculated as being retainable by the local authority if a sufficient level of expenditure on replacement social housing is incurred.

(b) Table includes the 167 local housing authorities which on 01 April 2013 owned a substantial amount of housing stock.

(c) All figures in the Table are provisional and are subject to change as a result of assurance and reconciliation exercises.

(d) All local housing authorities may also, subject to conditions, fund new council housing from: (i) other portions of their Right to Buy receipts which they may retain, (ii) other housing capital receipts, and (iii) capital receipts arising from the disposal of other assets.

(e) Where an authority's portion is indicated as zero, it means that there are no Right to Buy receipts remaining after other costs have been met.

The attached table shows the portion of receipts arising from Right to Buy sales received by each local authority in each full financial year since 2012-2013 which is retainable for the purposes of providing replacement social housing.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Receipts arising from Right to Buy sales [180305 HL5934.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-02-28/HL5934>

Developing Countries: Sanitary Protection

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they support any activities that keep girls and young women

at school during their periods in developing countries. [HL6072]

Lord Bates: The UK is committed to ensuring another generation of girls do not miss out on education. In our 2018 Education Policy we shone a spotlight on supporting the hardest to reach girls to achieve 12 years of quality education and learning. This includes recognising the importance of providing menstrual hygiene facilities in schools and tackling discriminatory gender norms (including taboos around menstruation) to support girls to stay in education during their periods.

We support a range of interventions to support this ambition. The majority of our country-level school and community-level water and sanitation programmes include a strong focus on menstrual hygiene management. More specifically: we support the provision of menstrual hygiene facilities in 5000 schools across 10 countries; in Zimbabwe, our Secondary Education Programme is supporting over 24,000 vulnerable girls to stay in school during their periods by providing them with regular supplies of sanitary pads; and through the Girls' Education Challenge Fund we support a range of school-based menstrual hygiene projects in 12 countries.

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they support any innovative projects relating to sanitary products in developing countries. [HL6073]

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they support the provision of hand-operated machines that make sanitary pads across (1) India, (2) Nepal, (3) Bangladesh, (4) Afghanistan, (5) South Africa, and (6) Zimbabwe. [HL6074]

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will consider supporting the provision of machines that are hand operated and make low cost sanitary pads to keep girls and young women at school during their periods in developing countries. [HL6075]

Lord Bates: Access to affordable sanitary products is a key barrier to women's full participation in society. The UK is supporting a number of innovative projects to enhance sanitary product access and choice, including a technology transfer initiative with the Indian company Aakar (<https://www.aakarinnovations.com/>) to enable them to take their women's enterprise and simple technology model for the local production of quality, low-cost, environmentally-friendly sanitary pads to Kenya and Tanzania. Through funding from the Girls Education Challenge fund, World Vision have been training women's groups in Zimbabwe to make reusable sanitary pads as part of a wider programme to support 95,000 vulnerable girls to stay in school.

We also support menstrual hygiene management more broadly through health, girls' education and water,

sanitation and hygiene programmes across sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

The UK is committed to enabling all girls and women to manage menstruation safely, hygienically and with dignity, allowing them to stay in school and participate in society during their period. This includes ensuring that schools, workplaces and public places cater for the needs of menstruating women, that they are free from stigma and discrimination and have access to low-cost appropriate sanitary products.

Diabetes: Medical Equipment

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that all patients with type 1 diabetes in England have access to flash glucose monitors. [HL5914]

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that all Clinical Commissioning Groups are adequately funded to supply flash glucose monitors to all patients with type 1 diabetes. [HL5915]

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of why flash glucose monitors are available to patients in some parts of England and not in others. [HL5916]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: Freestyle Libre, the flash glucose monitoring system was included in Part IX of the England and Wales Drug Tariff from November 2017. People with diabetes insipidus or diabetes mellitus (except where treatment is by diet alone) - which includes type 1 and type 2 diabetes - are eligible for free National Health Service prescriptions if they hold a valid medical exemption certificate. However, patients will need to discuss the ongoing management of their condition with their healthcare professional and consider what is most suitable for them.

Within its financial constraints, the NHS is committed to providing access to new drugs and medical technologies. Ultimately it is for clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), who are primarily responsible for commissioning diabetes services, to meet the requirements of their population. In doing so, CCGs need to ensure that the services they provide are fit for purpose, reflect the needs of the local population and are based on the available evidence and take into account national guidelines.

Reducing variation in the management and care of people with diabetes by 2020 is an objective included in the NHS England mandate. The NHS RightCare diabetes pathway shows the core components of an optimal diabetes service, as well as evidence of the opportunity to reduce variation. People with diabetes insipidus or diabetes mellitus (except where treatment is by diet alone) - which includes type 1 and type 2 diabetes - are eligible

for free NHS prescriptions if they hold a valid medical exemption certificate.

Duaa Alwadaei

Asked by Lord Scriven

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 14 February (HL5316), what steps they are taking to seek clarification from the government of Bahrain regarding the charges brought against Duaa Alwadaei. [HL5891]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have raised the case of Duaa Alwadaei with the Government of Bahrain and will continue to monitor proceedings.

Equal Pay

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that the requirements for gender pay gap reporting could allow employers to submit fabricated information or avoid reporting. [HL5895]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: In 2017 the Government introduced ground-breaking regulations requiring large employers to publish specific gender pay gap data.

Employers have to report their gender pay gap by the deadline, 30 March for the public sector and 4 April for the private and voluntary sector. This is not optional; it is the law.

Employers who fail to report on time or publish inaccurate data will be in breach of the regulations. They risk facing legal action from the Equality and Human Rights Commission, which has the power to take enforcement action against employers breaching the regulations. This could ultimately lead to court orders and fines.

EU Grants and Loans

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to replace EU structural funds after Brexit; and, if so, how. [HL6069]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: As announced in the government manifesto, we will create the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), which will boost productivity and reduce inequalities between communities across all four nations. We will consult widely on the design of the UKSPF later this year.

EU Institutions

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the European Council's

announcement that the UK will not be allowed to participate in EU institutions, agencies or bodies after Brexit; and, in particular, what assessment they have made of the consequences for regulation of (1) medicines, (2) airlines, and (3) data. [HL6176]

Lord Callanan: Draft EU guidelines for the negotiation of the future framework have been circulated to the EU27 for comment. We expect final guidelines to be formally adopted at the March European Council, and we hope they will provide the flexibility to allow the EU to think creatively about our future economic partnership.

As the Prime Minister said in her speech in Mansion House on 2 March 2018, we will want to explore with the EU the terms on which we could remain part of EU agencies such as those that are critical for the chemicals, medicines and aerospace industries: the European Medicines Agency (EMA), the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), and the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA). As the Prime Minister said in Munich in respect of data protection, we envisage an ongoing role for the UK's Information Commissioner's Office.

There are other agencies, such as those related to our future security partnership, that the UK may seek to remain a part of. Where there is a demonstrable national interest in pursuing a continued relationship with an agency or other EU body the Government will carefully examine whether we should pursue this. Our future relationship with the EU's agencies will ultimately be a matter for the negotiations.

Foreign Investment in UK

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that the UK remains a competitive destination for foreign firms. [HL5852]

Baroness Fairhead: As part of The Department for International Trade's lead role on Foreign Direct Investment, next financial year we will deliver a more targeted approach to promotion and investor support through our FDI Strategy. This will ensure Government support is focused where it is most valued by investors – and in a way that will drive wealth creation across the whole of the UK. To do this we will change our measure of performance from the volume of projects to a comprehensive measure of economic impact.

Alongside this, we will build a portfolio of 'High Potential Opportunities' across the UK to promote emerging sector clusters, supply chain gaps and other investment opportunities that have a high potential to deliver economic benefits. We will also continue to work closely with Government colleagues to deliver the Industrial Strategy and strengthen the attractiveness of the UK business environment for foreign investment.

Gaza: Travel Restrictions

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding the increased restrictions on travel to and from Gaza. [HL5923]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We regularly raise the importance of improving the number of exit permits approved by the Israeli authorities for Gazans to travel. We encourage the Governments of Israel and Egypt to show maximum flexibility in opening the crossings into Gaza. Officials from our Consulate General in Jerusalem also regularly discuss border crossings with the Palestinian Authority (PA) in the context of PA empowerment in Gaza.

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding the decline in the approval rate of applications for travel to and from Gaza for medical purposes. [HL5927]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Our Embassy in Tel Aviv raised the issue of medical permits for Gazans with the Israeli authorities on 21 February. As the Minister for the Middle East and North Africa informed the House of Commons on 20 February, we have previously raised concerns about ambulance and permit delays with the Israeli authorities, and we will continue to do so. We have also urged the Israeli Government to ease movement and access restrictions in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Government Departments: Equal Pay

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Nash on 18 September 2017 (HL1445), whether all government departments and executive agencies with 250 or more employees have now published information about gender pay gaps between male and female employees. [HL5922]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Public bodies with 250 or more employees, including Government Departments, have until 30 March to publish this data. All ministerial departments in scope of the regulations in fact reported their gender pay gap data before the end of 2017. Staff working in executive agencies are included in the relevant department's gender pay gap reports.

The majority of non-ministerial departments have also already reported.

Health Services: Foreign Nationals

Asked by Lord Dobbs

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in each year between 2007 and 2017, (1) how many patients were treated by the NHS who were not ordinarily resident in

the UK, (2) what was the gross cost to the NHS of treating such patients, and (3) how much money was recovered from such patients. [HL5939]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Department does not collect data from National Health Service trusts and NHS foundation trusts on patients who are treated by the NHS who are not ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom.

However, between 2012/13 and 2016/17, NHS cost recovery income identified for chargeable overseas visitors and migrants has more than quadrupled from £89 million to £352 million. All income recovered is directed straight back to the NHS frontline.

Asked by Lord Dobbs

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the process to recover money owed to the NHS from those patients who are treated by the NHS but who are not ordinarily resident in the UK and do not qualify for free healthcare at the point of use. [HL5940]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: Under the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2015, as amended, providers of NHS funded secondary care are required to make and recover charges from patients who are not ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom where no category of exemption applies within these Regulations. Since October 2017 providers are required to recover this charge in advance of providing non-urgent treatment.

The Department has issued guidance to providers of NHS funded secondary care called *Guidance on implementing the overseas visitors charging regulations* which sets out the rules and best practice processes to follow to recover money owed by overseas visitors. This includes considering the use of debt collection methods and forwarding on to the Home Office, following strict data protection protocols, the non-medical details of those with outstanding debts who are subject to immigration control, so that the Home Office can consider refusing a new visa or extension to stay in the UK whilst the debt remains unpaid. A copy of the guidance is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Guidance on implementing overseas visitors regs
[UPDATED_Guidance_to_Charging_Regulations_post_23_October.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-02-28/HL5940>

HMS Ocean

Asked by Lord Stevens of Ludgate

To ask Her Majesty's Government what contingency plans they have to fulfil the functions formerly performed by HMS Ocean. [HL6063]

Earl Howe: The Government can call on the Royal Navy's existing amphibious ships and the Bay Class ships of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

Hospital Beds

Asked by Lord Dobbs

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many beds were available in NHS hospitals in each year from 2007 to 2017; and what was the total number of instances where a delayed transfer of care occurred in an NHS hospital in each year from 2007 to 2017. [HL5941]

Asked by Lord Dobbs

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many instances there were of a delayed transfer of care occurring where the patient subject to the delayed transfer of care was homeless in each year from 2007 to 2017. [HL5942]

Asked by Lord Dobbs

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many instances there were of a delayed transfer of care occurring where the patient subject to the delayed transfer of care was waiting for longer than one day for a family member or friend to collect them in each year from 2007 to 2017. [HL5943]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The average number of available beds and the average number of delayed transfer of care (DTC) beds in each financial year from 2010-11 is shown in the following table. Data prior to 2010 is not held centrally.

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Average number of available beds</i>	<i>Average number of DTC beds¹</i>
2010-11	142,446	3,783 (Partial year)
2011-12	138,572	3,753
2012-13	136,758	3,783
2013-14	135,943	3,874
2014-15	135,498	4,453
2015-16	131,069	4,946
2016-17	130,452	6,181
2017-18 (year to date)	129,029	5,579

Note:

¹ The number of DTC beds is an estimate and is calculated by dividing the number of delayed days during the month by the number of calendar days in the month.

NHS England publishes DTC data showing the number of delayed days by the following reasons: awaiting completion of assessment; awaiting public funding; awaiting further non-acute NHS care; awaiting residential home placement or availability; awaiting nursing home placement or availability; awaiting care package in own home; awaiting community equipment and adaptations; patient or family choice; disputes; housing – patients not covered by NHS or Community Care Act; or other.

Data on whether patients with delayed transfers of care are either homeless or waited in excess of a day for collection from hospital by a family member or friend is not held centrally.

Independent Industrial Strategy Council

Asked by Lord Fox

To ask Her Majesty's Government to whom the Industrial Strategy Council will be answerable. [HL6010]

Asked by Lord Fox

To ask Her Majesty's Government how often the Industrial Strategy Council will report on the progress of the Industrial Strategy. [HL6011]

Lord Henley: The Industrial Strategy Council will be tasked with developing measures of success and putting the right evaluation structures in place to assess our progress. They will engage with government on its work programme but as a non-statutory independent group of external experts they will have their own views about the frequency of their updates including a regular published report.

Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund

Asked by Lord Fox

To ask Her Majesty's Government what process will be in place for Her Majesty's Government to decide the next areas to benefit from the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund. [HL6012]

Lord Henley: UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) launched an open call for Expressions of Interest to identify challenges to be supported within wave 3 of the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF) on 28 February 2018. Funding for wave 3 challenges will start in financial year 2019/20. The EOI process will enable industry to fully engage with the ISCF, including those businesses or sectors that do not traditionally make use of innovation funding.

Expressions of interest for challenges for wave 3 of the ISCF programme must be industry-led and demonstrate clear alignment with at least one of the Grand Challenges of the Industrial Strategy White Paper: Clean Growth; Ageing Society; Future of Mobility; and Artificial Intelligence and Data Economy. Challenges for wave 3 will be evaluated by UKRI based on the following criteria. Challenges must:

- be compelling, focused, understandable and have a real benefit if solved
- be industry-led and in an area of existing strength
- take advantage of the depth and expertise of UK research
- offer a clear opportunity for sustainable growth, including global markets

- evidence that government support is necessary and of strategic importance
- increase productivity

As with previous challenges, expert input will be sought in choosing which challenges will be funded through the ISCF. This includes the UKRI Board, Innovate UK and Research Councils, and a series of deep dive sessions with industry and academia across the UK.

Asked by Lord Fox

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will publish their process for selecting the next areas to benefit from the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund. [HL6013]

Lord Henley: UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) launched an open call for Expressions of Interest to identify challenges to be supported within wave 3 of the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF) on 28 February 2018. The Expression of Interest process is being managed by UKRI using Innovate UK's Innovation Funding Service (<https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/126/overview>). This webpage clearly outlines the assessment criteria for the challenges. Details of the wave 3 process will also be made available at the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund website <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/industrial-strategy-challenge-fund-joint-research-and-innovation>.

Asked by Lord Fox

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund projects will be permitted to fail. [HL6014]

Lord Henley: Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF) projects will bring together world-class UK research with business investment to develop the technologies and industries of the future and ensure we capture the value of these innovations to our economy. Delivered by UKRI, it takes a strategic approach to delivering the challenges across the UK's science and business base.

Pivotal to the ISCF is an appetite to take risk and pursue high return opportunities, as has been successfully adopted in other schemes, such as America's DARPA challenges. This means not all ISCF projects may succeed because of technological and market uncertainties. It will be important that there is a broad risk appetite to explore promising ideas across the portfolio of challenges as well as within elements of each specific challenge. The ISCF will place the responsibility for delivering a challenge in the hands of a 'Challenge Director', who will be leading an expert in the area. Challenge Directors will assemble a portfolio of projects that span the risk spectrum. Rigorous assessment, encompassing investment appraisal, on-going monitoring and ex-post evaluation will inform investment decisions. Through governance and monitoring arrangements, we will ensure that failures are detected early, review progress and maximise value for money.

Asked by Lord Fox

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund money can be spent on basic research. [HL6015]

Lord Henley: The Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF) funds innovative science and research that will increase productivity, tackle long-term challenges and drive growth across the country in areas where the UK is most competitive or has the most potential to be competitive. It identifies challenges that if solved would turn the UK's scientific and business expertise into leadership in international markets. Each of these challenges will bring together Innovate UK and Research Councils to support collaborations of business with research, and so funding will benefit both. The exact balance will require tailored financial arrangement suited to the nature of the challenges.

Iron and Steel: USA

Asked by Lord Allen of Kensington

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of job losses in the UK that might result if the US were to impose the proposed 25 per cent tariff on steel imports. [HL6081]

Lord Henley: Total US imports of steel from the UK in 2017 were 351 thousand tonnes with a value of £360m. This represents 5% of UK steel production in 2017, in tonnage. We are working closely with the steel and aluminium industries to assess the potential impact of these measures.

Asked by Lord Allen of Kensington

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the likely impact on the steel industry in the UK if the US were to impose the proposed 25 per cent tariff on steel imports. [HL6082]

Lord Henley: Total US imports of steel from the UK in 2017 were 351 thousand tonnes with a value of £360m. This represents 5% of UK steel production in 2017, in tonnage. We are working closely with the steel and aluminium industries to assess the potential impact of these measures.

Israel: Palestinians

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding that government's reported practice of charging Palestinians for the costs incurred in the demolition of Palestinian homes, whilst denying those Palestinians any compensation. [HL5925]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have not discussed this specific issue with the Israeli authorities. We do however continue to make clear to the Israeli authorities our serious concerns over the demolitions and evictions of

Palestinians from their homes. The UK's position is clear. Demolitions and evictions cause unnecessary suffering to ordinary Palestinians; call into question Israel's commitment to a viable two-state solution; and, in all but the most exceptional cases, are contrary to International Humanitarian Law.

Israel: Taxation

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations, if any, they have made to the government of Israel regarding the fines issued by Jerusalem municipality to properties owned by the United Nations and by churches on the grounds that they are not entitled to exemptions from property tax. [HL5924]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Our Consulate General in Jerusalem and our Embassy in Tel Aviv are closely following developments on this issue, and have sought clarifications from the relevant Israeli authorities. We understand that the Jerusalem municipality has now announced that it is suspending its tax collection actions.

Midwives

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there has been an increase in the number of midwives (1) registered to practise in the UK, and (2) practising in the NHS, over the past five years. [HL5967]

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many midwives there were on (1) the Nursing and Midwifery register, and (2) practising in the NHS, in each of the past five years. [HL5968]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The information requested about the number of midwives registered to practise in the United Kingdom is not collected by the Department.

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) is the independent regulator of nurses and midwives in the United Kingdom and is responsible for nurse and midwifery registration. Information provided by the NMC on the number of midwives registered to practise in each of the past five years is provided in the following table. According to the NMC's figures the number of midwives registered to practise in the UK increased by 2,445, between the end of September 2013 and the end of September 2017.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of midwives registered to practise</i>
End September 2013	41,050
End September 2014	41,639
End September 2015	42,232

Year	Number of midwives registered to practise
End September 2016	42,799
End September 2017	43,495

Source: Nursing and Midwifery Council

NHS Digital publishes workforce statistics and the following table shows the number of full time equivalent (FTE) Hospital and Community Health Service (HCHS) midwives in each of the past five years in England.

National Health Service HCHS: Practising Midwives, as at 31 October each specified year (FTE), 2013-17

Year	Total Midwives (FTE)
October 2013	20,914
October 2014	21,268
October 2015	21,450
October 2016	21,621
October 2017	21,890

Source: NHS Digital, Provisional NHS HCHS monthly workforce statistics

The total number of midwives employed in the NHS trusts and clinical commissioning groups in England increased by 976, from 20,914 in October 2013, to 21,890 in October 2017.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what further assessment, if any, they have made following the report by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy *The Impact of Brexit on the Automotive Sector*. [HL6064]

Lord Henley: The Government is undertaking a wide range of ongoing analysis in support of our EU exit negotiations and preparations.

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.

However, it is not standard practice to provide a running commentary on ongoing analysis. In addition, ministers have a specific responsibility, which Parliament has endorsed, not to release information that would undermine our negotiating position.

Palace of Westminster: Electricity

Asked by Lord Palmer

To ask the Senior Deputy Speaker what is the total annual electricity bill for the Palace of Westminster; and what proportion of that bill is paid by the House of Lords. [HL6119]

Lord McFall of Alcluth: The total cost of the electricity bill for the Palace of Westminster for 2016/17 was £1,778,860. The House of Lords contribution to such running costs is 40%, meaning a payment of £711,544 for 2016/17.

Police: Recruitment

Asked by Lord Grocott

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many police officers have been recruited via the Direct Entry Superintendents Scheme in each year since that scheme was introduced. [HL5787]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Direct entry offers the opportunity to widen the talent pool from where we attract our police officers and will bring in people from a diverse range of backgrounds. The introduction of direct entry allowed professionals from other sectors to join policing at a senior rank for the first time. These individuals have demonstrated that it is possible to join at this rank and gain the skills and competencies required to perform the job while also bringing a fresh perspective to police leadership.

The College of Policing is responsible for delivery of the direct entry scheme and will be publishing an evaluation for the implementation of direct entry next year.

Rare Diseases: Out of Area Treatment

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of access to specialist cross-border healthcare for sufferers of rare diseases following Brexit; and how they plan to ensure that those patients continue to benefit from specialist medical expertise across EU member states following Brexit. [HL5962]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The United Kingdom Government has made clear that it wishes to see the existing reciprocal healthcare arrangements with the European Union continued after the UK leaves the EU. All UK-insured residents, including sufferers of rare diseases, benefit from the reciprocal healthcare arrangements currently in place and the Government is working to ensure this access to healthcare in EU member states continues on the same terms as they do now after the UK leaves the European Union.

During negotiations with the EU on the Withdrawal Agreement, the UK has therefore been seeking to protect the healthcare arrangements currently set out in EU Regulations 883/2004 and 987/2009. In the meantime, while the UK remains a member of the EU, it will continue to respect the rights and honour the obligations of EU membership and so the current arrangements remain in place.

The UK is recognised internationally for its expertise and excellence in the field of rare diseases. In this regard, the UK Government has three key principles in its

approach to the development of a post-Exit relationship with the EU:

- That no patient should be disadvantaged;
- That the UK should continue to play a leading role promoting and ensuring public health, both in Europe and around the world; and
- Industry must be able to get their products into the UK market as quickly and simply as possible, with the UK and Europe at the forefront of medical innovation.

UK Relations with EU

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the European Council's draft guidelines for the negotiation of the UK's future relationship with the EU. [HL6174]

Lord Callanan: The European Council guidelines are a draft text that has not been formally published, but has been circulated to the EU27 for comment. We look forward to seeing the final guidelines when published, and hope they will provide the flexibility to allow the EU to think creatively and imaginatively about our future economic partnership.

We have repeatedly set out our vision for our future relationship with the EU which will see us remain the closest of friends and allies. The Prime Minister outlined the UK government's vision for the broadest and deepest possible future economic partnership in her Mansion House speech, having provided detail on our vision for the future security partnership in Munich last month. These are in addition to a speech by the Secretary of State of Exiting the EU and speeches by a number of other cabinet ministers on the 'road to Brexit'.

UK Trade with EU

Asked by Lord Kinnock

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the speech by the Prime Minister on 2 March stating that "our access to each other's markets will be less than it is

now", and to the remarks by the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union on 24 January 2017 (HC Deb, col 169), when the decision not to secure "comprehensive free trade agreements...and customs agreements" with the EU "that will deliver the exact same benefits as we have" was made. [HL6032]

Lord Callanan: Negotiating a comprehensive economic partnership with the EU is a priority for the Government as we leave the EU. We want to have the greatest possible tariff- and barrier-free trade with our European neighbours, as well as to negotiate our own trade agreements around the world.

As the Prime Minister reiterated in her Mansion House speech 'we both want good access to each other's markets and we want competition between us to be fair and open.'

The agreement we reach with the EU must respect the result of the referendum. It was a vote to take control of our borders, laws and money. We are committed to securing a bold and ambitious economic partnership with the EU that is of greater scope than any such existing agreement.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Asked by Baroness Campbell of Surbiton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend that the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will remain incorporated into domestic law after Brexit; if so, what steps they will take to ensure this; and if not, why not. [HL6090]

Baroness Buscombe: The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities is not incorporated into domestic law. The Equality Act 2010 (EA2010) provides, in domestic legislation, protections for people in Great Britain against discrimination, harassment or victimisation because of any of the nine protected characteristics set out in the Act – which include disability – as well as the public sector equality duty to promote equality of opportunity for all. Equivalent provisions for Northern Ireland are set out in a range of devolved legislation.

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