[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.

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Written Statements
Monday, 16 April 2018

Building Safety Update [HLWS602]

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

In my update on building safety on 15th March 2018, I informed the House that a glazed fire door from Grenfell Tower manufactured by Manse Masterdor, around five years ago, and marketed to resist fire for at least 30 minutes failed testing after approximately 15 minutes.

The Government immediately sought advice from the independent Expert Panel on the test findings to see whether any action was required as a result. The Panel consulted representatives from the Metropolitan Police, the Government’s Chief Scientific Advisers and the National Fire Chiefs’ Council. Following that, the Expert Panel advised that there was no change to the fire safety advice that the public should follow, and further investigations into doors from Manse Masterdor and others should be undertaken.

As I outlined in the statement on 15th March, we have taken forward further investigations. These investigations are focusing on fire doors manufactured by Manse Masterdor, this company is no longer trading and is not associated with organisations of a similar name.

We are engaging with the industry, and have also established a Technical Group of experts who are able to provide us with specialist advice on fire doors.

We have secured capacity to test fire doors at accredited test houses and testing is ongoing.

We are working closely with Devolved Administrations and are engaging with local authorities who are supporting us in our investigation.

We continue to consult the Expert Panel as these investigations progress. I committed to updating the House before the end of April and can confirm that at the present time, the Expert Panel’s advice remains unchanged.

As a result of my department’s investigations to date, the Expert Panel has advised me that further testing is required, which will take time. I intend to update the House further as and when the Expert Panel provides further advice, or no later than the end of May.

I want to reassure Honourable Members that my department is doing all it can as quickly as possible to properly investigate these issues and to make sure that where needed appropriate action will be taken.

As part of our wider effort to ensure that people are safe now and in the future I commissioned an independent review, led by Dame Judith Hackitt to look at the regulatory framework around construction, maintenance and on-going management of buildings in relation to fire safety. The Government welcomed an interim report, published in December 2017, and has already taken action to implement some of its recommendations, including by recently publishing a consultation on the use of desktop studies to assess the fire performance of construction products. A final report is expected in the late spring and the Government stands ready to consider and respond to this report. Public safety is paramount and I will continue to keep the House updated on progress.

Energy Policy [HLWS599]

Lord Henley: My hon friend Richard Harrington, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Minister for Business and Industry has made the following written ministerial statement:

I hereby give notice of the Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy’s intention to seek an advance from the Contingencies Fund in the amount of £4,626,000 for FY 2018/19 to provide financial cover to the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR).

This cash advance is sought to enable the ONR to undertake project activities planned for FY 2018/19 (i.e. from April 2018 onwards) to ensure the UK can have a domestic nuclear safeguards regime that meets international nuclear safeguards standards in place from day one of exit.

ONR has already made progress towards delivering this regime with financial support provided from the previous Contingencies Fund advance, notice of which was given on 02 February, and which covered the period up to the end of March 2018.

The Government’s commitment to establish a new domestic safeguards regime was announced on 14 September 2017 and forms a vital part of this Department’s EU Exit preparations for the UK’s nuclear industry.

Parliamentary approval for additional resources of £4,626,000 for this new service will be sought in a Supplementary Estimate for the Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £4,626,000 will be met via repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund.

The cash advance will be repaid upon receiving Royal Assent on the Nuclear Safeguards Bill and the Supply and Appropriation Bill.

Machinery of Government Changes [HLWS601]

Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: An administrative error has been identified in the Written Ministerial Statement made by the Leader of the House of Lords on 29th March, where the last paragraph was omitted. Please find the appropriate correction.
My Rt Hon. Friend the Prime Minister has made the following statement to the House of Commons:

This written statement confirms that the data policy and governance functions of the Government Digital Service (GDS) will transfer from the Cabinet Office to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). The transfer includes responsibility for data sharing (including coordination of Part 5 of the Digital Economy Act 2017), data ethics, open data and data governance.

At the same time policy responsibility for digital signatures will move from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to DCMS, which will also jointly lead with BEIS on the relationship with the Open Data Institute, Digital Catapult and The Alan Turing Institute.

These changes will be effective from 1 April. The expanded Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport brings together in one place data policy for both government and the wider economy. This will support work, led by DCMS, to ensure the UK is fully realising the benefits of the data economy for all.

GDS will continue its work supporting the ongoing digital transformation of government, building digital capability in the Civil Service and championing service design across government to meet user needs.

Further to the Budget announcement last Autumn, strategic geospatial data policy initiatives from BEIS and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs are being consolidated into the Cabinet Office from 1 April to support the work of the Geospatial Commission.

**Mechanised Infantry Vehicle**

[HLWS600]

**Earl Howe:** My hon. Friend the Minister for Defence Procurement (Mr Guto Bebb) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I am pleased to inform the House that on 31 March the British Army took a major step forward in securing a potential deal to get a fleet of new armoured vehicles by re-joining the Boxer programme, which could support at least 1,000 British jobs. The UK will re-join the programme and explore options to equip the Army with the state-of-the-art 8x8 troop carriers (Mechanised Infantry Vehicles) to modernise its vehicle fleet. The UK played a major role in the design, development and testing of Boxer, and would re-assume the rights it had as an original project partner, thus allowing the option for the vehicle to be built and exported from the UK. The intention would be for at least 60% of the manufacturing to be within British industry, sustaining and developing UK industrial capabilities, facilities and skills.

A capable Mechanised Infantry Vehicle is integral to the Army’s new Strike brigades. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) conducted a comprehensive market analysis of Mechanised Infantry Vehicles in-service, entering service and in development. The analysis was guided by the British Army’s requirements and how best to deliver them. The Boxer is the stand-out performer across a wide range of requirements including protected mobility, capacity, flexibility, utility and agility, and is a worthy choice for the British Army, who deserve the very best equipment. With the ability to rapidly adapt to suit our soldiers’ needs and perform across multiple climates and terrains, the Boxer would provide the British Army with a credible medium capability, enabling Commanders to provide an appropriate level of response to emerging threats.

The MOD is now taking forward negotiations with the Organisation for Joint Armament Cooperation (OCCAR) and Artec to look at options to purchase the vehicles. Any deal will be subject to commercial negotiation and assessment in 2019 and the aim is to have the first vehicles in service with the Army in 2023.


Written Answers

Monday, 16 April 2018

Academies: Pay

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made on establishing an Accelerated Access Collaborative (AAC) to manage the new Accelerated Access Pathway; and who are, or will be, the members of the AAC. [HL6663]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** Academy trusts are free to set their own salaries, but these must reflect the complexity and size of the task and we expect these to be justifiable. Academy trusts are not obliged to follow the terms set out in the School Teacher Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD), but must offer access to the Teachers’ Pension Scheme or local government pension scheme as applicable. Some academy trusts have chosen to follow the terms of the STPCD in relation to teachers and local government employee designation for non-teaching staff.

Flexibility on pay enables academy trusts to reflect local circumstances and their recruitment and retention needs in their pay policies. Nevertheless, this must demonstrate value for money, and academy trusts must scrutinise all expenditure as a matter of course to ensure that money is spent wisely and decisions adhere to a robust evidence-based process.

**Accelerated Access Collaborative**

*Asked by The Earl of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made on establishing an Accelerated Access Collaborative (AAC) to manage the new Accelerated Access Pathway; and who are, or will be, the members of the AAC. [HL6697]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The Accelerated Access Collaborative (AAC) has now been established, with the first meeting held in January 2018. The AAC is led by an independent chair and made up of senior representation from NHS England, the National Institute for Health Research, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, NHS Improvement, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, Government, industry and patients.

Sir Andrew Witty was appointed the first independent chair, but has recently stepped down to avoid a perception of conflict of interest following his appointment as Chief Executive Officer of Optum. We will announce the new chair of the AAC shortly. The AAC has made strong progress under Sir Andrew Witty’s Chairmanship and we want to thank him for the excellent progress he made in establishing the AAC during his short time as the chair. We are confident that the Accelerated Access Pathway remains on track to launch in April 2018, as previously announced.

Air Pollution: Greater London

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Mayor of London's plans to reduce air pollution in London. [HL6365]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** We included an assessment of the impact of the proposed expanded London ultra low emission zone (ULEZ) in the analysis carried out as part of the UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations. We published this analysis in the technical report accompanying the plan (see link below). We await the data on the changes to traffic composition and movements since the introduction of the T charge before we can update our assessment on changes to air quality.

The Government has meaningfully invested to improve air quality in London. London has received directly £137m in funding in support of measures to help improve air quality including the retrofitting of over 1400 buses and the purchase of 34 low emission buses, in addition to the £5.7bn transport settlement to TfL which included provisions to address air quality. Despite this investment and activities undertaken, the Government is concerned that London is not expected to achieve compliance until 2026. We will continue to encourage and support the Mayor to take effective action to address NO2 pollution in the capital.


The Answer includes the following attached material:


The material can be viewed online at:

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-14/HL6365

**Ali Mamlouk**

*Asked by Baroness Helle*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that Ali Mamlouk, Director of the Syrian National Security Bureau, visited Rome in January in contravention of EU sanctions; what representations they have made to the government of Italy in that regard; and whether Mr Mamlouk has made any visit to the UK since being placed on the list of EU restrictive measures. [HL6761]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We are aware of reports alleging that Ali Mamlouk, the Director of the Syrian National Security Bureau, visited Rome in January. The UK takes seriously the need to ensure EU sanctions are robustly enforced and we have raised our concern with Italian officials. Ali Mamlouk has not made any visit to the UK since being designated under EU sanctions in 2011.
Anguilla: Foreign Relations

*Asked by Viscount Waverley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the strength of the relationship between the UK and Anguilla. [HL6674]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The relationship between the UK Government and the Government of Anguilla is one based on partnership with each responsible for delivering their duties under Anguilla's constitution; always acting in the best interests of the people of Anguilla.

Anguilla: Hurricanes and Tornadoes

*Asked by Viscount Waverley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they have given to Anguilla since Hurricane Irma to help rebuild infrastructure; and what support they will give in the next five years. [HL6672]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** In the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Irma, the crew of RFA Mounts Bay repaired the generator and electricity distribution at Anguilla's only hospital; effected emergency repairs to ensure the integrity of a ruptured storage tank at the island's bulk fuel depot established the integrity of the Road Bay Jetty, Anguilla's only point of sea access, and of the airport runway.

In the following weeks, the principal elements of support provided by the UK Government have been:

- generators to allow Anguilla's six primary schools and the one secondary school to reopen within five weeks of the hurricane
- two large generators to the hospital which now has a full independent generating capacity, including redundancy
- a large capacity generator to ensure the island's main water desalination plant is able to operate without mains power
- approximately:
  - £1.5 million to secure the services of a Canadian contractor to accelerate the restoration of power across Anguilla before Christmas
  - £1.2 million of assistance to enable the airport to resume commercial operations with an emergency control tower and the equipment and services needed to allow the airport to resume night flights – this is critical to the island's economy
- £200,000 to effect repairs to Her Majesty's Prison Anguilla
- £200,000 of repairs to the main hall at the Secondary School to enable children to take external public exams which could not be delayed and repairs to the Teachers Education Centre
- £2.5 million of funding transferred to the Government of Anguilla to effect emergency repairs to a range of public buildings

Looking ahead Her Majesty's Government has committed a further £60 million to fund a range of long term infrastructure projects.

Antibiotics: Research

*Asked by The Earl of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they are taking to support research and development into novel antimicrobials by small and medium-sized enterprises. [HL6696]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The Government has a range of measures in place to support research and development into novel antimicrobials by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as part of our strategy to tackle antimicrobial resistance.

The Department funds investment of £1 billion annually in the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). This includes funding for research infrastructure in the National Health Service which actively supports collaboration with the life sciences industry and supports the commercialisation of new research and related technologies to help grow new companies (including SMEs) and funding. The NIHR also funds the Invention for Innovation (i4i) Programme that supports collaborative research and development projects in medtech SMEs, universities and the NHS on the development of innovative medical technologies.

Other investments that provide opportunities for SMEs include:

- The £50 million Global AMR Innovation Fund to target investment globally in neglected and underinvested areas in antimicrobial resistance (AMR) research and development for the benefit of people in low and middle income countries. The scope includes the development of novel antimicrobials, including opportunities arising from traditional Chinese medicine; and
- A call for AMR capital research proposals for Departmental funding of £4 million delivered by Innovate UK in 2016/17. The Department plans to invest a further £43 million on a portfolio of AMR capital research investments over the next three years, subject to appropriate business case approvals.

Apprentices

*Asked by Lord Allen of Kensington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the amount of existing training activity that companies will be able to re-badge into level 2 apprenticeships in order to comply with new regulations. [HL6739]
Lord Agnew of Oulton: It is not the intention of the apprenticeship programme that companies should re-badge existing training to comply with apprenticeship regulations. Apprenticeships are a specific product defined in law. We are introducing new employer-designed standards to improve the quality of the offer and better meet employers’ skill needs, and have committed to all new apprentices being on the new standards by 2020. 253 standards are ready for delivery, and a further 277 are currently in development. Our intention is to maintain and improve apprenticeship quality, and ensure that government funds are spent on approved training to build the knowledge, skills and behaviours to achieve competency in a true occupation.

We have implemented extensive measures underpinned by statutory regulations to safeguard and improve the quality of learning provided through the apprenticeships programme.

We are continuing to focus on the quality of apprenticeships by insisting that all apprenticeships must be real paid jobs; have a minimum duration of 12 months; involve sustained training and acquisition of skills through off-the-job training; and must include English and maths for those who have not previously achieved good GCSEs in those subjects.

Apprentices: Arts

 Asked by Lord Allen of Kensington

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the apprenticeship levy on training and apprenticeships in the creative industries. [HL6737]

Asked by Lord Allen of Kensington

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to support micro-businesses in the creative industries in providing apprenticeships. [HL6738]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: We regularly publish data on apprenticeships, which can be found on GOV.UK at: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education-and-skills-statistical-first-release-sfr. This includes analysis of the number of apprenticeships starts by Sector Subject Area (SSA). Our most recent statistical release shows that starts in the Arts, Media and Publishing SSA have increased 14% on the year, though employers in the creative industries will also hire apprentices in other SSAs.

The Department for Education works closely with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to understand the impact of the apprenticeship reforms on the creative industries. As part of this, we have committed to inviting an employer representative from the creative industries to sit on our Apprenticeship Stakeholder Board.

Government provides generous funding to smaller employers who do not pay the levy. Non-levy payers must co-invest only 10% of the costs of apprentice training and assessment in order to access 90% government funding.

For micro-businesses with less than 50 employees, the 10% co-investment is waived when they hire a 16-18 year old apprentice or a 19-24 year old apprentice who is a care leaver or who has an Education, Health and Care Plan.

Our communications and engagement work helps to make sure that as many employers of all sizes are aware of the apprenticeship reforms and the benefits of taking on an apprentice. Over 40,000 employers have visited our Get in Go Far website since the current phase of the campaign launched in January, and there have been over 1.4 million views of our adverts on social media. Our national employer helpline is open all year round.

Apprentices: Travellers

 Asked by Baroness Whitaker

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Agnew of Oulton on 5 February (HL 4901), how many Gypsies and Travellers completed apprenticeships in each academic year since 2014; and at what level. [HL6729]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The table below provides the number of learners that declared themselves as Gypsy or Irish Traveller for the 2013/14 to 2016/17 academic years, who completed apprenticeships broken down by level. Figures are also provided for the first two quarters of the 2017/18 academic year reported to date.

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<td>Advanced (level 3)</td>
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<td>Higher (level 4+)</td>
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<tr>
<td>All levels</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:

1) Volumes are rounded to the nearest ten.
2) Data obtained from the Individualised Learner Record.
3) ‘-‘ indicates a base value of fewer than five or zero take-up for the cohort combination.
4) Ethnicity is self-declared by the learner.

Demographic information about apprenticeship starts and achievements is available in the demography section of the ‘FE data library’:

**Arms Trade: Saudi Arabia**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will suspend arms sales to Saudi Arabia until there is an end to conflict in Yemen. [HL6844]

**Baroness Fairhead:** All export licence applications are carefully assessed on a case by case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria, taking into account all relevant factors at the time of application. A licence will not be issued for any country if to do so would be a breach of the Criteria. The policy remains as announced to parliament in a Written Ministerial Statement on 25 March 2014.  


The key test for the Government for our continued arms exports to Saudi Arabia in relation to International Humanitarian Law (IHL) is whether there is a clear risk that those weapons might be used in a serious violation of IHL. The situation is kept under careful and continual review.

*Asked by Lord Truscott*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will suspend arms sales to Saudi Arabia until there is an end to conflict in Yemen. [HL6844]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The British Government takes its arms export licensing responsibilities very seriously and operates one of the most robust arms export control regimes in the world. All export licence applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria, taking account of all relevant factors at the time.
of the application. The key test for our continued arms exports to Saudi Arabia, in relation to International Humanitarian Law (IHL), is whether there is a clear risk that those items subject to the licence might be used in a serious violation of IHL. The situation is kept under careful and continual review.

Association of Chief Police Officers: Consulting Association

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) has had access to intelligence on trade unionists provided by Special Branch or undercover officers; and whether ACPO has sold (1) any such information, and (2) other information held on the Police National Computer, to the Consulting Association. [HL6645]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) has ceased operating. The National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) has assumed some of ACPO’s functions. The NPCC is an independent organisation and is a core participant in the Undercover Policing Inquiry. The Inquiry will consider any evidence provided by the NPCC that relates to information provided by undercover police officers.

Asylum: France

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the UK—France Migration Committee has met since the Sandhurst Treaty was agreed; and if so, what (1) decisions it has taken, and (2) action it has approved. [HL6692]

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether one or more British liaison officers have been appointed under Article 5 of the Sandhurst Treaty; if so, how those officers can be contacted; and whether a meeting of experts has been summoned for the application of Articles 2, 3 and 4 of that Treaty. [HL6693]

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Franco-British cooperation has improved since 1 February, in particular (1) concerning the implementation of the Dublin III Regulation, and (2) in cases of unaccompanied children seeking protection and asylum. [HL6694]

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied refugee children have been transferred to the UK under Articles 2 and 3 of the Sandhurst Treaty, since 1 February. [HL6695]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The UK—France Migration Committee most recently met on 27 March 2018. The Committee routinely discusses ongoing cooperation on migration and border security, including how agreed funding should be spent. This meeting followed a similar pattern with a particular focus on implementing elements of the Sandhurst Treaty such as improvements to port security and infrastructure, and measures to reduce the impact of migration on Northern French ports.

The UK and France have a long-standing relationship on co-operating on unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, including transfers of eligible children under the Dublin Regulation and section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016. A constructive official-level meeting relating specifically to the asylum elements of the Sandhurst Treaty took place on 9 February. Cooperation continues on all elements of the Treaty, and the UK has appointed a Liaison Officer to France who will deploy in the coming weeks to support this work.

The Government will transfer 480 unaccompanied children from Europe to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016. Over 220 children are already here and transfers are ongoing. We will not provide a running commentary on numbers. On 22 February 2018, the Home Office published data on the number of transfers into the UK from other Dublin states. The relevant statistics can be found at as_22_q, asylum volume 5 at the following link:


The Answer includes the following attached material:


The material can be viewed online at:


Asylum: Lancashire

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the need for housing more asylum seekers in Lancashire; what is their estimate of the numbers that can be housed in each district; what discussions they have held on this matter with each unitary and district council in Lancashire. [HL6580]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office maintains an active partnership with local governments across the UK and funds Strategic Migration Partnerships to plan for the most appropriate dispersal of asylum seekers. We work closely with our accommodation providers and the SMPs on the placement of asylum seekers to consider the impact on communities and local services so that adjustments can be made where appropriate. This includes increasing the number of areas
that participate in providing accommodation and support to people seeking asylum and protection and allows local authorities to continue to shape the provision of service in their area and to ensure the impacts of dispersal on local communities and services are taken into account when accommodation is allocated.

We work to a maximum agreed dispersal ratio of 1:200 asylum seekers per head of total population and would not go beyond that ratio without the agreement of the relevant local authority. The Home Office publishes quarterly figures on the number of asylum seekers housed in asylum accommodation, including under Section 95, by local authority in the Immigration Statistics release, in table as_16q and 17q in volume 4 of the Asylum data tables. These are available at:


The Answer includes the following attached material:


The material can be viewed online at:
http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-22/HL6580

**Asylum: LGBT People**

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the maximum length of time that an asylum seeker seeking refugee status on grounds of their sexual orientation can be held in an immigration detention centre. [HL6835]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** There is no general maximum length of time for which someone can be detained for immigration purposes. This applies irrespective of the basis of the individual’s detention.

Published Home Office policy, available via the link below, is clear, however, that detention is only ever used for the shortest period necessary, and there must be a realistic prospect of removal within a reasonable timescale. During this time, decisions to maintain detention are reviewed regularly and whenever there is new evidence of removability or vulnerability. Whilst in detention, any health and welfare needs of a detained person are met through the provision of appropriate services.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/offender-management

**Bahrain: Political Prisoners**

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to make any representations to the government of Bahrain concerning the hunger strike declared by Hajer Mansoor Hassan in Isa Town Prison, and to protest about measures against political prisoners in Bahrain. [HL6556]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We encourage those with concerns about treatment in detention to report these to the appropriate oversight body. We urge these oversight bodies to carry out swift and thorough investigations into any such claims. We understand that the National Institution for Human Rights is aware of this case and is monitoring the situation, and that the Ombudsman of the Ministry of Interior is investigating the claims.

**Bahrain: Technical Assistance**

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 21 March (HL6169), which UK bodies are to implement the technical assistance programme in Bahrain for the 2017–18 financial year. [HL6836]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** As stated in my answer to question HL6169, the Government works with a number of implementation partners and beneficiaries to support Bahraini-led reform. These programmes aim to support progress on building effective and accountable institutions, strengthening the rule of law, and justice reform. All of our work is in line with international standards, and aims to share the UK's expertise and experience. Any training provided by, on or behalf of, the British Government fully complies with our domestic and international human rights obligations. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has provided updates on its programmes in its annual Human Rights reports, as well as through Freedom of Information Act requests. This information can be found on the gov.uk website.

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 21 March (HL6170), which Bahraini bodies are to benefit from the technical assistance programme in Bahrain for the 2017–18 financial year. [HL6837]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** As stated in my answer to question HL6169, the Government works with a number of implementation partners and beneficiaries to support Bahraini-led reform. These programmes aim to support progress on building effective and accountable institutions, strengthening the rule of law, and justice reform. All of our work is in line with international standards, and aims to share the UK's expertise and experience. Any training provided by, on or behalf of, the British Government fully complies with our domestic and international human rights obligations. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has provided updates on its programmes in its annual Human Rights reports, as well as through Freedom of Information Act requests. This information can be found on the gov.uk website.
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**Bahrain: Torture**  
*Ask by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Integrated Activity Fund is funding or sponsoring any bodies dealing with security matters in Bahrain; and if so, which. [HL6838]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Integrated Activity Fund is not being used to fund or sponsor Bahraini bodies dealing with security matters. The Government works with various implementation partners to support Bahraini-led reform, including in the field of human rights. These programmes aim to support progress on building effective and accountable institutions, strengthening the rule of law, and justice reform. All of our work is in line with international standards, and aims to share UK expertise and experience. Any training provided by, or on behalf of, the British Government fully complies with our domestic and international human rights obligations.

**Banks: Company Accounts**  
*Ask by Baroness Bowles of Berkhamsted*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any part of financial regulation either exempts banks from the accounting solvency requirements of the Companies Act 2006 or gives the duty to oversee those requirements to the Prudential Regulatory Authority or Financial Conduct Authority instead; and if so, which. [HL6568]

**Lord Henley:** Banks in the UK are subject to the full accounting solvency requirements of the Companies Act 2006. The ongoing supervision of these and the additional regulatory requirements, on banks in particular, is conducted by the Prudential Regulation Authority as set out in the Financial Services Act 2012.

**Belfast Agreement**  
*Ask by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what financial support they have given to civil society and charitable organisations in Northern Ireland, in each of the last three years, to enable those organisations to uphold the principles of the Belfast Agreement and to help restore the north-south and devolved institutions; and whether contributions have been received from the EU for those purposes. [HL6690]

**Lord Duncan of Springbank:** Under the terms of the devolution settlement, financial support for civil society and charitable organisations in Northern Ireland is a matter for the devolved administration.

The EU PEACE programme supports peace and reconciliation and promotes economic and social progress in Northern Ireland and border areas of Ireland. Management and delivery of this programme is handled by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), and financing is administered by local partnerships and non-governmental organisations.

**Banks**  
*Ask by Lord Kilclooney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any areas of North–South cooperation were contained in the Belfast Agreement; how many additional areas of such cooperation are suggested in the EU–UK draft withdrawal agreement; and whether the parties involved in the Belfast Agreement will now be asked to consider any changes proposed by the EU. [HL6816]

**Lord Duncan of Springbank:** The Belfast Agreement, under Strand Two, outlined the areas for North-South cooperation on matters of mutual interest within the competence of the Administrations, Northern Ireland and Ireland. The UK Government remains committed to the Belfast Agreement, as we have stated many times. Upholding the Agreement has consistently been, and will remain, at the heart of the UK’s approach as we negotiate our withdrawal from the EU.

The UK and EU have mapped out areas of cooperation that function on a cross-border basis, in line with the principles of the Belfast Agreement. We have identified over 140 areas of cross-border cooperation, demonstrating a wide range of cooperation across different aspects of the economy, public services, and the environment.
In most cases we anticipate that repatriated EU regulatory functions can be absorbed by departments and existing public bodies. Prior to any decisions on establishing new UK-level bodies, the Government will always look to minimise disruption and costs, which will include considering alternative options. We will continue to plan for a range of scenarios and be ready to take any necessary steps to ensure that we are ready for exit day.

British Home Stores: Insolvency

*Asked by Lord Myners*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will instruct the Insolvency Service to publish its report into the collapse of BHS. [HL6773]

Lord Henley: Following the collapse of BHS in 2015, the Insolvency Service carried out an investigation into the conduct of the former directors of the company and has recently announced that it intends to bring proceedings to disqualify four of the former directors from running or controlling a company for up to fifteen years. The Insolvency Service gathers evidence against individuals, it does not produce a report into the full investigation. On the conclusion of an investigation and once any legal proceedings have been completed, if any directors are disqualified the Insolvency Service will publish the details of the disqualifications and will notify Companies House which keeps the statutory register of disqualifications.

In view, however, of the exceptional public interest in this investigation, and once any legal proceedings have been completed, the Insolvency Service will consider what further information it can legitimately publish.

Burma: Civil Liberties

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Myanmar regarding the proposed amendments to the 2011 Peaceful Assembly and Procession Law which might restrict the right of freedom of expression and assembly in Myanmar. [HL6442]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK has been a consistent, vocal advocate of democratic freedoms in Burma, including freedom of expression, through our discussions with the Burmese Government and parliamentarians. We have not made specific representations on proposed amendments to the Peaceful Assembly and Procession Law but are monitoring the discussion.

Burma: Rohingya

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that the government of Myanmar is building military bases on the ruins of
Rohingya villages; and whether they have made representations about such action to the government of Myanmar. [HL6499]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: I am deeply concerned by these Amnesty International reports. The Government believes them to be credible evidence of the Burmese military taking action that creates further obstacles to the return of Rohingya refugees to their homes in Rakhine. The British Ambassador raised the UK’s concerns about this action in his meeting with the Burmese Minister of Social Welfare on 22 March.

**Bus Service Operators Grant**

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Sugg on 27 March (HL6439), what guarantees they have that the Bus Service Operators Grant funding devolved to local authorities is actually spent on bus services; and to what extent local authorities are allowed to use the grant as a substitute for money that they previously spent on supporting bus services. [HL6751]  

Baroness Sugg: The Bus Services Operators grant (BSOG) devolved to Local Authorities is ring-fenced and may only be used for the purposes of supporting bus services. At year-end the Chief Executive and Chief Internal Auditor of each recipient authority must return a declaration that the grant conditions have been complied with. It is up to individual local authorities to choose how they spend un-ringfenced funding, however local authorities are required to report annually on their spend.

**Bus Services**

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to make it a statutory duty for councils to include in any consideration of cuts to bus services an assessment of the environmental impact of withdrawing that bus service. [HL6703]

Baroness Sugg: There are no plans to make it a statutory duty for councils to consider environmental impact of cutting services. However local authorities must apply to the Traffic Commissioner should they want to cut or change a bus service, whose priorities include environmental considerations.

**Business**

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they consider that the recently agreed transition period will provide enough time for businesses to be ready for Brexit; and what support they will provide, particularly to smaller businesses, to ensure that they are. [HL6599]

Lord Henley: Ministers regularly meet small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and their representative bodies, as part of our preparation to leave the EU, to understand the concerns of small business owners and to find out what support they want from government.  

The time-limited implementation period responds to many of their concerns by giving businesses and citizens across the European Union and United Kingdom time they need to prepare for the future, by ensuring our access to each other’s markets continues on current terms.  

The support provided to businesses will also be informed by the outcome of negotiations with the EU on our future relationship.

* Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they intend to address concerns that the provisional nature of the Brexit transition deal does not provide sufficient reassurance to businesses; and what steps they will take to provide such reassurance. [HL6723]

Lord Callanan: The UK and EU negotiating teams have agreed a time-limited implementation period, the terms of which were endorsed by the remaining 27 EU Member States at the March European Council (22-23 March). Common rules will remain in place until the end of the period meaning business will be able to trade on the same terms as now up until the end of 2020. These terms will not change.  

The Government welcomes the comments made by business groups such as the British Chambers of Commerce who have acknowledged that “while some companies would have liked to see copper-bottomed legal guarantees around the transition, the political agreement reached in Brussels is sufficient for most businesses to plan ahead with a greater degree of confidence.”

Ministers and officials will continue to engage extensively with businesses and regulators to ensure that businesses can plan with certainty for the future.

**Business: Regulation**

*Asked by Baroness Andrews*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will announce the appointment of the independent body to verify assessments and lists in reports under section 25 of the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015. [HL6566]

Lord Henley: The independent verification body will be appointed in due course and before the business impact target is set, as required under section 25 of the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015.

*Asked by Baroness Andrews*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how, and when, they intend to consult with businesses, consumers, and representatives of civil society, on the business impact target, and interim target, to be published under section
Lord Henley: The Government engages regularly with representatives of businesses, consumers and civil society on all aspects of its better regulation agenda, including the business impact target. In setting the target, the Government will have regard to delivering efficient regulation while keeping the costs to business and voluntary or community bodies to the minimum.

Business: Telecommunications

As asked by Lord Fox

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average time taken for businesses with more than one telephone line to switch provider; and how this compares to the time taken for domestic customers to switch providers. [HL6799]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: In 2015, the UK’s independent communications regulator (Ofcom), extended the use of a Gaining Provider Led (GPL) switching process for consumers (including small businesses with up to ten employees) switching their landline and/or broadband provider across the Openreach network, where the majority of these switches take place. These rules specify a minimum switching period of 10 working days, before a customer’s order can be activated.

Ofcom does not hold comparable data on the time it takes business and domestic customers to switch.

Cambridge Analytica: Data Protection

As asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the use of data by Cambridge Analytica; and how they will ensure protection of personal data. [HL6722]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: Cambridge Analytica's use of data is the subject of an investigation by the independent Information Commissioner. Questions about that investigation should be directed to the Information Commissioner's Office.

The government’s Data Protection Bill will strengthen data protection law and give the Information Commissioner tougher powers to ensure organisations comply. It will enhance control, transparency and security of data for people and businesses across the UK, and gives the Information Commissioner the power to levy significant fines against organisations that break data protection law or block her investigations.

Caribbean: Hurricanes and Tornadoes

As asked by Lord Naseby

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 10 October 2017 (HL Deb, col 101), whether they will publish their review of the UK's disaster relief operations in the Caribbean following Hurricane Irma; and if so, when. [HL6774]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) led an effective and rapid response to the unprecedented impact of Hurricane Irma in the Caribbean. As is standard practice for our response to all crises, a lessons learned process has since taken place led by the FCO and involving a range of Government Departments. To maintain the integrity of future lessons learned processes, we do not propose to share the results of these exercises outside of Government as it is important that the FCO is able to reflect on lessons learned internally as part of our crisis management process. We are now making progress in implementing the actions identified.

Central Asia: Water

As asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the situation in Central Asia with regard to the sharing of water resources in that region. [HL6500]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Over the past year, Uzbek President Mirziyoev has discussed water and energy issues with his counterparts in Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. We expect Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan to present a resolution for the 73rd UNGA session on UN cooperation with the International Fund for the Aral Sea, on which they have worked closely with Kyrgyzstan. On 15 March Heads of State of Central Asia met in Astana and discussed the sharing of water resources. The UK has encouraged efforts to improve regional relations, including on water sharing. In November last year, UK senior officials attended a conference under UN auspices in Samarkand addressing regional water and security issues. The UK supports the World Bank's work to improve energy and water use in the region through the Central Asia Energy Water Development Programme (CAEWDP) and contributed £3.2 million to the CAEWDP multi-donor trust fund between 2011 and 2017.

Children: Day Care

As asked by Lord Lucas

To ask Her Majesty’s Government why studying for a PhD does not count as work for the purposes of qualifying for free childcare. [HL6648]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: 30 hours free childcare aims to support working parents with the costs of childcare so that they can take up paid work if they want to, or work additional hours. That is why, in general, parents who do not work are not eligible for the additional hours.
The government recognises the value of parents continuing and returning to education, and provides support to those enrolled in recognised education courses through other schemes such as the childcare grant. This scheme, available to parents who are in full time higher education, offers parents support with up to 85% of their childcare costs depending on their household income, including those studying for a PhD. In addition, all three and four year olds are eligible for 15 hours of funded early education a week.

**China: Religious Freedom**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have, if any, regarding the whereabouts and well-being of Bishop Vincent Guo Xijin, a Chinese Catholic Bishop detained by Chinese police; and when they last raised with the government of China the obligations of Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, concerning freedom of religion or belief. [HL6743]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We are aware of reports that Bishop Vincent Guo Xijin was detained by the Chinese Authorities on 26 March. My officials continue to monitor his case and seek further information about his whereabouts and condition.

We regularly raise our concerns about human rights with the Chinese Authorities. The Prime Minister raised human rights when she visited China earlier this year. We last raised freedom of religion or belief at the UK-China human rights dialogue, which was held in Beijing on 27 June 2017. We also issued an Item 4 statement at the 35th UN Human Rights Council in the same month reiterating our concerns.

**Colombia: UN High Commissioner for Human Rights**

*Asked by Baroness Coussins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on human rights and the Peace Accord of the delay in accrediting a new UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Colombia. [HL6480]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We welcome the appointment of Mr Alberto Brunori, who was announced as the new representative of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Colombia on 21 March. We also thank the departing representative, Mr Todd Howland, for his leadership of the UN Office for Human Rights in Colombia since 2012, which has played a vital role in supporting all those working to improve human rights in the country.

**Common Agricultural Policy and Common Fisheries Policy**

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 23 November 2017 (HL3154), why they have now agreed that the UK will remain subject to the Common Agriculture and Fisheries Policy during the transition period; and what assistance they intend to provide the UK fishing industry immediately after 29 March 2019. [HL6658]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** On 19 March 2018, the UK and the EU reached agreement on the terms of an implementation period that will start on 30 March 2019 and last until 31 December 2020. Under the agreement, for the Common Agricultural Policy, the UK will not participate in Basic Payment Scheme year 2020, but will continue with Pillar 2 schemes until programme closure.

However, the current fisheries rules will continue to apply during the implementation period. The government considers that agreement on an implementation period is necessary to give some sectors of the economy time to adjust and prepare for the UK's departure from the EU.

We will shortly publish a White Paper on the future of fisheries policy that will set out our plans to become an independent coastal state in control of our own Exclusive Economic Zone once the implantation period has ended.

**Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting**

*Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there will be a focus on the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London in April. [HL6762]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We anticipate the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting will cover various gender issues, given member states' unanimous commitment to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 5 on ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls. However, the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative is not a standalone agenda item.

Delegates from across the Commonwealth will attend the Commonwealth Women's Forum at the start of summit week. The programme will include substantive plenary sessions and parallel workshops, providing delegates with the chance to focus on specific areas including gender-based violence and women, peace and security.
Commonwealth: Poliomyelitis

*Asked by Baroness Falkner of Margravine*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to eradicate polio within Commonwealth countries, including Pakistan and Nigeria; and whether this is a priority for the discussions on the Sustainable Development Goals during the forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. [HL6798]

Lord Bates: Remarkable progress has been made towards polio eradication in the last 30 years, with over 99% reduction in the number of polio cases. The UK has played a leading role in this process and UK support to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) will mean up to 45 million children can be vaccinated against polio each year until 2020. Only two Commonwealth countries, Nigeria and Pakistan, have not yet been declared polio-free. In February the UK’s support enabled GPEI to conduct a campaign to vaccinate almost 39 million children in Pakistan, and in April large-scale immunisation campaigns are planned in Nigeria. Nigeria has not seen a case of polio since 2016 and there has only been one case in Pakistan this year, meaning that these two countries are on track to eradicating polio. Health and communicable diseases will be a key focus of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, a forum which acknowledges polio as a global health priority.

Company Accounts

*Asked by Baroness Bowles of Berkhamsted*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether members of boards that set and endorse accounting standards (1) have the Financial Conduct Authority designation to represent the interest of public investors, and (2) have been adequately vetted for potential conflicts of interest. [HL6436]

Lord Henley: The UK requires the use of EU endorsed International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), which are issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). These standards are used by group companies listed on EU markets to prepare their annual financial statements. The IFRS Foundation is an international not-for-profit, public interest organisation. The IFRS Foundation Trustees are responsible for the governance and oversight of the IASB and are formally required to act in the public interest in the Foundation’s constitution, which is publicly available on their website.

The Trustees are accountable to the IFRS Foundation’s Monitoring Board. This monitoring function permits capital authorities to carry out their investor protection mandates. The European Commission is a member of the Monitoring Board acting on behalf of European capital markets.

The IFRS Foundation’s constitution only allows three out of fourteen members to be ‘part-time’. These part-time members are subject to guidelines of independence in the Foundation’s constitution established by the Trustees. All other members must be ‘full-time’, and therefore must commit all their paid employment time to the IFRS Foundation.

The Financial Reporting Council’s (FRC) Board sets UK Financial Reporting Standards, which are required to be used by private companies. The FRC is the prescribed body in Company Law to issue UK accounting standards. The members of FRC Board are not required to be designated to represent the interest of public investors in order to set accounting standards so no assessment of this is necessary. The FRC’s current Register of Interests is published on its website.

The Financial Conduct Authority plays no role in this process.

Conflict, Stability and Security Fund

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, following their contribution of £1.2 billion in the 2017–18 financial year to the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund, they have commissioned any analysis of the social, economic, political and cultural factors fuelling extremist Islamist jihadism in Nigeria and other beneficiary countries. [HL6788]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development commissioned a Joint Analysis of Conflict and Stability (JACS) in North East Nigeria. A JACS is a strategic assessment used to strengthen cross-government approaches to tackling conflict and instability overseas. All Conflict, Stability and Security Fund programmes use a wide range of analysis to inform their design.

Cost of Living

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made any assessment of the effect of Brexit on consumers, particularly regarding its effect on the cost of living. [HL6598]

Lord Henley: The Government is undertaking a wide range of analysis looking at the implications of UK withdrawal from the EU, including the implications for consumers. This programme of analysis is constantly developing and evolving. We continue to engage with a wide range of stakeholders, including consumer organisations, in order to inform our negotiations.

Countryside Stewardship Scheme

*Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what will be the role of (1) Natural England, and (2) the Rural Payments Agency, in administering countryside stewardship schemes after Brexit. [HL6458]
**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The administration of Countryside Stewardship and Environmental Stewardship will be moving from Natural England to the Rural Payments Agency in the autumn. Administration of CAP schemes in one organisation will provide a more joined up service for staff and customers. Natural England will continue working with farmers to get the best environmental outcomes from the schemes on the ground.

We know that farmers need stability, certainty and a smooth transition to a new system once the UK has left the EU. In our consultation paper “Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit”, published on 27 February, we set out our proposals for future agricultural policy. The paper emphasises that we will be looking to simplify existing schemes during the ‘agricultural transition’ period, including Countryside Stewardship, before we move to any new regime. The results of the consultation will help to inform the direction of our future policy, including how best to deliver it.

**Cybercrime**  
*Asked by Lord Lucas*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 16 March (HL6114), why a report of a receipt of a fraudulent approach which did not lead to any further action is not counted as a crime by Action Fraud. [HL6455]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The counting rules for crime, including fraud, stipulate that in such cases an information report should be recorded by Action Fraud either through their online reporting tool or via their contact centre.

These reports are retained in the Know Fraud database as another form of information capable of assisting the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau and UK law enforcement in determining lines of enquiry and protective messaging. The majority of such cases result from e-mails or other cyber based approaches generated in very large numbers and not specifically directed to the recipient.

**Data Protection**  
*Asked by Baroness Cavendish of Little Venice*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to extend the powers of the Information Commissioner to investigate companies which harvest large quantities of data from individuals. [HL6440]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The government wants a 'gold standard' data and privacy regulator that can enforce data protection laws. We are committed to ensuring the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) has sufficient powers to meet this ambition. The government's Data Protection Bill will strengthen legislation around data protection and give the ICO tougher powers to ensure organisations comply.

At every amending stage we have listened and amended the Bill where a strong case has been made (such as the new provision to protect children's data rights inserted at Lords Report; and the provision to ensure that data is shared for safeguarding purposes inserted at Commons Committee). We are currently considering whether amendments are needed to further strengthen the Information Commissioner's powers.

**Debts**  
*Asked by Lord Bird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of each of the six conclusions in the Royal Society for Public Health report, Life on Debt Row. [HL6606]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The Department is currently reviewing the six conclusions in the Royal Society for Public Health’s report Life on debt row.

The Government recognises that experiencing debt problems or a financial crisis can have a wide impact on a person’s health and mental and social wellbeing. The Government takes a comprehensive and strategic approach to reducing health inequalities that addresses the wider causes of ill-health, promotes healthier lifestyles for all and tackles differences in access and outcomes from health and public health services, underpinned by legal duties. Action is led locally to ensure the solutions put in place reflect the needs of individual communities.

The 2017 manifesto committed the Government to implement a Breathing Space scheme, with the right safeguards to prevent abuse, so that someone in serious problem debt may apply for legal protection from further interest, charges and enforcement action for a period of up to six weeks. Where appropriate, they would be offered a statutory repayment plan to help pay back their debts in a manageable way. A call to evidence to support development of the scheme was conducted between October 2017 and January 2018.

The National Health Service already provides some services to people who may be experiencing the symptoms of debt problems or financial difficulties. We are aware that some general practitioner (GP) practices signpost patients to debt advice services as part of their care and some practices have arrangements in place with local Citizens Advice Bureaux and debt advice services to provide outreach support in primary care. Mental health services, including Improving Access to Psychological Therapies services, may also signpost patients to debt advice services as part of their care.

In January 2017, the Prime Minister announced that the Government would review the practice of GPs charging patients experiencing debt issues to complete Mental Health Evidence Forms when they require medical evidence for their creditors. The Department is working with the Money and Mental Health Policy Institute and a
range of stakeholders from the financial and debt advice sectors and the British Medical Association to undertake the review, which we will publish in due course.

Defence

*Asked by Viscount Waverley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to proactively engage and collaborate further with the private sector in the prevention of, and action against, hybrid threats, to combat critical skill shortages and bring in further expertise; and if so, how. [HL6781]

*Earl Howe:* It is the responsibility of individual Government Departments to collaborate with their own sectors to ensure that the private sector is aware of the need to protect against hostile state activity, as part of their contribution to national resilience. For example, the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review made significant commitments on cyber and the National Cyber Security Strategy and in 2016 launched the National Cyber Security Centre.

*Asked by Viscount Waverley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have a definition of “hybrid threat”; if so, what is that definition; and which Government department is responsible for managing and coordinating the responses to such threats. [HL6848]

*Earl Howe:* Hybrid threats should be considered as Hostile State Activity and the Prime Minister set out in the 2018 National Security Capability Review that "we will harden our defences against all forms of Hostile State Activity". To achieve this we will "use a new national security doctrine, the Fusion Doctrine, to improve our collective approach to national security, building on the creation of the National Security Council eight years ago so that we use our security, economic and influence capabilities to maximum effect to protect, promote and project our national security, economic and influence goals." As highlighted in the Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015 we will continue to work with NATO and allies to tackle current threats and adapt to combat future threats, focusing on cyber and countering hybrid threats.

*Asked by Viscount Waverley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether sufficient resources are available to (1) pre-empt, and (2) address, a hybrid threat; whether those resources include mobilisation of the armed forces; and what other resources have been made available. [HL6849]

*Earl Howe:* Government Departments prioritise within their existing departmental budgets to adequately manage and mitigate all risks (including hazards, counter-terrorism and hostile state activity). The Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015 will continue to be implemented including specialist Army brigades focused on hybrid warfare and notably the £1.9 billion National Cyber Security Strategy to ensure the country keeps pace with the threat, including through the National Cyber Security Centre.

Dental Health

*Asked by Lord Colwyn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) standards of oral health for people aged 65 and over, and (2) whether standards of oral health have improved or deteriorated over the last five years. [HL6683]

*Lord O'Shaughnessy:* No decisions have been taken yet on the timing of the next Adult Dental Health Survey.

**Dental Health: Older People**

*Asked by Lord Colwyn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the prevalence of oral health problems amongst care home residents. [HL6684]

*Lord O'Shaughnessy:* The 2009 Adult Dental Health Survey contains information about the oral health of adults aged 65 and over including the proportion retaining one or more natural teeth, prevalence of tooth decay and the proportions reporting current dental pain. There has not been a subsequent national survey of this age group since then to assess whether oral health has improved or deteriorated. A copy of the Executive Summary: Adult Dental Health Survey 2009 is attached.

There has been no national assessment of the prevalence of oral health problems amongst care home residents.

In 2016, Public Health England (PHE) reported on oral health in older people in England and Wales using data from existing surveys.

The report found that older adults living in care homes were more likely to have no natural teeth and less likely to have a functional dentition; older adults living in care homes were more likely to have higher levels of tooth decay; care home managers experienced greater difficulty in accessing dental care for residents than household resident older adults did and; residents resisting oral care routines was the second most common oral health issue raised by care home managers. A copy of the report *What is Known About the Oral Health of Older People in England and Wales: A review of oral health surveys of older people* is attached.

In 2017, PHE reported on a nationally coordinated survey of the oral health of adults using domiciliary services in England undertaken between 2009-10 and
2010-11. Results showed that adult users of domiciliary care had fewer teeth present than their peers as reported in the 2009 Adult Dental Health Survey. A copy of the report Dental health among adults in contact with domiciliary care dental care services in England is attached.

In 2015/16, as part of the PHE National Dental Epidemiology Programme, a pilot dental survey was undertaken nationally of older people who have a mild level of dependency. The results are due to be published in summer 2018.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

- Adult Dental Health Survey Exec Summary [adult-dent-heat-surv-summ-them-exce-2009-rep2.pdf]
- Dental health among adults domiciliary care [Adultusersofdomiciliarcaredentalsummary.pdf]
- What is Known about the Oral Health of Older [What_is_known_about_the_oral_health_of_older_people.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-22/HL6570

**Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport: National Security**

*Asked by Viscount Waverley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what role the Department of Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport plays in responding to national security threats; and if that Department plays no formal role, which department responds to digital threats and other security threats relating to culture, the media, or sport. [HL6850]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The Department for Digital, Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) is the Lead Government Department for the Broadcast, Internet and Telecommunications sectors as parts of the UK’s Critical National Infrastructure. As such, DCMS is responsible for the government’s security and resilience policy within those sectors.

DCMS plays a key role in delivering the Government’s National Cyber Security Strategy to support a prosperous digital nation. DCMS also undertakes work to prevent internet harms, such as disinformation. Other security threats would be managed as appropriate by individual digital, culture and media organisations in conjunction with law enforcement and other agencies.

**Developing Countries: Diabetes**

*Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of UK official development assistance was allocated for the treatment of diabetes in the last two years. [HL6570]

**Lord Bates:** Details of the UK’s official development assistance spend on health are published in Statistics on International Development 2017 [SID-2017.pdf]. The material can be viewed online at:
http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-22/HL6570

**Diabetes**

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have for the long-term approach to diabetes. [HL6831]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The long-term approach to diabetes involves both seeking to reduce the increase in the prevalence of diabetes and, for those with diabetes, seeking to reduce the likelihood of developing complications and improving overall levels of treatment and care.

Work to reduce the increase in future prevalence of type 2 diabetes is being delivered through the NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme. By 2020, the programme will support up to 100,000 people at high risk of type 2 diabetes each year across England. Those referred will get tailored, personalised support over at least nine months to achieve a healthy weight, improve nutrition and increase levels of physical activity in order to reduce risks of developing type 2 diabetes.

Work on reducing the likelihood of those with diabetes developing complications is through the diabetes treatment and care programme. This focuses on four key interventions:

- Increasing attendance at structured education by both those newly diagnosed with diabetes and those who have had the condition for a longer period;
- Increasing achievement of the diabetes treatment targets and reducing variation in achievement of these targets between clinical commissioning groups and between general practitioner practices;
- Reducing the levels of amputations by increasing the availability of multidisciplinary footcare teams; and
- Reducing lengths of inpatient stay for people with diabetes by increasing the availability of diabetes inpatient specialist nurses.

**Diabetes: Health Education**

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that there is adequate education in schools regarding awareness of diabetes. [HL6829]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** It is important that children with medical conditions such as diabetes are supported to enjoy a full education. We have introduced a duty on governing bodies to make arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions and provided statutory guidance, which is attached, outlining schools’ responsibilities in this area.

As part of this guidance, we have provided a collection of links to useful resources to help schools support their pupils with medical conditions. This includes a link to the ‘diabetes in schools’ section of the Diabetes UK website. The Answer includes the following attached material:

Supporting_school_pupils_with_medical_conditions[HL6829 attachment.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at: http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-29/HL6829

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that there is adequate education for newly diagnosed Type 1 diabetics. [HL6830]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The Diabetes Transformation Fund is supporting 137 clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), in partnership with local providers, to expand the numbers of structured education places for patients with type 1 or type 2 diabetes. £10.2 million is being made available to support this in 2018/19. Evidence has also been highlighted to CCGs setting out how investment in structured education should both improve outcomes and result in re-investable savings over the medium term.

The National Diabetes Audit, carried out by NHS Digital with funding from NHS England, supports CCGs and providers to understand local levels of referral to, and attendance at type 1 structured education and how these compare to other CCGs.

**Diabetes: Medical Equipment**

*Asked by Lord Morris of Aberavon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to ensure that the FreeStyle Libre flash glucose monitoring system is accessible to all diabetes patients who would benefit from it. [HL6508]

**Asked by Lord Morris of Aberavon**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effect of flash glucose monitoring on the management of diabetes. [HL6509]

**Asked by Lord Morris of Aberavon**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there are plans to encourage Clinical Commissioning Groups to review their policies on prescribing flash glucose monitoring systems to those with type 1 diabetes on the NHS. [HL6510]

**Asked by Lord Morris of Aberavon**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to monitor access to flash glucose monitoring to ensure its availability in all areas of England. [HL6511]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The flash glucose testing monitoring system known as the Freestyle Libre was approved for reimbursement on National Health Service prescription from 1 November 2017 through its listing in Part IX of the NHS England and Wales Drug Tariff.

The listing of a medical device in the Drug Tariff should not be interpreted as a recommendation to prescribe a particular product. Flash glucose testing is not suitable for everyone. The Regional Medicines Optimisation Committee has issued advice on the use of Freestyle Libre to support decisions about its use. Patients will need to discuss the ongoing management of their condition with their healthcare professional and consider whether flash glucose monitoring is suitable for them.

The Department has no plans to ask clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) to review their prescribing policies or monitor access to flash glucose monitoring.

Within its financial constraints, the NHS is committed to providing access to new drugs and medical technologies. Ultimately it is for 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. This includes determining whether specific technologies, such as flash glucose monitoring, form part of their service and if it is suitable for individual patients to support the ongoing management of their condition.

**Diabetes: Research**

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking, if any, to ensure that research into a cure for diabetes is undertaken in the UK. [HL6828]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The Department’s National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) welcomes funding applications for research into any aspect of human health, including diabetes; it is not usual practice to ring-fence
funds for particular topics or conditions. Applications are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made on the basis of the importance of the topic to patients and health and care services, value for money and scientific quality.

The NIHR supports research studies through its funding programmes, training and support for health researchers, and through providing world-class research facilities. The NIHR currently has £23,171,620 of funding for research into treatments for diabetes. Last year, NIHR infrastructure, through the Clinical Research Network, supported more than 100 new studies and recruited 37,857 patients to diabetes studies.

**Dover Strait: Tugboats**

*Asked by Earl Attlee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to review the provision of Emergency Towing Vessels covering the Strait of Dover. [HL6791]

**Baroness Sugg:** In light of a recent recommendation by the Marine Accident Investigation Branch, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency intends to commission a study to review the full range of emergency response assets available in the Dover Strait area, including a reassessment of the need for a dedicated emergency towing capability.

**Driverless Vehicles**

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Goss Moor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any autonomous or semi-autonomous driving trials have been approved for public roads in the UK, using purely optical cameras or radar, without LIDAR systems. [HL6591]

**Baroness Sugg:** The Government does not approve trials of automated vehicle technology. As set out in the UK Code of Practice, developers can carry out trials if they are conducted in line with UK law. This includes having: 1) a safety driver (in or out of the vehicle) who is ready, able, and willing to resume control of the vehicle; 2) a roadworthy vehicle; and 3) appropriate insurance. The Code makes it clear that it is for developers to assure themselves that they are complying with the law.

Around a dozen current publicly funded projects will be undertaking trials on automated vehicles up to 2021. The vehicles, in general, have a combination of sensor types, for example vision, radar, sonar and/or lidar, to suit the needs of the environmental conditions and use case. The Government does not stipulate what sensor suites projects should use. It is up to project partners to demonstrate what suite will safely deliver on road trials in line with current road traffic law, as highlighted in the UK Code of Practice.

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Goss Moor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there have been any injuries incurred during autonomous or semi-autonomous driving trials in the UK. [HL6592]

**Baroness Sugg:** The Government is not aware of any UK trials involving automated vehicles that have resulted in injuries. There are already requirements to report collisions in current road traffic law, so developers must comply with those requirements.

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will list (1) all autonomous or semi-autonomous driving trials approved in the UK, and (2) any approved on public roads. [HL6593]

**Baroness Sugg:** The UK’s Code of Practice provides guidance on testing automated vehicle technologies on public roads or in other public places in the UK.

The Government does not approve trials of automated vehicle technology that are carried out in line with the current UK Code of Practice. It is for manufacturers to ensure they are taking appropriate steps to ensure their trials comply with the law.

Information about the trials that are being co-funded by Government is available as a booklet entitled “UK Connected and Autonomous Vehicle Research and Development Projects 2017” online. A copy of the booklet is attached for ease of reference.

The Answer includes the following attached material:


The material can be viewed online at: [http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-22/HL6593](http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-22/HL6593)

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Goss Moor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what evidence is required of the safety of autonomous or semi-autonomous driving systems before they are, or will be, approved for use in the UK; and what is the testing system in such cases. [HL6612]

**Baroness Sugg:** The UK Code of Practice, published in July 2015, sets out that developers can carry out trials of automated vehicle technology if they are conducted in line with UK law. This includes having: 1) a safety driver (in or out of the vehicle) who is ready, able, and willing to resume control of the vehicle; 2) a roadworthy vehicle; and 3) appropriate insurance. The Code makes it clear that it is for developers to assure themselves that they are complying with the law and conducting trials safely.

The Government plans to update the Code of Practice in Summer 2018, to provide guidance to support true self-driving tests. We are working to develop an application process, with assessments being made on a case by case basis.
Drug Interventions Programme

*Asked by Lord Patel of Bradford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the funding previously assigned to the Drug Interventions Programme to tackle drug-related offending by helping drug-using offenders to access treatment will be retained; and whether that funding will continue to be focused on the specific needs of that group of people. [HL6701]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Home Office funding previously assigned to the Drug Interventions Programme is now part of money allocated to Police and Crime Commissioners. This has been the case since 2012/2013 in London, and from 2013/2014 for the rest of England and Wales.

The Government continues to encourage use of drug testing on arrest to support police forces in monitoring new patterns around drugs and crime and provide an early opportunity to refer offenders into treatment.

Duaa Alwadaei

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Bahraini Criminal Court's conviction and sentencing of Duaa Alwadaei. [HL6555]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have been closely monitoring the case of Duaa Alwadaei who has been tried in absentia after failing to attend court on charges of assault. Officials from the British Embassy were present at the recent hearing. We understand that Mrs Alwadaei has the right to appeal the sentence.

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the UN Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, published on 27 March 2017, finding that the charges brought against Duaa Alwadaei are related to Sayed Ahmed Alwadaei’s human rights activity in the UK. [HL6839]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have been closely monitoring the case of Duaa Alwadaei who has been tried in absentia after failing to attend court on charges of assault. Officials from the British Embassy in Bahrain were present at the recent hearing. We understand that Mrs Alwadaei has the right to appeal the sentence. We have raised the case at a senior level with the Bahraini authorities. The Government of Bahrain has also released public statements on the case, with assurances that the legal case are not related to Mr Al Wadaei's activities. We understand that Mr Al Wadaei has been able to continue his work.

Dulwich Hamlet Football Club

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth on 28 March (HL Deb, col 830), what steps they have taken to find a mediator to bring the various parties together to seek a solution to the present impasse concerning Dulwich Hamlet Football Club. [HL6813]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: Southwark Council has asked its Director of Regeneration to start negotiations with a view to purchasing the site. During a debate on this issue in Parliament on 16 March the Sports Minister confirmed that should the negotiations fail, she will look to find and appoint an independent mediator who can facilitate the constructive talks needed between all parties and, in the process, help to secure a future for this well-supported community club for many years to come.

East Coast Railway Line

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which modifications to railway infrastructure between Peterborough and Doncaster they have considered in the last two years; and whether Network Rail has been asked to develop any scheme to improve resilience. [HL6654]

Baroness Sugg: Infrastructure works to improve line speeds on the approach to Peterborough station and the grade separation of Werrington Junction, north of Peterborough, are at the design stage and are subject to a Department for Transport investment decision this Summer. Works to improve capacity at Doncaster station have been completed, including a new platform which opened in December 2016.

Network Rail are responsible for the operation and maintenance of the railway. Their plans for Control Period 6, which include building network resilience, are set out in their Strategic Business Plan for the London North Eastern and East Midlands route which have been published on their website.

Eastern Europe: NATO

*Asked by Viscount Waverley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what coordination exists between NATO partners and those Eastern European nations most vulnerable to cyber-attacks and hybrid threats. [HL6778]

Earl Howe: At its 2016 Summit in Warsaw, NATO made a Cyber Defence Pledge to strengthen both individual and collective capability. The Alliance now engages regularly with its European partners to discuss Cyber and Hybrid threats at both the strategic and operational level. The NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence
Centre of Excellence (based in Tallinn) and the European Centre of Excellence for countering Hybrid Threats (based in Helsinki) provide expertise and encourage cooperation and information-sharing among NATO Allies, EU Member States, and their partners. The UK is a leading participant in both Centres.

**Egypt: Political Prisoners**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Egypt about the political prisoners (1) Gehad El Haddad, held in solitary confinement at Al Aqrab Prison, (2) Abdel Moneim Aboul Fotouh, held in solitary confinement at Tora Prison, and (3) Essam El Haddad, held in solitary confinement at Al Aqrab Prison. [HL6610]

*Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:* Egypt is an FCO Human Rights Priority Country and the UK regularly raises concerns about human rights with the Government of Egypt. We have not raised these individual cases with the Egyptian authorities, but will continue to urge them to ensure all detainees benefit from the protections and rights afforded to them by the Egyptian Constitution and are treated in accordance with relevant international human right standards.

**Electric Vehicles**

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Goss Moor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the TESLA model 3 has received type approval in the UK. [HL6594]

*Baroness Sugg:* The Tesla Model 3 has not received type approval from the Vehicle Certification Agency, which is the UK's Type Approval Authority. *Asked by Lord Taylor of Goss Moor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the TESLA model 3 has undergone safety tests applicable for use in the UK. [HL6595]

*Baroness Sugg:* The Tesla Model 3 has not undergone any safety or environmental tests in the UK as would be required for the Vehicle Certification Agency to issue a European Whole Vehicle Type Approval (ECWVTA), or an Individual Vehicle Approval (IVA) certificate.

Testing could be undertaken by other EU Type Approval Authorities but the Department for Transport would only become aware of such testing when the type approval certificate is issued, or when the vehicle manufacturer seeks first registration in the UK.

**Embassies: Cambridge Analytica and SCL Group**

*Asked by Lord Hain*

To ask Her Majesty's Government on how many occasions have any British High Commissions or Embassies put potential clients in touch with representatives of SCL Elections or Cambridge Analytica. [HL6636]

*Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:* The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not identified any occasions where British High Commissions or Embassies put potential clients in touch with representatives of those companies.

**Estonia: Defence**

*Asked by Viscount Waverley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have conducted with the government of Estonia to learn from recent hybrid threat activities targeting that state, to help prevent further hybrid threats against the UK. [HL6779]

*Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:* We have a very strong and productive relationship with the Government of Estonia, and work closely together at ministerial and senior official level on a range of defence and security issues, including on how to tackle hybrid threats. We do so bilaterally and also through institutions such as the EU, NATO and the European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has posted an adviser to the region who is responsible for enhancing the UK's co-operation with the Governments of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania on these issues.

**EU Common Foreign and Security Policy**

*Asked by Baroness Quin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what institutional mechanisms for future involvement in EU foreign policy cooperation they envisage for the UK after Brexit. [HL6650]

*Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:* On leaving the EU, the UK will pursue an independent foreign policy. The future security partnership with the EU should respect both the EU's decision-making autonomy and the UK's sovereignty, and enable us to combine our efforts to the greatest effect where this is in our shared interest. We aim to be able to consult regularly with the EU, deliver operationally through EU mechanisms where this is in our shared interest, and work together on developing defence, cyber and space capabilities.
**EURATOM**

*Asked by Lord Warner*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Lord Henley on 20 March (HL Deb, col 219) that they will seek a "close association" with Euratom after Brexit, what areas they seek to cover in such an association; whether they have engaged in (1) meetings, and (2) correspondence, with Euratom about such an association; if not, when they will approach Euratom about such an association; and whether they will report on progress on that issue in the regular reports to Parliament provided for in the Nuclear Safeguards Bill. [HL6602]

**Lord Henley:** The Government has made clear that its ambition for a close association with the Euratom Community after the UK’s withdrawal from the European Union includes seeking a close association with the Euratom Research and Training Programme, including the Joint European Torus (JET) and the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) projects; continuity of open trade arrangements for nuclear goods and products to ensure that the nuclear industry is able to continue to trade across EU borders without disruption; and close and effective cooperation with Euratom on nuclear safety.

The negotiations on the future relationship between the UK and the EU have not yet begun so no formal meetings have yet taken place on the nature of the future relationship with Euratom. The Government has ensured that the European Commission is aware of the Government’s January Ministerial Statement setting out the UK’s objective of close association on Euratom and what this would cover. This was reinforced in my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister’s speech at Mansion House on 2 March. The Government will continue to report on progress through its quarterly reports to Parliament, the first of which was made on 26 March.

**European Commission Representation in the UK**

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports of support being given by the European Commission Representation in London to organisations which oppose Brexit; and what assessment they have made of the impact of such assistance on UK–EU relations. [HL6660]

**Baroness Quin**

To ask Her Majesty's Government in which areas of foreign policy cooperation with the EU they hope to continue participating after Brexit. [HL6651]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We intend to work closely on all existing areas of co-operation.

**Export Credit Guarantees: Sudan**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any British companies are receiving export credit guarantees for undertaking work in Sudan; and if so, which, and in what work they are engaged. [HL6744]

**Baroness Fairhead:** Exports to Sudan are not eligible for UK Export Finance (UKEF) support. As such, no British companies are currently receiving export credit guarantees for work in Sudan.

**Farmers: Income**

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the total taxable income of UK farmers in each of the last ten years; and in each of those years, what were the total payments received by UK farmers from the EU Common Agricultural Policy. [HL6768]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Defra produces annual estimates of the Total Income from Farming. This is the total profit from all UK farming businesses and measures the return to all entrepreneurs for their management, labour and capital invested. It does not include income to farmers or farming households from non-agricultural activities or sources.

The total profit (Total Income from Farming) is the total net contribution minus depreciation of farm assets, payment of wages, rent, interest and taxes and addition of “subsidies on production”. As this is an aggregate measure of net profit (which is then subject to income tax), we are unable to say how much tax is actually paid as this will depend on how this profit is distributed across farms. Some farms will pay no income tax as their income is below the personal threshold limit, and others will pay tax at the higher rate.

The “subsidies on production” includes payments to farmers from the Basic Payment Scheme, agri-environment schemes, less favoured areas support schemes, and animal disease compensation.

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### Financial Services: Technology

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proposals they have for fisheries policy in the Irish Sea after the UK leaves the EU. [HL6725]

**Lord Bates:** The government is taking significant steps to ensure that the UK continues to be a global leader in the financial technology sector, and how they are attracting new firms to that sector.

For example, Open Banking, launched in January through a managed roll-out, is a radical intervention, driven by government, that will allow consumers and SMEs to access a range of new and innovative products that better meet their needs by providing third party providers with secure access to their current accounts. Open Banking uses standardised Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), making it easier and cheaper for Fintech firms to deploy their products.

The government has also recently launched a Fintech Sector Strategy, setting out the action the government has taken to make the UK the best place to grow a Fintech business, and further interventions in partnership with the regulators and industry to help maintain this position. For instance, the Strategy includes pilot schemes to help new fintech firms (and the financial services industry more widely) comply with regulations by building software which would automatically ensure they follow the rules, saving them time and money, and the creation of a set of industry standards which will enable fintech firms to more easily partner with existing banks.

### Fisheries: Irish Sea

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on the UK fishing industry of UK fish quotas potentially being sold to foreign-owned firms after Brexit. [HL6503]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Irish Sea is an important fishing ground for the UK’s Fisheries Administrations. Leaving the EU will provide an opportunity to reach new agreements on access and quota arrangements. We will be working to secure the best deal in the negotiations for the whole of the UK fishing industry. Our future vision for a sustainable fisheries policy will be set out in the Fisheries White Paper, which will be published in due course.

### Fisheries: Quotas

*Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans, if any, they have to distribute some of the UK's unused quota for fish with inshore fishermen. [HL6504]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The UK Government places a high value on the work of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) in providing research including fisheries stock assessments. Senior scientists at the Centre for Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) laboratory in Lowestoft are members of ICES working groups developing the stock assessments.

We will be setting a gold standard for sustainable fishing and protection of the marine environment around the world. We want to pass on a healthy marine environment and profitable British fishing industry to the next generation. In order to do this we need to use the best science available to support management.

Therefore, we intend to continue to collect marine and fisheries data to inform ICES research and stock assessments. We will continue to use their research outputs to support our work in setting fishing opportunities post-Brexit.

*Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to continue to rely on the research provided by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea in relation to setting quotas for fishing in waters in the UK post-Brexit. [HL6503]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Irish Sea is an important fishing ground for the UK’s Fisheries Administrations. Leaving the EU will provide an opportunity to reach new agreements on access and quota arrangements. We will be working to secure the best deal in the negotiations for the whole of the UK fishing industry. Our future vision for a sustainable fisheries policy will be set out in the Fisheries White Paper, which will be published in due course.

### Financial Services: Quotas

**Financial Services: Technology**

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that the UK continues to be a global leader in the financial technology sector, and how they are attracting new firms to that sector.

**Lord Bates:** The government is taking significant steps to ensure that the UK continues to be a global leader in financial technology.

For example, Open Banking, launched in January through a managed roll-out, is a radical intervention, driven by government, that will allow consumers and SMEs to access a range of new and innovative products that better meet their needs by providing third party providers with secure access to their current accounts. Open Banking uses standardised Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), making it easier and cheaper for Fintech firms to deploy their products.

The government has also recently launched a Fintech Sector Strategy, setting out the action the government has taken to make the UK the best place to grow a Fintech business, and further interventions in partnership with the regulators and industry to help maintain this position. For instance, the Strategy includes pilot schemes to help new fintech firms (and the financial services industry more widely) comply with regulations by building software which would automatically ensure they follow the rules, saving them time and money, and the creation of a set of industry standards which will enable fintech firms to more easily partner with existing banks.
The economic link conditions currently associated with UK fishing licenses were introduced in 1999 to make sure a genuine economic benefit is accrued to the UK from economic activities derived from UK fishing opportunities.

The economic link condition requires either:
- at least 50% of quota species landings are made into the UK,
- at least 50% of crew must be UK residents,
- at least 50% of operating expenditure is made in the UK, or
- gifting of quota to the under 10m pool.

We are reviewing the economic link condition as part of the development of our future fisheries management arrangements.

**Fluoride: Drinking Water**

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with Bedford Borough Council concerning the obligation to ensure that any proposal to terminate water fluoridation schemes is only determined after appropriate consultation, as set out in the Water Industry Act 1991. [HL6639]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Bedford Borough Council has consulted (1) the Secretary of State, and (2) the water undertaker, on whether that Council's proposal to terminate the water fluoridation scheme in Bedford can be deemed operable and efficient. [HL6640]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Bedford Borough Council has consulted (1) the Secretary of State, and (2) the water undertaker, on whether that Council's proposal to terminate the water fluoridation scheme in Bedford can be deemed reasonably practical. [HL6641]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have sought advice from Public Health England on the impact on oral health of the intention of Bedford Borough Council to terminate the water fluoridation scheme in Bedford. [HL6642]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have drawn the attention of Bedford Borough Council to the provisions contained in the Water Fluoridation (Proposals and Consultation) (England) Regulations 2013, concerning that Council's proposal to terminate the water fluoridation scheme in Bedford. [HL6643]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The responsibility for oral health improvement and the power to make proposals in relation to water fluoridation rests with local authorities and Public Health England (PHE) has not been asked to make an independent assessment of the potential oral health impact of any proposal from Bedford Borough Council.

Bedford Borough Council has made a formal proposal to vary water fluoridation arrangements but the Secretary of State has not yet been asked for an opinion on whether the arrangements as varied would be operable and efficient, nor has a view of the water undertaker on this matter or any practical aspects to giving effect to such variation been supplied.

PHE published a water fluoridation toolkit, *Improving oral health: a community water fluoridation toolkit for local authorities*, in 2016 to support local authorities and PHE’s national and local leads have provided advice to Bedford Borough Council on the evidence base and processes required by legislation should they wish to proceed with a proposal to vary or terminate water fluoridation arrangements. This includes advising them of the requirement to ensure appropriate consultation is undertaken and directing them to the relevant Act and regulations before any proposals for termination. A copy of *Improving oral health: a community water fluoridation toolkit for local authorities* is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Fluoridation Toolkit [Fluoridation_Toolkit_-_Publications_gateway_version_20160304.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-26/HL6639

**Food: Expenditure**

*Asked by Lord Jopling*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the proportion of the average family budget taken up by food in (1) 1988, (2) 1998, (3) 2008, and (4) 2018. [HL6808]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from John Pullinger CB, National Statistician, to Lord Jopling, dated 10 April 2018

As National Statistician and Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority, I am replying to your Parliamentary Question asking what is the estimate of the proportion of the average family budget taken up by food in (1) 1988, (2) 1998, (3) 2008, and (4) 2018 (HL6808).

Table 1 shows household expenditure on food and non-alcoholic drinks as a percentage of total household expenditure in the UK from 1987 to financial year ending 2017. The estimates are based on data from the *Living Costs and Food Survey (LCF)*and its predecessor the *Family Expenditure Survey*.

In Table 1 below, ‘expenditure on food’ includes food brought home, food eaten away from the home in
restaurants or cafés, and take-away food. Data is collected at a household level but is a reasonable indication of family expenditure. We have provided this data in ten-year intervals in line with the latest available data for financial year ending 2017. The period of data collection has changed over time, therefore the time series presented in the table is made up of financial and calendar year time points.

Table 1: Household expenditure on food and non-alcoholic drink [1] as a proportion of total expenditure at 2016/17 Prices [2], 1987 to financial year ending 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1987</th>
<th>1996/97</th>
<th>2006/07</th>
<th>2016/17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of total expenditure on Food and non-alcoholic drinks</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Office for National Statistics, Living Costs and Food Survey

Yours sincerely,
John Pullinger

[1] Based on the Family Expenditure Survey classification (FES); food includes food brought home, food eaten away from the home in restaurants or cafés, as well as take-away food.

[2] Figures have been deflated to 2016/17 prices using the RPI all items index.

[3] From 2001/02 onwards, commodities and services are based on the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP) codes broadly mapped to FES.

Food: Import Duties

*Asked by Lord Jopling*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of how much food prices would decrease if the current external import tariffs were removed. [HL6809]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Currently the most important drivers of change in the cost of food are commodity prices, exchange rates and oil prices. These will continue to apply when we leave the EU.

Economic models attempt to predict the impact of food prices of changes in our trading relationships with the EU and the rest of the world. Defra economists continue to monitor this work.

Football: Clubs

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the adequacy of protections for community football clubs. [HL6812]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: Football clubs face many challenges in maintaining their facilities, supporting participation and fulfilling many other important community roles.

Through the Football Foundation, jointly funded by the DCMS, The Football Association and the Premier League over £595 million in grants have been provided for community clubs to help create new changing rooms, playing surfaces and stadia improvements since its inception in 2000.

Football clubs and their supporters can also take advantage of the powers contained within the Localism Act 2011 to list their stadiums as Assets of Community Value. Nearly 40 stadiums are currently listed.

Clubs remain an important part of local communities and DCMS will continue to work with the football authorities and influential fan groups like Supporters Direct to help provide support to community clubs. As the Minister for Sport set out most recently during an adjournment debate on the 16 March, she will be asking the Football Association to carry out a review into what further protection might be offered to football clubs at all levels of the game.

Forced Marriage

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government in how many cases during 2017 the Forced Marriage Unit provided advice or support related to possible forced marriage to (1) a person aged 15 or under, and (2) a person aged 16 or 17. [HL6776]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The UK is a world-leader in the fight to stamp out the brutal practice of forced marriage, with our joint Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) which leads efforts to combat it both at home and abroad. We made forced marriage a criminal offence in 2014 to better protect victims and send a clear message that this abhorrent practice is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated in the UK.

The FMU publishes statistics annually. The most recent statistics, published on 8 March 2017, show that the FMU gave advice or support related to a possible forced marriage in 1,428 cases. A breakdown shows that the FMU gave advice and support to 220 people between the ages of 1-15 and 151 people aged 16-17.

Statistics for 2017 will be published in due course.

Foreign Investment in UK: Republic of Ireland

*Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much foreign direct investment there was into the UK from the Republic of Ireland during the last five years. [HL6571]

Baroness Fairhead: In the last five years the Department for International Trade has recorded a total of 257 investments into the UK from the Republic of Ireland...
with the creation of 10,443 new and 3,025 safeguarded jobs.

**Free School Meals**

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they will estimate the earnings of self-employed people for the purposes of calculating entitlement to free school meals. [HL6764]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** We will assess the earnings of self-employed people based on their net earned income over a period of up to three months. Where families’ actual annualised net earned income is below the £7,400 annual threshold, their children will be eligible for free school meals. We have issued guidance to local authorities and schools to clarify this point.

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the annual cost of extending free school meals to all children in families on Universal Credit over and above that of the proposed income threshold scheme, broken down by costs for (1) free school meals, and (2) the pupil premium. [HL6765]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** We estimate that providing free school meals (FSM) to all children from households receiving Universal Credit would result in around half of all pupils becoming eligible for FSM. This would be over three times as many as the 1.1 million (14%) that are currently eligible for and claiming FSM in the latest figures. We estimate that this would cost in excess of £3 billion more a year, including the cost of the extra meals and associated school deprivation funding, such as the pupil premium. The additional meal costs alone would be in excess of £450 million per year.

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the administrative costs associated with the proposed income threshold for assessing eligibility for free school meals; and what is their estimate of the administrative cost if entitlement were extended to all children in families on Universal Credit. [HL6766]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** We have updated our electronic Eligibility Checking System to ensure that these changes do not increase the administrative burden on schools and local authorities. They can continue to check eligibility through this system as before.

We have not made any estimates of the administrative cost to schools and local authorities if entitlement was extended to all children from families receiving Universal Credit (UC). It was never our intention that eligibility should be extended to all children in families on UC and if it was, this would involve a significant increase in the cost to the taxpayer.

**Freezing of Assets**

*Asked by Viscount Waverley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their freeze and seize programme consists of; when it will be implemented; how; and which Government department will lead on delivery of that programme. [HL6777]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government is committed to ensuring that enforcement agencies have the necessary tools available to effectively seize and freeze the financial assets of criminals and terrorists.

To this end the Government brought in the Criminal Finances Act 2017 (CFA) which amended the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 and the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA). The CFA provided for the freezing and forfeiture (including administrative forfeiture, without the need for a court order) of terrorist property held in bank accounts, and introduced unexplained wealth orders (UWOs) which allow the seizure/freezing and forfeiture of funds and property over £50,000 where it is believed the owner is involved in serious crime.

The bulk of the secondary legislation implementing the CFA came into force on 31 January 2018. The Home Office are responsible for the legislative implementation of these powers, which are used by enforcement agencies.

**Gaming Machines**

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether all submissions to the Consultation on proposals for changes to Gaming Machines and Social Responsibility Measures will be published alongside the review. [HL6588]

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether all meetings civil servants and ministers have had with stakeholders about the Consultation on proposals for changes to Gaming Machines and Social Responsibility Measures; and what were the (1) dates, (2) locations, and (3) attendees, of each of those meetings. [HL6590]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The Government set out four illustrative options at consultation for a stake reduction on B2 gaming machines. We are considering all the available evidence, including advice from the Gambling Commission and published research, and will set out our response in due course. As part of this the Government intends to publish the key responses to the consultation, subject to the respondents permission.
Written Answers 16 April 2018 Page 27

The following table lists the meetings that civil servants have had with stakeholders where the consultation was mentioned or discussed since it was launched on 31 October 2017. Details of Ministerial meetings are published quarterly on gov.uk.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>17/11/17</td>
<td>GambleAware</td>
<td>DCMS</td>
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<td>21/11/17</td>
<td>All Party Parliamentary Group on FOBTs</td>
<td>Palace of Westminster</td>
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<td>22/11/2017</td>
<td>Gambling Business Group (GBG)</td>
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<td>Remote Gambling Association (RGA)</td>
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<td>27/11/2017</td>
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<td>28/11/2017</td>
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<td>30/11/2017</td>
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<td>10/01/18</td>
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<tr>
<td>24/1/18</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>DCMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30/1/18</td>
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<td>DCMS</td>
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<tr>
<td>31/01/2018</td>
<td>GambleAware, Advertising Standards Authority (ASA), Committees of Advertising Practice (CAP), Advertising Association (AA), ISBA, ITV, Channel 4, Sky, Remote Gambling Association (RGA), Senet</td>
<td>DCMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/2/18</td>
<td>ABB</td>
<td>DCMS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gender Recognition

**Asked by Lord Storey**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to declassify transgender as a mental disorder. [HL6721]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Government is not responsible for the classification of mental illnesses. The most widely used relevant classification systems for the diagnosis of illnesses is the International Classification of Diseases (ICD), published by the World Health Organization, and for mental illness, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) edited by the American Psychiatric Association.

The DSM removed references to transgender as a mental disorder in its last revision in 2013. The ICD still contains classifications of gender identity as mental disorders, and this aspect is currently subject to revision.

**Asked by Baroness Barker**

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to conclude the consultation on reform of the Gender Recognition Act 2004. [HL6792]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: In July 2017, we announced our intention to consult on reforming the Gender Recognition Act 2004. We are currently considering the content of the consultation, and we will be publishing the consultation in due course. The consultation will run for at least 12 weeks.

We have been using the time since announcing our intention to consult, to analyse the responses from transgender people who responded to our National LGBT survey. In this survey, we asked about the views and experiences of transgender people who have applied for a Gender Recognition Certificate under the GRA. We will publish the results of this survey shortly.

Ahead of the consultation launch, we have also begun engaging with a wide range of people and organisations. These organisations include transgender, LGBT, women’s rights and faith groups.

The Government recognises that there are a wide range of views on how we might reform the Act. It has been
valuable to hear these different voices prior to the consultation and we will continue to engage with stakeholders before, during, and after the consultation.

We are also working across Whitehall to ensure we fully understand what impact there could be from any reform to the Gender Recognition Act.

**Government Departments: Cambridge Analytica and SCL Group**

*Asked by Lord Hain*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to withdraw any current List X accreditation, or other Government endorsed security clearance, granted to (1) Cambridge Analytica, and (2) Strategic Communication Laboratories. [HL6609]

**Earl Howe:** Our records indicate that neither Cambridge Analytica nor SCL Group currently hold List X accreditation.

**Grangewood School**

*Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance they intend to give to the Newham local education authority to ensure that the education of pupils of Grangewood Independent School in Forest Gate is safeguarded following the school's closure. [HL6847]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** If an independent school closes, the parents of children of compulsory school age who were attending the school are responsible for ensuring they receive a suitable full-time education. If they wish to apply for a state school place rather than attending a different independent school, they can make this request to the local authority (LA). The relevant LA has a duty to ensure that sufficient school places are available for children living in its area. Based on the latest data, there are around 2,400 unfulfilled primary places in good or outstanding schools in Newham.

**Great Western Railway: Standards**

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the reasons for the deterioration in Great Western Railway's Public Performance Measure (PPM), as reported by the Office of Road and Rail; and what assessment they have made of the reasons why train punctuality is at the lowest level since 2007–08. [HL6706]

**Baroness Sugg:** When the Secretary of State for Transport announced the High Level Output Specification for Network Rail on 20 July 2017, my Rt Hon Friend made clear the government is determined that the railway becomes more focused on punctuality and reliability. On the basis of independent advice from the Office of Rail and Road, as well as from the rail industry, the government has agreed that an increased volume of renewals activity will be needed over the course of control period 6, to maintain safety and to improve on current levels of reliability and punctuality, which in places fall short of the levels that passengers rightly expect.

In relation to the recent increase in train crew-related performance issues on Great Western Railway train services, we understand that the key issue has been difficulties in securing sufficient training of crew on the new trains now entering service as a result of the trains themselves being available later than originally planned because of the delays to electrification of the Great Western Main Line.

**Grenfell Tower: Fire Regulations**

*Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to identify and publish (1) the type of fire doors installed at Grenfell Tower in 2013, and (2) the manufacturer that supplied those doors; whether they have established which public bodies, local authorities, housing associations, and other volume users have used and fitted the same fire door type in the last 10 years; and if so, whether they will publish a list of those bodies. [HL6434]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The doors identified by the police investigation into the fire at Grenfell Tower were produced by Manse Masterdor. This company is no longer trading.

As the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government set out in his statement on 15 March, we have begun the process of conducting further tests, and we will continue to consult our expert panel to identify the implications of those further tests. The Secretary of State committed to updating the House when further information is available, and no later than the end of April.

The Expert Panel has advised that the risk to public safety remains low. There is no change to the fire safety advice that the public should follow.

*Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth on 28 March (HL6432 and 6433), whether they intend the detailed questions contained and unanswered in the
reply to be covered by the inquiry currently being undertaken by Sir Martin Moore-Bick. [HL6749]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** With regard to your previous question HL6432 the Government is taking forward this work at pace and on the Expert Panels’ advice we are conducting a thorough investigation including further testing as quickly as possible. We are committed to providing an update by the end of April.

With regard to your previous question HL6433 and the 6 questions therein, the Grenfell Tower Inquiry is examining the circumstances leading up to and surrounding the fire at Grenfell Tower on 14 June 2017. It will establish the facts and will make recommendations as to the action needed to prevent a similar tragedy happening again. The Metropolitan police service is leading the criminal investigation into the circumstances surrounding the fire. Both the public inquiry and criminal investigation are independent from government and it would be wrong for me to comment on the scope of those investigations.

**Grenfell Tower: Fires**

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many survivors from the Grenfell Tower fire have moved into permanent accommodation. [HL6582]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Data provided by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea shows that, as of 22 March, 147 out of the 212 households from Grenfell Tower and Walk that need to be rehoused have accepted an offer of permanent accommodation. Of that number, 62 households have now moved into permanent accommodation.

The Council reports that it has made over 300 permanent homes available for survivors from Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk. It is critical that these properties meet the highest safety standards, and contractors have been appointed to ensure that necessary repairs and safety checks are carried out as a priority so that households will be able to move into their new homes.

I expect all households - regardless of their level of engagement - to be given whatever support they require to be rehoused as quickly as possible.

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when Ministers last met Councillors or officials from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea to discuss issues surrounding Grenfell Tower. [HL6583]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Secretary of State spoke to the Leader of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) on 21 March to discuss issues relating to their Grenfell Tower recovery programme. The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, chairs a regular Ministerial Recovery Group, which Councillors and officials from RBKC attend, to coordinate cross Government activity and to monitor, challenge and support RBKC in delivering services to those affected. The most recent meeting was on 14 March 2018.

*Askered by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their latest estimate of when all the survivors of the Grenfell Tower fire will be rehoused in permanent accommodation. [HL6584]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** As of 22 March, 189 (almost 90 per cent of households) from Grenfell Tower or Walk have accepted an offer of either temporary or permanent accommodation, and 62 households have moved into permanent accommodation.

Furthermore, the Council has now made over 300 properties available to those who lost their homes, so each household can now choose a good quality property that meets their needs, with the option of staying in the area if that is what they wish.

We expect all households, regardless of their level of engagement, to be given whatever support they require to be rehoused as quickly as possible. The Government will continue to play their part, providing support and challenge to the Council, and financial support currently worth more than £72 million.

*Askered by Lord Tebbit*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to offer tenancies to former tenants of Grenfell Tower who had unlawfully sublet their flats at a profit to persons not entitled to social housing. [HL6665]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea have given a commitment that all households who were living in Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk immediately before the fire will be offered a lifetime tenancy in social housing. The Government is supporting the council to deliver this commitment. This includes all those who were resident in Grenfell Tower at the time of the tragedy and recognises the exceptional circumstances they faced.

**Haneen Zoabi**

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about the suspension of Haneen Zoabi from the Knesset in response to her calling Israeli Defense Force soldiers murderers. [HL6471]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We have not raised this issue with the Israeli authorities.
Health Services: Travellers

*Asked by Baroness Whitaker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reply by Baroness Chisholm of Owlpenn on 8 March (HL Deb, col GC117), when the scoping study to identify Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities as separate groups will be completed. [HL6732]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Department has asked NHS England to scope whether data collection within the National Health Service could include more of the protected characteristics listed under the Equality Act 2010. This would identify Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities as separate groups for the first time and provide a better understanding of these communities’ access to health services, their health outcomes and the extent of the inequalities that they face. The scoping work is underway and is due to be completed this year.

Heart of the South West Joint Committee

*Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the democratic accountability of the new Heart of the South West Joint Committee. [HL6462]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Heart of the South West Joint Committee is a voluntary arrangement of the 17 local authorities in the Heart of the South West geographical area.

A Joint Committee can be created using the provisions of sections 101 to 103 of the Local Government Act 1972, but has no decision making power. Such committees make recommendations to their constituent authorities, who may then choose whether or not to implement them using the usual democratic processes. In the Heart of the South West, the Joint Committee has the delegated function to approve the Heart of the South West Productivity Strategy.

High Speed 2 Railway Line: Franchises

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which companies are competing for the HS2 franchise; and whether they have any plans to reconsider the process of letting that franchise. [HL6704]

Baroness Sugg: The companies bidding for the West Coast Partnership franchise competition were announced by the Secretary of State for Transport on the 22nd June 2017 and are published on the gov.uk website. For ease, I include their names here:

- Deloitte MCS Ltd
- Panasonic Systems Europe
- Snowfall AB
- Trainline.com Ltd
- WSP Parsons Brinkerhoff
- West Coast Partnership Ltd, a joint venture between Stagecoach Group plc, Virgin Holdings Ltd and SNCF C3

The Franchise is being let through the Department for Transport’s standard procurement process and the Department does not intend to review this part way through the live competition.

HIV Infection

*Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much was spent on specialist HIV treatment and care in England in (1) 2014–15, (2) 2015–16, and (3) 2016–17. [HL6679]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: Data provided by NHS England on spend on specialist HIV treatment and care in England is shown in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>£552.8 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016/17</td>
<td>£634.6 million</td>
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Holiday Accommodation

*Asked by Baroness Gardner of Parkes*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of (1) the rate of return available from short-term lets, and (2) current advertising encouraging short-term lets on the basis of increased returns of 30 per cent, on the availability of long-term residential accommodation in England. [HL6579]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Government has not made an assessment of the impact of the rate of return for short term lets nor the impact of the current advertising campaign on the availability of long term accommodation in England. We believe that it is for local authorities to assess the impact within their area. The Government does however monitor broader trends in private rented housing through the English Housing Survey.

Hong Kong: Politics and Government

*Asked by Lord Collins of Highbury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the governments of (1) the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and (2) the People's Republic of China, following the publication of the Six Monthly Report to Parliament on
Hong Kong: Rule of Law

*Asked by Lord Collins of Highbury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on British businesses of the potential erosion of the rule of law in Hong Kong. [HL6621]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government’s assessment of the situation in Hong Kong, and its implications, is set out in the six-monthly report to Parliament, the most recent of which was deposited in Parliament on 15 March.

Horse Racing

*Asked by Lord Risby*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the current arrangements for the movement of thoroughbreds for racing and breeding purposes under the Tripartite Agreement will continue to 31 December 2020 throughout the implementation period agreed with the European Commission. [HL6823]

*Asked by Lord Risby*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made regarding arrangements for the movement of thoroughbreds for racing and breeding purposes between the UK and the EU following the UK’s withdrawal and the implementation period. [HL6824]

*Asked by Lord Risby*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have received concerning the risks and opportunities to the thoroughbred racing and breeding sector arising from the UK's withdrawal from the EU. [HL6825]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Government wishes to see the rules governing the movement of horses, including the TPA, continue through any implementation period; and expects this to happen.

Our priority is for the movement of horses then to continue, following the UK's withdrawal and the implementation period, with minimal delay and bureaucracy, whilst safeguarding animal welfare, biosecurity and disease control. We are working with the sectors concerned, in order to deliver this and where change is necessary, to ensure it is in the UK’s best interests.

Separately, the British Horseracing Authority, on behalf of the British thoroughbred racing and breeding industry, responded to the Migration Advisory Committee's call for evidence on the impact of EEA workers in the UK labour market.

In addition, in April 2017, the Government implemented reforms to the Horserace Betting Levy which made it a requirement for offshore operators to pay the Levy for the first time. The Horserace Betting Levy Board estimates that the reformed Levy will generate c.£85m in 2017/18 - representing an increase of c.£20m compared to receipts from bookmakers in 2016/17 under the old system.

Horse Racing: Migrant Workers

*Asked by Lord Risby*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the care and riding of thoroughbred racehorses will count as a skilled role and be recognised in future immigration arrangements, following the UK's withdrawal from the EU. [HL6826]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The precise way in which the Government will control migration to the UK following exit from the EU is yet to be determined.

In July 2017, the Government commissioned the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to advise on the economic and social impacts of the UK’s exit from the European Union and also on how the UK’s immigration system should be aligned with a modern industrial strategy. The MAC’s call for evidence sought information on EU migrants’ skills, amongst other things, and this will be considered in their final report due in September 2018.

We will build a comprehensive picture of the needs and interests of all parts of the UK, taking account of the evidence from the MAC, and look to develop a system which works for all.

Housing Associations

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the loss of social rented homes as housing associations convert them to affordable rented homes. [HL6811]
Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: Since 2010 we have delivered over 357,000 new affordable homes, including almost 128,000 at social rent.

We are providing over £9 billion funding for the Affordable Homes Programme to March 2021. This includes an additional £2 billion, and the ability for local authorities and Housing Associations to bid for funding for social rent homes.

Housing: Disability Aids

Asked by Baroness Thomas of Winchester

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the timetable for the implementation of the duty on landlords to allow disabled tenants to make access improvements to the hallways, staircases and entrances of residential properties. [HL6666]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Government response to the Women and Equalities Select Committee report “Building for Equality: Disability and the Built Environment” published on 15 March 2018, made clear that “Government intends to commence Section 36, subject to Parliamentary passage of any regulations, that ‘Government intends to commence Section 36, after which an announcement on timing of the commencement will be made.”


The Answer includes the following attached material:

Building for Equality [180411 Building for Equality HL6666.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at: http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-26/HL6666

Housing: Students

Asked by Lord Flight

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the cost to providers of purpose-built student accommodation of being required to pay for house in multiple occupation licences. [HL6628]

Asked by Lord Flight

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effectiveness of the codes for student accommodation in protecting tenants and maintaining property and management standards. [HL6629]

Asked by Lord Flight

To ask Her Majesty's Government why purpose-built student accommodation provided by universities is exempt from house in multiple occupation licensing while similar accommodation provided by private companies is not. [HL6630]

 Asked by Lord Flight

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to remove the requirement for private providers of purpose-built student accommodation who are part of an approved national code to be subject to house in multiple occupation licensing. [HL6632]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Government consulted on the effectiveness of the code in assuring acceptable management practices and standards as part of our consultation on extending mandatory licensing of HMOs. We acknowledged as part of our response, that a significant number of consultees were satisfied with the code as being a means of ensuring acceptable management practices and standards in student accommodation. However, membership of a code alone does not guarantee that the student accommodation meets local standards set by a local authority and therefore should not necessarily provide an exemption from HMO licensing.

Educational establishments have a duty of care defined by statutory obligations, for example through the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, that they must fulfil, both in the provision of education and accommodation to its students. They are also subject to regulation by an independent regulator, the Office for Students. However, private companies are not subject to the same levels of regulation and therefore should not be exempted from House in Multiple Occupation licensing.

Therefore, the Government does not have plans to remove requirements for private providers of purpose-built student accommodation who are part of an approved national code to be subject to houses in multiple occupation licensing.

 Asked by Lord Flight

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the respective criteria (1) to obtain a licence for a house in multiple occupation, and (2) to join a Government-supported national code for student accommodation. [HL6631]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: To obtain a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) licence applicants must meet the statutory requirements under the Part 2 of the Housing Act 2004 and any discretionary requirements set by the relevant local authority.

The codes of practice for student accommodation are run by Universities UK/Guild HE and Accreditation Network UK-Unipol. To join one of these codes applicants must meet the requirements of the particular code which includes audits, inspections and verification processes.

Human Papillomavirus: Vaccination

Asked by Baroness Altmann

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to receive the final report from the Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisation relating to the
extension of HPV vaccination to adolescent boys. [HL6740]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) is currently reviewing evidence on the impact and cost-effectiveness of extending the human papillomavirus vaccination programme to adolescent boys. This includes mathematical modelling being undertaken by Public Health England.

In February 2018 JCVI agreed that it needed to see the results of the independent peer review of the modelling work, and the additional analyses being undertaken, before concluding its advice. The JCVI further agreed that legal advice should be obtained in response to stakeholder correspondence.

Once JCVI has reached a decision, the Committee’s advice will be published most likely in the form of a statement alongside the minutes of the relevant meeting. The JCVI will not be in a position to conclude its advice until the required modelling, peer review and legal advice has been considered. This work will continue through 2018 and timeframes for JCVI concluding its advice are dependent on completion of the analyses requested.

 Asked by Baroness Altmann

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have taken legal advice relating to whether the failure to vaccinate all young boys against HPV virus constitutes discrimination under the Equality Act 2010 or other equality legislation. [HL6741]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation is currently considering whether the human papillomavirus vaccination programme for girls, which was introduced in 2008 primarily to protect against cervical cancer, should be extended to include adolescent boys. The Department will consider its final advice once it has been received.

Any on-going legal discussions related to this issue are subject to legal professional privilege. The Government will ensure that any decision taken is fully compliant with relevant equality legislation.

Human Trafficking: Children

 Asked by Baroness Dooeey

To ask Her Majesty’s Government how many Independent Child Trafficking Advocates have been recruited. [HL6623]

 Asked by Baroness Dooeey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the timetable for the roll-out of Independent Child Trafficking Advocates across England and Wales. [HL6624]

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children have been allocated an Independent Child Trafficking Advocate in the last 12 months. [HL6625]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: In advance of national roll out, the Government introduced Independent Child Trafficking Advocates in three early adopter sites (Greater Manchester, Hampshire and nationally in Wales). The service will run in these sites from January 2017 until January 2019. Eight Independent Child Trafficking Advocates have been recruited across the three Early Adopter Sites – three in Wales; two in Greater Manchester; and three in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. From the 30 January 2017 until the end of January 2018, 215 children have been allocated an Independent Child Trafficking Advocate.

An Independent Expert Advisory Panel will assess the effectiveness of the model in the early adopter sites. The result of the assessment will inform any necessary improvements to the service before it is rolled out nationally so that this incredibly vulnerable group of children are given the best possible support.

Import Duties

 Asked by Viscount Waverley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the UK’s ability to negotiate exemptions to trade tariffs, and (2) whether that ability will be stronger before or after the UK leaves the EU. [HL6613]

Baroness Fairhead: Currently as a member of the European Union the UK is bound by the Common Commercial Policy that delivers a trade policy for all 28 member states. On leaving the EU the UK will be free to conduct trade negotiations that promote specifically UK interests, and maximise the benefit of trade for UK producers and consumers.

India: Christianity

 Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 26 March (HL6283), what assessment they have made of reported restrictions on the ability to celebrate Christian holidays in India. [HL6675]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Officials from the British High Commission in New Delhi recently met representatives of minority group. None of these groups reported restrictions on celebrating holidays in India. However in view of the reports to which the noble Lord refers, I am asking officials in New Delhi to look further into these reports.
Insolvency

**Asked by Lord Flight**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for introducing reforms to the UK's corporate insolvency framework after the UK went from 13th to 14th in the World Bank's ease of doing business rankings in respect of resolving insolvencies. [HL6447]

**Lord Henley:** In May 2016 the Government published its Review of the Corporate Insolvency Framework consultation. The consultation contained a package of proposals to improve the rescue opportunities for financially-distressed companies. A summary of responses to the consultation was published in September 2016.

Following the publication of the summary of responses, the Government has continued to engage with a range of interested parties to further discuss and explore issues raised in responses to the consultation. This further engagement will ensure that any reforms, if necessary, will be fit for purpose and best achieve the Government’s aims of rescuing distressed but viable businesses, preserving economic value and saving jobs.

The Government will set out the way forward for the proposals in its response later this year.

**Asked by Lord Flight**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the possible barriers to resolving cross-border insolvencies post-Brexit, what assessment they have made of the case for reforming the UK's corporate insolvency framework to ensure that it is fit for purpose. [HL6448]

**Lord Henley:** The exact future relationship between the EU and UK on civil judicial cooperation, including the recognition of insolvency and restructuring procedures and judgments, is subject to negotiations with our EU partners. It is in the interests of the UK and the EU that there continues to be an effective, and fit for purpose, framework for resolving cross-border legal disputes. The Government has made clear that an effective framework of civil judicial cooperation is an important part of the deep and special partnership we want to establish with the EU.

The Government keeps the UK's corporate insolvency framework under review to ensure it is fit for purpose and in May 2016 published its Review of the Corporate Insolvency Framework consultation. A summary of responses to that consultation was published in September 2016 and the Government will set out the way forward for the proposals in its response later this year.

The Government is currently consulting on a package of insolvency and corporate governance measures to strengthen the responsibilities of directors of companies that are in or approaching insolvency in order to reduce the risk of major company failures and to ensure the UK remains one of the best places to start and grow a business. The consultation is open until 11 June 2018.

**Asked by Baroness Bowles of Berkhamsted**

To ask Her Majesty's Government why their consultation document Insolvency and Corporate Governance, published on 20 March following the collapse of Carillion, refers to guidance from the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) instead of guidance from the Financial Reporting Council (FRC); in particular, why that document states that “the link between the profit in a company’s financial statements and any reserves available for distributions is elaborated in guidance issued by the ICAEW”; and what assessment they have made of the respective roles of the ICAEW and the FRC in issuing such guidance. [HL6619]

**Lord Henley:** The consultation document refers to guidance published jointly by the Institute for Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland. The guidance (Technical Release TECH 02/17) is aimed at members of the institutes who are directors, or who are advising directors, determining the distribution of profits by their companies. It sets out the generally accepted practice on realised and distributable profits under the Companies Act 2006.

This guidance is separate to the Financial Reporting Council’s (FRC) guidance, which I explained in my answer of 12 February to the noble Baroness. The FRC’s guidance is on auditors’ responsibilities in respect of certain reports and statements which they might be called upon to provide in addition to the audit report.

Insolvency: EU Law

**Asked by Lord Flight**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to implement the EU's Insolvency, Restructuring and Second Chance Directive. [HL6449]

**Lord Henley:** The proposed Directive on preventive restructuring frameworks, second chance and insolvency measures is currently still under negotiation in Brussels. Given this stage of the process and the ongoing negotiations on withdrawal from the EU, it is not possible to say whether, if adopted by the EU, the provisions would be implemented in the UK.

Similar proposals to those in the draft Directive were consulted on by the Government in the Review of the Corporate Insolvency Framework consultation published in May 2016. The consultation contained a package of proposals to improve the rescue opportunities for financially-distressed companies. A summary of responses to the consultation was published in September 2016 and the Government will set out the way forward for the proposals in its response later this year.
Intelligence Services: International Cooperation

*Asked by Viscount Waverley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what provision is in place to allow Five Eyes nations to contribute support to one another (1) in preparation for, and (2) in the event of, a hybrid threat materialising. [HL6780]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We collaborate on a wide range of intelligence and security matters, on numerous channels. This includes exchanging information on shared security challenges and emerging threats. We would expect to be in detailed contact with our closest partners, in the event of a serious hybrid threat materialising.

Islamic State: British Nationals Abroad

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to prosecute British citizens who have travelled to the Middle East to take part in military operations of the Islamic State; and whether they will do so in cases where those citizens are regarded as posing little or no national security concern. [HL6771]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Where there is evidence that crimes have been committed, British citizens and residents who take part in military operations abroad should expect to be prosecuted under the full range of existing counter terrorism legislation. Decisions on charging are taken independently on a case-by-case basis by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Israel: Education

*Asked by Baroness Whitaker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 21 March (HL6185), whether they intend to make representations to the government of Israel to ensure that all school children are taught both Hebrew and Arabic. [HL6730]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We have no plans to raise this issue with the Israeli authorities.

Israel: Palestinians

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about the raid on Birzeit University and the reported abduction of its Student Council President Omar al-Kiswani by undercover Israeli agents on 7 March. [HL6472]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** While we are aware that the Birzeit University Student Council President was arrested on campus on 7 March, we have not raised this issue with the Israeli authorities.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 20 March (HC132346), what action they intend to take in respect of the assessment by non-governmental organisations that Israel has implemented only one of 40 recommendations outlined in the 2012 report Children in Military Custody. [HL6667]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** As the Minister for the Middle East said in a statement on 23 March, "The treatment of Palestinian children in Israeli military detention remains a human rights priority for the UK. We will continue to call upon Israel to improve its practices in line with international law and obligations. We have offered to help the Israeli authorities through expert-to-expert talks with UK officials. The offer still stands and we hope Israel will take us up on it. While we recognise that Israel has made some improvements, it needs to do much more to safeguard vulnerable people in its care."

I raised concerns over the treatment of minors in detention with the Israeli Justice Minister during my visit on 11 April, after having visited the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations are they making to the government of Israel regarding reports that the work permits of over a thousand Palestinians were revoked because those implemented only one of 40 counter terrorism legislation. Decisions on charging are taken independently on a case-by-case basis by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Israel: Palestinians

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they intend to make to the government of Israel in regard to reports that five Palestinian Hares boys were sentenced in 2016 to 15 years in prison despite a lack of any evidence. [HL6671]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Whilst we have not raised this issue with the Israeli Government, we regularly discuss matters concerning the treatment of Palestinian minors in detention with the Israeli authorities. Most recently I raised this issue directly with the Israeli Justice Minister during my visit on 11 April.
Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: While we have not raised this issue with the Israeli authorities, we condemn any incidence of violence by settlers against Palestinians. I raised concerns over settlement expansion with Israeli Ministers and senior officials during my visit on 11 April, after having visited the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Jerusalem: Churches

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding claims that the Israeli military protect settlers whilst those settlers are attacking Palestinians.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We welcomed the Israeli Government’s announcement that the draft legislation and tax collecting activities will be suspended to allow dialogue to take place, and the commitment given to maintaining freedom of religion. We expect all Church bank accounts to be unfrozen by the Municipality as part of the process of mediating the dispute between the churches, the government of Israel, and the Municipality of Jerusalem. [HL6561]

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Jerusalem: Palestinians

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the amendment to the Entry into Israel Law 1972, passed by the Israeli parliament, which allows the interior minister to revoke the residency rights of any Palestinian in Jerusalem on the ground of a breach of loyalty to Israel. [HL6468]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv raised this issue with the Israeli authorities on 15 February, noting the importance of ensuring that the legislation is compatible with Israel’s obligations under international human rights law.

Jerusalem: Religious Buildings

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding reports of incursions by Israeli settlers into Al-Aqsa Mosque, escorted by Israeli police. [HL6470]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have not raised this specific issue with the Israeli authorities. We urge the Israeli authorities to comply with their obligations under international law as an occupying power in East Jerusalem.

Israeli Settlements

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding claims that the Israeli military protect settlers whilst those settlers are attacking Palestinians and damaging or invading Palestinian property. [HL6467]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have repeatedly raised with the Israeli authorities our concerns about incidents of settler violence, most recently on 15 March, we stress the importance of bringing the extremist settlers responsible to justice, and of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population.

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Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the comments by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad al-Hussein describing Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank and Jerusalem as war crimes. [HL6469]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Whilst we have not made any assessment on this specific issue, the UK’s position on settlements is clear. They are illegal under international law, present an obstacle to peace, and threaten the physical viability of a two-state solution.

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Israeli Settlements: Homicide

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what financial support they have given in the last three years to voluntary and civil society organisations in Israel and Palestine to support dialogue and political agreement. [HL6691]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We urge the Israeli authorities. We urge the Israeli authorities. We urge the Israeli authorities. We urge the Israeli authorities. We urge the Israeli authorities. We urge the Israeli authorities. We urge the Israeli authorities. We urge the Israeli authorities. We urge the Israeli authorities. We urge the Israeli authorities. We urge the Israeli authorities. We urge the Israeli authorities. We urge the Israeli authorities. We urge the Israeli authorities. We urge the Israeli authorities. We urge the Israeli authorities. We urge the Israeli authorities. We urge the Israeli authorities. We urge theIsraeli authorities to comply with their obligations under international human rights law as an occupying power in East Jerusalem.
King's College London: Protest

 Asked by Baroness Deech

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had, if any, with the Office for Students concerning whether, and if so what, disciplinary action was taken by King’s College London (KCL) following the disruption by protesters of a speech by Ami Ayalon to the KCL Israel Society on 19 January 2016. [HL6481]

 Asked by Baroness Deech

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had, if any, with the Office for Students concerning whether, and if so what, disciplinary action was taken by King’s College London (KCL) following the disruption by protesters of a speech by Dan Meridor at KCL on 12 February. [HL6482]

 Asked by Baroness Deech

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had, if any, with the Office for Students concerning whether, and if so what, disciplinary action was taken by King’s College London (KCL) following the disruption by protesters of an event hosted by the KCL Libertarian Society on objectivism on 5 March, which was to have been addressed by Yaron Brook and Carl Benjamin. [HL6483]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The Office for Students (OfS) only became operational on the 1 April 2018, so any discussions before that date would have taken place with its predecessor body, the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

Officials in the Department for Education (DfE) liaised with HEFCE colleagues in January 2016, in relation to the speech by Ami Ayalon to the Kings College London (KCL) Israel Society.

The department has not had discussions with HEFCE or the OfS concerning disciplinary actions taken with regard to the incidents that took place at KCL on 12 February and 5 March. In general, the OfS and DfE do not routinely discuss disciplinary actions, as this is matter for the institution.

Lakeside Energy from Waste

 Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will make an assessment of the impact on regional waste management of the closure of the Lakeside energy from waste plant; whether they will allow the proposed north-west runway at Heathrow to be built if that plant is demolished; and whether they will assess the impact of demolition on each of the 12 councils which use the plant. [HL6656]

 Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The government is aware that the Lakeside energy from waste (EfW) facility is situated on the site of the proposed third runway for Heathrow airport. The Department for Transport is also aware of this and has referred to this in Section 5.137 (page 66) of its Revised Draft Airports National Policy Statement (NPS), which went out to consultation in October 2017.

The draft Airports NPS is clear that the Government recognises the importance of the plant to local waste management plans, and requires that any applicant for a new Northwest Runway at Heathrow Airport should make reasonable endeavours to ensure that sufficient provision is made to address the reduction in waste treatment capacity caused by the loss of the plant, but the NPS does not require an applicant to relocate the plant.

However, it is not strategic national infrastructure for waste, including medical waste, and therefore customers will be able to find alternative suppliers in the event the facility closes.

We are aware that the site takes waste from a number of local authorities, including Slough, Reading, Wokingham, Bracknell and the West London Waste Authority. In the revised draft Airports NPS the Government recognises the role of the Lakeside EfW plant in local waste management plans, and requires that any applicant should make reasonable endeavours to ensure that sufficient provision is made to address the reduction in waste treatment capacity caused by the loss of the Lakeside EfW plant.

 Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the closure of the high temperature incinerator at Lakeside energy from waste plant on (1) clinical waste management, and (2) NHS trusts and GP surgeries. [HL6657]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: As the Lakeside energy from waste facility is not nationally significant nor strategic infrastructure for waste, it is unlikely that the closure of the plant would have an impact on the UK’s ability to deal with waste at a national level.

Therefore the Government has not made any specific assessments on the effects of the closure of the Lakeside plant on clinical waste, NHS trusts and GP surgeries. However we understand that Heathrow Airport Ltd (HAL) is already engaging with the owners of the plant and that providing financing and support for a replacement facility is a part of those discussions.

 Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the strategic importance of the high temperature clinical water incinerator at Lakeside energy from waste plant on (1) national, and (2) regional, clinical waste management, and whether they have assessed the availability and accessibility of alternative facilities. [HL6702]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Lakeside energy from waste facility is not strategic national infrastructure for waste, including medical waste, and therefore customers
will be able to find alternative suppliers in the event the facility closes.

**Legal Aid Scheme: Immigration**

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have for bringing back legal aid for family reunification cases. [HL6710]

Lord Keen of Elie: Legal aid is not generally available for matters concerning family reunion.

Where a case is outside the scope of legal aid, exceptional funding may be available where required under ECHR or EU law.

The Lord Chancellor has confirmed that we shall conduct an evidence-based review of Part 1 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (LASPO), assessing the changes against their objectives. This review will include changes made to provision of legal aid for family reunion.

**Letting Agents**

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to issue regulations for Client Money Protection schemes. [HL6814]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Government is committed to making membership of a client money protection scheme mandatory for property agents in the private rented sector. Our response to the recent consultation was published on 1 April 2018, which sets out our implementation approach. We will bring forward secondary legislation to implement our commitment after Easter recess. We intend to give sufficient notice and a transition period for agents to comply with the requirement to join a client money protection scheme.

**Local Government: Property**

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to monitor the risk exposure of local authorities acting as property developers and commercial landlords with the primary aim of generating income, as recommended by the Public Accounts Committee in their report Financial Sustainability of Local Authorities (HC708), published in November 2016. [HL6769]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: On 2 February 2018 Government issued updated statutory codes that govern capital investment and financing to ensure that local authorities take investment decisions after careful consideration of risk and proportionality, including the potential benefits. These changes enhance transparency requirements – including requiring authorities to demonstrate how they have ensured those signing off commercial decisions understand the risks and opportunities and require local authorities to demonstrate that the level of debt taken on and risk is proportionate to the size of the authority.

Individual councils are responsible for their compliance with the codes, within a devolved system. Enhanced transparency requirements make it easier for local taxpayers and others to access the information that they need to hold their local council to account. When councils do not meet the statutory requirements for which they are responsible to deliver adequate services or value for money in their local communities, a range of external systems contribute to the maintenance of regularity, propriety and value for money.

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the extent to which access to funds from the Public Works Loan Board by local authorities for the purpose of investing in commercial properties is compliant with the provisions of the Prudential Code relating to the activities of public bodies. [HL6770]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Prudential Code issued by CIPFA makes it clear that local authorities must not borrow more than or in advance of their needs purely to profit from the extra sums invested. This applies to all borrowing activity, not only Public Works Loan Board (PWLB). Our guidance published in February 2018 makes it clear that this section of the Prudential Code applies to non-financial investments, such as commercial property, in the same way that it applies to financial investments. If local authorities chose to ignore this prohibition, they will need to disclose that they are knowingly disregarding statutory guidance and explain their policies in investing the money borrowed, including management of the risks, for example, of not achieving the desired profit or borrowing costs increasing.

**Low Pay**

*Asked by Baroness Altmann*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of (1) employees, and (2) other workers, in the UK who earn less than the personal tax threshold in any one job; and of those, how many are (a) male, and (b) female. [HL6742]

Lord Bates: Estimates of the number of individuals with earnings less than the Income Tax Personal Allowance in any one job are shown in the table below. The table relates to the 2015-16 tax year when the Personal Allowance was £10,600.

The figures are for people employed and taxed through Pay As You Earn Income Tax and with self-employment income taxed through Self Assessment. Individuals included in the table may have had more than one job in the year where they earnt below the Personal Allowance. The figures also include individuals with an income above £10,600 in one job, but who also had at least one job with...
PAYE or self-employment earnings below £10,600 in 2015-16.

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</tr>
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<td>Female</td>
<td>6.83</td>
<td>1.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>15.17</td>
<td>3.66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes
1) Based on Pay As You Earn data. The earnings definition used is the same as used in the publication, UK Real Time Information, Experimental Statistics.
2) The figures for self-employment income sources are based on the 2015-16 Survey of Personal Incomes and consistent with information published in tables 3.9 and 3.10 of HMRC’s Personal Incomes statistics, tables 3.1 to 3.11.
3) Includes those who were trading but made a loss for the tax year.

Medical Treatments: Innovation

*Asked by The Earl of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what involvement the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has had in the establishment of the new Accelerated Access Pathway. [HL6698]

**Lord Henley:** The Accelerated Access Pathway (AAP) will launch in April 2018 with the aim of getting those innovations that we believe will be truly transformative to patients more quickly. The establishment of the pathway has been led by government and its partners, working with industry and patients.

The co-ordination of government’s input to the development of the pathway sits with the Office for Life Sciences, which is a joint unit between both the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). A representative from BEIS will sit on the Accelerated Access Collaborative, the body responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Accelerated Access Pathway.

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what restrictions they are imposing on the eligibility of overseas new businesses for the Enterprise Innovation and Support Programme. [HL6713]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The Government has multiple measures to allow the National Health Service to benefit from home grown innovations. For example, providing £41 million to support United Kingdom small and medium-sized enterprises creating world leading digital and medtech products to develop the evidence base to launch their products in the NHS; the NHS Clinical Entrepreneur Programme, which has supported the creation of over 50 clinical led start-ups, providing £39 million to improve local adoption and uptake of innovative medical technologies through the 15 Academic Health and Science Networks; and £6 million through the Pathway Transformation Fund to help the NHS to adopt and integrate new technologies into everyday practice.

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

The Government has multiple measures to allow the National Health Service to benefit from home grown innovations. For example, providing £41 million to support United Kingdom small and medium-sized enterprises creating world leading digital and medtech products to develop the evidence base to launch their products in the NHS; the NHS Clinical Entrepreneur Programme, which has supported the creation of over 50 clinical led start-ups, providing £39 million to improve local adoption and uptake of innovative medical technologies through the 15 Academic Health and Science Networks; and £6 million through the Pathway Transformation Fund to help the NHS to adopt and integrate new technologies into everyday practice.

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** From April 2018 we are introducing a new Accelerated Access Pathway to streamline regulatory and market access decisions, getting products that we believe will be truly transformative to patients more quickly. The Pathway will be delivered by the Accelerated Access Collaborative, who will help unlock system barriers and disseminate learning. The Government is also working with key partners to expand the National Health Service Innovation Scorecard so that it covers a greater range of innovative products and is used more widely to identify unwarranted variation in uptake and improve patient outcomes.

In addition to this, we have also provided £39 million to improve local adoption and uptake of innovative medical technologies through the 15 Academic Health and Science Networks (AHSNs). The AHSNs will provide a ‘front door’ for innovators to access the support that they need and increase local knowledge sharing. Finally, the Government will help the NHS to adopt and integrate new technologies into everyday practice through the £6 million Pathway Transformation Fund.

**National Crime Agency: Republic of Ireland**

*Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the National Crime Agency's cooperation to date with the government of the Republic of Ireland in respect of tackling cross-border crime. [HL6532]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The NCA works closely with law enforcement partners in the Republic of Ireland to tackle serious and organised crime which affects both countries. In particular, the NCA participates fully in the Joint Agency Task Force (JATF), which was established under the 'Fresh Start' Agreement to enhance efforts to tackle cross-jurisdictional organised crime.

**New Businesses: Foreign Nationals**

*Asked by Lord Triesman*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that the benefits of medical advances are available on the NHS in all areas of England. [HL6714]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** From April 2018 we are introducing a new Accelerated Access Pathway to streamline regulatory and market access decisions, getting products that we believe will be truly transformative to patients more quickly. The Pathway will be delivered by the Accelerated Access Collaborative, who will help unlock system barriers and disseminate learning. The Government is also working with key partners to expand the National Health Service Innovation Scorecard so that it covers a greater range of innovative products and is used more widely to identify unwarranted variation in uptake and improve patient outcomes.

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nationals, whether or not they are citizens of EU member states, (1) to start businesses in the UK, and (2) to serve as directors of such companies. [HL6726]

Lord Henley: There are no regulatory restrictions on overseas nationals registering a company in the UK or serving as directors on UK registered companies. However, all UK registered companies must have a registered office that is based in the UK and directors of UK registered companies must be at least 16 years old and not disqualified or bankrupt.

Nguyen Van Dai

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Vietnam about the detention of human rights lawyer Nguyen Van Dai, ahead of his trial on 5 April. [HL6786]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The British Embassy in Hanoi has discussed the case of Nguyen Van Dai with Vietnamese officials and continues to monitor his case closely. The UK regularly discusses human rights issues with the government of Vietnam and encourages Vietnam to enable free speech and protect the rights of its citizens. Most recently, my Rt. Hon Friend Mark Field, Minister for Asia and the Pacific, raised these issues as part of the UK-Vietnam Strategic Dialogue in January this year.

NHS: Negligence

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written answers by Lord O'Shaughnessy on 22 March (HL6196 and HL6197), how many clinical injury claims against the NHS were resolved with payment of damages (1) before the issue of proceedings, and (2) after the issue of proceedings, in each of the last five years. [HL6689]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: NHS Resolution handles clinical negligence claims on behalf of National Health Service organisations and independent sector providers of NHS care in England.

NHS Resolution has provided the following information:

The following table indicates the number of clinical claims closed 2012/13 to 2016/17 with damages paid as at the end of each respective closure year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of Closure</th>
<th>Pre Litigated</th>
<th>Litigated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>3,501</td>
<td>2,009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>3,377</td>
<td>2,202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>3,485</td>
<td>2,291</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cases resolved following court proceedings include those where the issue of proceedings has been required in order to obtain court approval of the settlement, such as children or those who are under a legal disability such as a brain injury.

The figures provided do not include claims brought against general practitioners, who are covered by separate indemnity arrangements through medical defence organisations and for which data is not centrally available.

Nigeria: Boko Haram

*Asked by Lord Selkirk of Douglas*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the abduction of 110 schoolgirls from a school in the town of Dapchi, Nigeria by Boko Haram last month and the recent return of around 100 of those schoolgirls; and whether they plan to provide any assistance to the government of Nigeria to prevent similar incidents in the future. [HL6560]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We welcome the news that some of the Dapchi girls have been released and offer our condolences to the families of those reported to have died.

Attacks on schools and abductions of children are abhorrent and must stop.

The UK provides a substantial and increasing package of intelligence, military and development support to help Nigeria fight terrorism. This includes training and advice for Nigerian armed forces deploying against Boko Haram/Islamic State in West Africa and £5 million to support the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF).

*Asked by Baroness Cox*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 26 March (HL Deb, col 613), what representations they have made to the government of Nigeria to secure the release of Christian schoolgirl Leah Sharibu who was abducted by Boko Haram; and what progress has been made on securing her release. [HL6686]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Foreign Secretary spoke to Vice President Osinbajo on 26 February to extend an offer of additional UK assistance, following the abduction of Christian schoolgirl Leah Sharibu who was abducted by Boko Haram; and what progress has been made on securing her release. [HL6686]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Foreign Secretary spoke to Vice President Osinbajo on 26 February to extend an offer of additional UK assistance, following the abduction of children from a school in Dapchi.

Attacks on schools and abductions of children are abhorrent and must stop.

We call for the release of all those abducted. It is important that all those released receive appropriate support including for their families.
**Nigeria: Curfews**

*Asked by Lord Selkirk of Douglas*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effectiveness of the curfew imposed in rural communities in Taraba State, Nigeria. [HL6559]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We have not made an assessment of the effectiveness of the curfew imposed in Taraba State. We are engaging the Nigerian Federal and State Authorities to express our concerns about clashes between pastoralists and farmers of all faiths. Curfews may reduce the number of incidents temporarily but we are encouraging the government to address the underlying causes and develop a solution that meets the needs of all affected communities.

**Nigeria: Religious Freedom**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their policy toward extremist Islamist groups such as Boko Haram that make public an intention to ethnically cleanse the Christian population in Nigeria. [HL6789]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We regularly raise the issue with both the Federal Government and Governments of affected states to express our concerns about clashes between pastoralists and farmers of all faiths. We encourage the government to address the underlying causes and develop a solution that meets the needs of all affected communities.

**North Korea: Refugees**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the arrest in China of seven North Korean refugees who were en route to South Korea; and whether they have made any representations on behalf of those individuals to the government of China, including raising the risks to the escapees of repatriation, and encouraging safe passage to South Korea. [HL6748]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We are aware of reports of a number of North Koreans being detained in China. We have not raised these individual cases with the Chinese Government. But we continue to emphasise to China that people fleeing North Korea should be treated as legitimate asylum claimants and should not be returned without their consent.

The British Government actively promotes the implementation of the 1951 UN Refugee Convention, which asserts that a refugee should not be returned to a country where they face serious threats to their life or freedom.

**Northern Ireland Government**

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Duncan of Springbank on 29 March (HL6578), whether in response to the representations made to them, they, or somebody acting on their behalf, has given a written or verbal undertaking to Sinn Fein not to include a statute of limitations in the forthcoming consultation into legacy issues in Northern Ireland. [HL6797]

**Lord Duncan of Springbank:** Her Majesty’s Government has discussed the forthcoming legacy consultation with interested stakeholders, including the political parties in Northern Ireland, during the recent political talks process to restore the Executive. Sadly, this Talks process failed to deliver an agreement to restore the Executive and in the absence of agreement the proposals on a legacy consultation discussed during the Talks have not yet been taken forward.

**Offences against Children: Rotherham**

*Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Young of Cookham on 13 March (HL
Deb, col 1504), when they expect the investigations into 33 police officers in connection with the Rotherham case to conclude. [HL6553]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) is independent of Government and the police and is responsible for the investigations it carries out. The IOPC have confirmed that investigations into these officers remain on-going.

**Oleg Navalny**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, following the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights on 17 October 2017, they intend to call for the release from custody in Russia of Oleg Navalny. [HL6545]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We remain concerned by the legitimacy of the criminal charges brought against both Alexei and Oleg Navalny. Whilst we note the severity of the charges and acknowledge that nobody is above the law, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) ruled in 2017 that the same charges were "arbitrary and manifestly unreasonable". This continues to raise questions about the selective application of the rule of law in Russia. The UK will continue to call on Russia to implement ECHR judgments, in line with their international commitments.

**Out-of-school Education**

*Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) unlawful, and (2) unregistered, schools they are aware exist in each county in England. [HL6574]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** National statistics on unlawful and unregistered schools, broken down by each county in England, are not collected centrally.

Ofsted’s unregistered schools team investigates and inspects suspected illegal schools. An inspector issues a warning notice at the end of the inspection if she or he believes the setting is operating illegally as a school. In its first statistical data release published on 15 March, Ofsted stated that between 1 January 2016 and 31 January 2018, it had identified 359 possible settings that may be unregistered schools. Ofsted undertook 192 inspection and issued 50 warning notices, and 38 of those settings have since closed or ceased operating illegally. The remaining cases remained under active investigation.

Further inspections have taken place since 15 March. Inspection data for the period January 2016 – February 2018 shows that 208 inspections have now taken place, 51 warning notices have been issued, 44 settings have closed or ceased operating illegally and the remaining cases remain under active investigation.

**Overseas Students: EU Nationals**

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether student loans will be available for EU students studying in the UK during the (1) 2019–20, and (2) 2020–21, academic years. [HL6638]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** EU students, staff and researchers make an important contribution to our universities. We want that contribution to continue and are confident – given the quality of our higher education sector – that it will.

Applications for courses starting in 2019/20 do not open until September 2018, and we will ensure students starting courses in that academic year have information well in advance of this date.

**Overseas Trade: USA**

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to seek to protect healthy nutritional standards, particularly concerning fat and sugar contents in food, when securing future trade deals with the United States. [HL6515]

**Baroness Fairhead:** When we leave the European Union, we will maintain our current high food standards as part of any future trade deals. We will keep our existing UK legislation, and the EU Withdrawal Bill will convert EU law into UK law as it applies at the moment of exit.

Any future trade agreements must work for UK consumers and producers.

**Pakistan: Religious Freedom**

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on religious minorities in Pakistan of the ruling by the Islamabad High Court on 9 March that requires citizens to take a religious oath upon joining the civil service, armed forces, or judiciary. [HL6441]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We remain deeply concerned about restrictions on freedom of religion or belief in Pakistan. The Islamabad High Court ruling of 9 March, if applied, would be a further negative development which risks discriminating against a number of groups in Pakistan. It is vital that Pakistan upholds and protects the rights of all its citizens regardless of their faith, gender or ethnicity. We routinely raise the issues of freedom of religion and belief and the protection of minority religious communities, with the Pakistan government at a senior level.
Passports

**Asked by Viscount Waverley**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there is an operational need for the negotiations regarding the supply of new British passports to proceed immediately; and if not, what assessment they have made of whether the awarding of the new contract should be postponed. [HL6618]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Her Majesty’s Passport Office has run a fair and open competition in line with UK law, EU and World Trade Organisation rules that has concluded in the identification of a preferred supplier. There are no grounds for a national security waiver.

The current passport contract expires in 2019 and we will need to proceed immediately to contract award to ensure a smooth and safe transition to the new contract.

**Asked by Lord Forsyth of Drumlean**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the cost per unit of printing a UK passport. [HL6633]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The current cost of printing a UK passport is considered commercially sensitive to both the incumbent supplier and the Home Office. Any spend that the Home Office has with suppliers that is over £25,000 is published on the GOV.UK website in accordance with the Governments transparency agenda. The details of which are published at the following link: “


The Answer includes the following attached material:


The material can be viewed online at: http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-26/HL6633

**Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the breakdown of costs incurred in printing, distributing, and administering UK passports. [HL6634]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The current cost of printing and delivering a UK passport is considered commercially sensitive to both the suppliers and the Home Office.

However, the costs incurred by Her Majesty’s Passport Office are included within the Home Office’s published Annual Report and Accounts. The latest Home Office Annual Report and Accounts, can be found at the following link and see also attached for your reference. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/home-office-annual-report-and-accounts-2016-to-2017

The Answer includes the following attached material:


The material can be viewed online at: http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-26/HL6634

**Asked by Lord Forsyth of Drumlean**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish the financial impact analysis conducted in respect of the pending decision on the printing of British passports. [HL6688]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The financial information submitted by bidders for the new passport contract tender is commercially sensitive to the bidders and the Home Office. All bids were assessed against a rigorous and robust due diligence process, however, the Home Office have no plans to publish any financial analysis in relation to the bids.

**Asked by Lord Naseby**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, when preparing the tender documents for the new UK passport, they were aware that French passports are exclusively printed by a state organisation, and that British printers are therefore excluded from any opportunity to bid for a French passport production contract. [HL6775]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Public contract tender opportunities in other countries have no bearing on the procurement of UK passport services. All opportunities to supply passports or their components for EU Governments must comply with the EU Procurement Directives.

**Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham**

To ask Her Majesty's Government where the new British passports will be produced; and what proportion of blank passport books are currently produced in Europe manufactured in the United Kingdom. Up to 20 per cent of blank passport books are currently produced in Europe with no security or operational concerns. However all passports will continue to be personalised with the passport holder’s personal details such as name and photograph, in the United Kingdom. This will ensure that no personal data will leave the UK.

**Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham**

To ask Her Majesty's Government why they chose Gemalto to produce the new British passports; and what assessment they have made of profit warnings issued by Gemalto. [HL6804]
Baroness Williams of Trafford: The next contract for the design, manufacture, and personalisation of UK passports has yet to be awarded.

However, the selection criteria for this competition was set to ensure that the new contract delivers a quality and secure product at the best value for money for the passport fee payer, with the quality of the passport being prioritised over cost for evaluating the bids. The contract will not be awarded without financial due diligence being fully completed.

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to ensure that choosing a foreign company to produce the new British passports will not undermine British security and essential services, as outlined in their 2017 manifesto. [HL6806]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: There is no reason to require UK passports to be manufactured in the United Kingdom, or by a UK company. A proportion of blank passport books are currently produced in Europe with no security or operational concerns. However all passports will continue to be personalised with the passport holder’s personal details such as name and photograph, in the United Kingdom. This will ensure that no personal data will leave the UK.

The winning bidder will comply with the UK Security Policy Framework and international security standards to mitigate and prevent internal and external threats to the manufacture and onward transportation of blank books. These include a range of physical and protective security requirements set by the Home Office.

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to assess the impact on Gateshead of the decision to choose Gemalto to produce the new British passports; and if so, how they intend to ensure that the community in Gateshead is not "cast aside" (in the terms outlined in their 2017 Manifesto). [HL6807]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The next contract for the design, manufacture, and personalisation of UK passports has yet to be awarded.

It is for all potential suppliers to determine how to best deploy their resources to meet their business need. The incumbent supplier has publicly stated that it will bid for other work to help protect jobs after the current passport contract ends.

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government at which public points of departure from the UK all departing persons have their passports checked at immigration control; and what percentage of passports are checked at each point of departure. [HL6818]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Exit checks are conducted on all scheduled commercial international air, sea and rail routes. An exit check has two elements:

• the capture of an individual’s basic identity data, either from Advance Passenger Information (API) they supply before their journey or by scanning their passport at the point of departure;

• verification on departure – i.e. a brief visual check - that the passport is not obviously forged and matches the individual presenting it.

Exit Checks data improves national security by helping the police and security services track the movements of known or suspected criminals and terrorists, supporting the wider work across government and law enforcement agencies.

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether immigration officials at entry or departure points from the UK have the real-time ability to check whether a UK passport holder (1) holds other passports, (2) is serving a custodial sentence or is on bail, and (3) has been registered as deceased. [HL6819]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Exit checks are not conducted by Border Force officers. Instead, carriers and port operators collect passenger data and submit it to the Home Office electronically.

We re-introduced the collection of exit checks data in April 2015 to further complement the work on border security, as well as support the Home Office’s wider work to stamp down on illegal immigration.

BF carries out 100% checks at passport control. All passengers arriving at passport control have their details checked against immigration and security databases.

Furthermore, processing of advance passenger information helps protect the UK against terrorist attacks, serious cross-border crime and abuses of the immigration system by assessing passengers and crew in advance of their arrival in or departure from the UK.
The data collected is already providing the police and security services with information to help track the movements of known criminals and terrorists.

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many UK passport holders also hold one or more additional passports; and whether they will indicate the number of such passports for each of the 50 non-UK countries whose passports are most often currently so held. [HL6820]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided by Her Majesty’s Passport Office on 29 October 2015, UIN 13210 and 11 July 2016, UIN 41952.

No statistical information is available showing whether British citizens hold another citizenship.

*Asked by Lord Naseby*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in relation to the new passport contract, what discussions the Home Office held with GCHQ on ensuring that Gemalto chips are protected from the risk of being reprogrammed with a Trojan virus. [HL6821]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Encryption technology used in the UK passport is owned by Her Majesty's Government, and is not the responsibility of the passport manufacturer.

*Asked by Lord Naseby*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions were held with the team of British export envoys concerning the new passport contract in respect of the likely impact on their role in promoting UK companies of issuing that contract to a French company in preference to a UK company. [HL6822]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** There have been no discussions with British export envoys concerning the next passport contract. This procurement has been a fair and open competition under UK law, in line with both EU and World Trade Organisation rules.

**Passports: Fees and Charges**

*Asked by Lord Forsyth of Drumlean*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what income was obtained from passport fees in each of the last three years. [HL6635]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Her Majesty’s Passport Office publishes information on its income within the Home Office annual report and accounts. A copy of the relevant section of the report and accounts for each of the past three financial years is attached together with the tables from 2016-17 and 2015-16 below.

Figures for the current financial year will be published within the Home Office annual report and accounts for 2017-18, which will be published before Parliamentary summer recess. The information can also be found in the Home Office Annual Report and Accounts at the following links:

Financial year 2016/17, page 90

Immigration Health Surcharge income has not been included in the table below as the service is provided by the Department of Health.

This analysis of income satisfies the Fees and Charges requirements of HM Treasury rather than IFRS 8 Operating Segments. Categories of income and costs below £10 million have been excluded from this analysis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Segment</th>
<th>Note</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Full Cost</th>
<th>Surplus/ (deficit)</th>
<th>Fee recovery</th>
<th>Fee recovery target</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>£000</td>
<td>£000</td>
<td>£000</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime and Policing Group College of Policing - People Development</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15,235</td>
<td>28,681</td>
<td>(13,446)</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crime and Policing Group SIA - Licensing and ACS Income</td>
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<td>24,955</td>
<td>22,921</td>
<td>2,034</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crime and Policing Group DBS Disclosures and Update Service</td>
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<td>154,282</td>
<td>140,280</td>
<td>14,002</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>UK Visas &amp; Immigration International Group - Visas</td>
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<td>705,376</td>
<td>364,158</td>
<td>341,218</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>192</td>
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<tr>
<td>UK Visas &amp; Immigration Immigration Group - In country</td>
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<td>476,999</td>
<td>279,322</td>
<td>197,677</td>
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<td>HM Passport Office - Passports</td>
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<td>323,897</td>
<td>100,181</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>HM Passport Office Certificate Services</td>
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<td>16,581</td>
<td>21,900</td>
<td>(5,319)</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enablers Information Services</td>
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<td>148,318</td>
<td>413,269</td>
<td>(264,951)</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1,965,824 1,594,428 371,396
Immigration Health Surcharge income has not been included in the table below as the service is provided by the Department of Health. Some income streams are charged below the cost of delivery where the Department has to maintain its international competitiveness. To compensate for this, some fees are set above the cost of delivery. In particular, the income for certain in-country applications is set at a level that allows for a contribution towards immigration related activities, in addition to covering the cost of processing applications. The overall aim is to ensure that income contributes to the end-to-end costs of the immigration system.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Segment</th>
<th>Note</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Full Cost</th>
<th>Surplus/(deficit)</th>
<th>Fee recovery</th>
<th>Fee recovery target</th>
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<td>£000</td>
<td>£000</td>
<td>%</td>
<td></td>
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The Answer includes the following attached material:

Fees and Charges - 2016-17 Page 90 [Fees and charges 2016-17.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-26/HL6635

Personal Independence Payment: Care Homes

*Asked by Baroness Thomas of Winchester*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether severely disabled Personal Independence Payment claimants in residential homes under NHS Continuing Care are eligible for higher rate mobility to enable them to lease a mobility vehicle. [HL6517]

**Baroness Buscombe:** Where someone is maintained free of charge while undergoing medical or other treatment as an in-patient in a hospital or similar institution (as defined) funded by the NHS, payment of (but not entitlement to) the daily living and mobility components of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) ceases after 28 days. This is on the basis that the NHS is responsible for the entirety of the person’s disability-related extra costs and to pay PIP in addition would be a duplication of public funds intended for the same purpose.

NHS Continuing Healthcare funding in accommodation where medical or other treatment is being provided in the accommodation by a doctor or qualified nurse, or under their direct supervision, means that the accommodation is classified as a similar institution to a hospital.

Plastics: Recycling

*Asked by The Earl of Shrewsbury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to include in any deposit charge scheme for plastic bottles, plastic packaging boxes such as those used by fast food outlets. [HL6840]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Defra does not intend to include plastic packaging boxes, such as those used by fast food outlets, in a deposit return scheme. Our intention is to introduce a deposit return scheme in England specifically for single use drinks containers, subject to consultation later this year.

Plastics: Seas and Oceans

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when, and how, they intend to respond to the projection by the Government Office for Science that plastic in the ocean is set to treble by 2025. [HL6530]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Future of the Sea report shows that tough global action is needed to protect our oceans and marine life, and the UK is leading the way by tackling plastic waste. That’s why our 25 Year Environment Plan stated our ambition to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste. We want to be the first generation to leave our environment in a better state than we found it.

We have recently introduced one of the world’s strongest bans on harmful microbeads in rinse-off personal care products, and have now commissioned the Hazardous Substances Advisory Committee to review the evidence on microplastics in leave-on cosmetics and domestic cleaning products, and their chances of reaching our seas and causing harm to marine life. We will review our position in light of their advice.

Our 5p carrier bag charge has taken nine billion bags out of circulation. A beach clean survey in 2016 reported a 40% reduction in the number of plastic bags found. We will consider extending this charge to small retailers, exploring whether compulsory options are needed if voluntary agreements prove ineffective.

Single use items are a major issue for marine litter and frequently in the top 10 of items found during beach cleans. In his Spring Statement, the Chancellor launched a call for evidence seeking views on how the tax system or charges could reduce the waste from single use plastics.

We will introduce a deposit return scheme to increase recycling rates and slash the amount of waste polluting our land and seas, subject to consultation later this year.

As marine litter is a transboundary problem we also work productively with other countries to address it, particularly through the Oslo and Paris Conventions for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR), G7, G20 and the UN Environment Programme.

Police: Mobile Phones

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what national rules are in place concerning police officers accessing individuals' personal mobile phone data. [HL6715]

**Asked by Lord Scriven**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether police officers should be prevented from accessing individuals’ personal mobile phone data without a search warrant. [HL6716]

**Asked by Lord Scriven**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the police can retain data downloaded from the mobile phones of those who have been arrested but not charged; and if so, why. [HL6717]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Current legislation, principally provisions in the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, allow data to be accessed from a mobile device when there are reasonable grounds to believe it contains evidence of an offence, but only then in adherence with data protection and human rights obligations.
Data obtained and downloaded from a mobile device belonging to a person arrested, but not charged, may be retained for forensic examination or as evidential material in an ongoing criminal investigation. The data may only be retained for as long as is necessary.

There are no plans to change this legislation.

The police are operationally independent of the Home Office and the use of their powers to investigate crime, including operational guidance, is a matter for them.

**Police: Recruitment**

*Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they are taking, if any, to encourage police forces to recruit ex-servicemen and women. [HL6536]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government's police reforms are designed to create a more capable, flexible and professional workforce. Central to these reforms was the establishment of the College of Policing as the professional body for policing; charged with setting standards and further professionalising the police.

Recruitment to the police is managed locally, within a national application, assessment and selection framework maintained by the College. Within this remit the College is delivering a number of major pieces of work including a review of initial police recruitment and proposals for a new policing education qualification framework. This framework will introduce new entry routes for police officers, via a pre-join degree, for degree holders and through a degree level police constable apprenticeship which will become available later this year.

These reforms, along with innovative schemes such as direct entry, are ensuring that policing can continue to attract the brightest and best new recruits. The three direct entry schemes offer 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 inspector and superintendent schemes are aimed at those who have the potential to reach the highest ranks in the police.

*Asked by Lord Grocott*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 13 March (HL5787), whether they will now answer the question asked, namely how many police officers have been recruited via the Direct Entry Superintendents Scheme in each year since that Scheme was introduced. [HL6755]

**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.

According to the College of Policing, which is responsible for delivery of the direct entry schemes, 29 direct entry superintendents have been appointed since the scheme began in 2014 (9 in 2014, 6 in 2015, 8 in 2016, 6 in 2017).

The introduction of direct entry allowed professionals from other sectors to join policing at a senior rank for the first time, with recruits drawn from occupational backgrounds including: academia; banking; business; law; local and national government.

To date, the Home Office has provided £12.2 million to enable the recruitment and training of direct entrants. This funding has covered the salary costs of superintendent recruits, as well as supported the recruitment and training of direct entrants at both superintendent and inspector level. Next year the College of Policing will be publishing an evaluation of the implementation of direct entry, which will include specific funding and delivery data.

**Pornography: Internet**

*Asked by Lord Framlingham*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what steps they plan to take to protect primary school children from being exposed to hard-core pornography on the internet. [HL6542]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** As part of our commitment to making the UK the safest place in the world to be online we have introduced the requirement for commercial providers of online pornography to have robust age verification controls in place to prevent children and young people under 18 from accessing pornographic material.

In February the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) was officially designated as the age-verification regulator with responsibility for making sure providers meet this requirement. The BBFC is currently undertaking a public consultation on its draft guidance on the age verification arrangements that it will treat as compliant and the approach that it will take to ancillary service providers. This guidance will require parliamentary approval.

We continue to aim for the conclusion of the parliamentary proceedings as soon as possible. We will ensure that there is a sufficient period after the regulator’s guidance has been approved for the public and the
industry to prepare for and comply with the new rules. It is anticipated that age verification will be enforceable by the end of the year.

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport is also working closely with the Department for Education to ensure that online safety forms part of new compulsory Relationships Education in primary schools.

**Press: Regulation**

*Asked by Earl Attlee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Special Advisers from No. 10 Downing Street or the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport have been briefing that Lords amendments 147 and 148 to the Data Protection Bill provide for state regulation of the press. [HL6790]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** As the Secretary of State said at the second reading of the Data Protection Bill on the 5th March, The Government is clear that these amendments would undermine high-quality journalism and our free press and risks causing serious damage to local newspapers, who play such a vital role in our democracy.

**Prisoners: Death**

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many deaths of people serving custodial sentences there have been in each of the last five years; and for each year, how many of those deaths were the result of (1) suicide, (2) violence, and (3) natural causes. [HL6767]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** The Government publishes statistics on deaths in custody quarterly, and updated detailed tables annually. The most recent tables were published on 26 January 2018 and cover the year to the end of December 2017.

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(1) All classifications of deaths remain provisional until confirmed at inquest.

(2) Figures include incidents at HMPPS run Immigration Removal Centres.

(3) A proportion of the most recent two years' figures for 'other' deaths are expected to be re-classified as natural causes or self-inflicted deaths.

The Government takes very seriously its responsibility to keep prisoners safe, and while the latest figures show a welcome fall in the number of deaths in total and self-inflicted deaths in particular, we can and must do more. We have established a prison safety programme through which we are taking forward a comprehensive set of actions to reduce deaths in custody, including: rolling out revised and improved training for staff in assessing and managing the risk of suicide and self-harm amongst prisoners (which has already reached nearly 15,000 staff); improving support for prisoners in their early days in custody; revising the Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork case management process for those identified as being at risk; and renewing our partnership with the Samaritans by confirming a further three years' grant funding for their valuable Listeners Scheme.

**Processed Food: UK Trade with EU**

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to authenticate individuals' digital identities, including as part of the gov.uk verify scheme; and what steps they plan to take to address the issue. [HL6600]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** We are aware that some UK processed food exports contain a high proportion of non-UK content which may have implications for meeting origin rules in trade agreements. The government is currently working with stakeholders to understand business concerns and develop potential solutions to inform the UK’s negotiating approach.

**Proof of Identity: Internet**

*Asked by Lord Bird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to authenticate individuals' digital identities, including as part of the gov.uk verify scheme; and what plans they have to promote affordable and suitable financial and credit products and services. [HL6793]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** GOV.UK Verify has agreements with seven certified companies that the government has approved to verify users’ identity. The certified companies have to meet government and international standards for security and data protection.

For a GOV.UK Verify user to have their identity verified, the certified companies look at a range of evidence and checks to establish that users are who they say they are. There are five identity proofing and verification elements involved, and the companies have to achieve thresholds in each element before they can verify someone’s identity.
We are committed to delivering a well-functioning and sustainable consumer credit market which is able to meet the needs of all consumers. In March, the government hosted the first meeting of the Financial Inclusion Policy Forum, a new key initiative bringing together government, regulators, industry and the third sector to coordinate action and provide leadership in tackling these challenges. The Forum’s mission is to ensure that individuals, regardless of their background or income, have access to useful and affordable financial products and services, including affordable credit.

The government also supports credit unions, which provide an affordable alternative to high-cost credit. In the Autumn Budget 2017, the government announced its intention to help the sector expand by increasing the number of potential members of credit unions from two million to three million. In addition, from this year a greater proportion of funds recovered from illegal money lenders will be allocated to incentivise vulnerable people to join, save, and borrow with a credit union instead of turning to loan sharks.

In addition, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has responsibility for setting the direction for the spend of dormant assets funding. In March 2018, the Department, with the Big Lottery Fund, published a statement of intent for £55 million in funding for financial inclusion. This statement sets out that the money will be put towards increasing the use of fair, affordable and appropriate financial products and services. This includes credit products and services, along with savings and insurance products and services. Following an ongoing engagement exercise, Ministers are expected to issue formal policy directions to the Big Lottery Fund about the detailed focus of a programme and what it should achieve in summer 2018.

Public Health: EU Law

Asked by Lord Warner

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to ensure that the public health protections available to UK citizens under Article 168 of the Lisbon Treaty will be enshrined in UK law following the UK's exit from the EU. [HL6604]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Government is committed to ensuring a high level of public health protection is maintained as we exit the European Union. The United Kingdom has a strong public health framework and leads Europe in many aspects of health protection and promotion. As the Secretary of State has set out, the Government's principles as we exit the EU are that patients are not disadvantaged and patient safety remains at the heart of all we do. The Secretary of State has a statutory duty to take all steps that he considers appropriate to protect the health of the public in England from disease or other dangers to health.

The UK is also a signatory to, and is bound by, International Health Regulations which set out core capacities for World Health Organization member states, to 'prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to the international spread of disease.'

The UK will also continue cooperation in international forums, such as the World Health Organization.

Public Libraries: Northamptonshire

Asked by Lord Bird

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the closure of libraries in Northamptonshire on literacy, social mobility, and poverty prevention programmes. [HL6607]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 places a duty on the Secretary of State to superintend, and promote the improvement of, the public library service provided by local authorities in England. In accordance with this duty and in light of representations to the Department about the agreed changes to the library service in Northamptonshire, the Secretary of State wrote to the Acting Council Leader on 19 March 2018 to confirm the Department is treating representations as a formal complaint.

We understand that none of the Council’s libraries have yet closed. However, the Council has revised opening hours at the libraries, with the intention that they are open for at least three days per week.

Pupils: Drugs

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to protect pupils from new psychoactive substances which are not illegal but aim to mimic illegal substances. [HL6661]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The government changed the law in 2016 to make it illegal to supply a substance for its psychoactive effect. Schools have a statutory power to search for and confiscate prohibited items such as illegal drugs.

The Home Office published its ‘2017 Drug Strategy’ in July 2017. The attached report references effective drug education as being essential in supporting prevention and tackling the problem of drug misuse. In addition, drug education is part of the national curriculum for science at key stage 2 and key stage 3.

Through Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE), schools can teach pupils about new psychoactive substances. The PSHE Association's non-statutory programme of study, which references drug education, is available at: https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/curriculum-and-resources/programme-study-pshe-education-key-stages-1%2E2%2E3.

The government is considering further steps to improve PSHE. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 provides a power for the Secretary of State to make PSHE, or elements therein, mandatory in all schools, subject to
careful consideration. Teaching about drugs will be considered as part of this process.
The Answer includes the following attached material:

2017_Drug_Strategy [HL6661 attachment.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

Lord Henley: The US has a legal requirement for a nuclear cooperation agreement to be in place before civil nuclear trade with another country can be permitted. For

Radicalism

Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Young of Cookham on 13 March (HL Deb, col 1505), how they intend to measure the progress of the initiative by British-based Islamic leaders "to dispel the poisonous interpretation of Islam peddled by al-Qaeda and Daesh". [HL6554]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Prevent Programme is fundamentally about safeguarding and supporting vulnerable individuals to stop them from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Prevent safeguards people who are vulnerable to radicalisation in a similar way to safeguarding processes designed to protect people from gangs, drug abuse, and physical and sexual abuse. It requires a full-spectrum approach with Government working with the police, statutory partners, the private sector and communities. Currently the greatest threat comes from terrorist recruiters inspired by Daesh. Our Prevent programme will necessarily reflect this by prioritising support for vulnerable British Muslims, and working in partnership with civil society groups to tackle this problem.

Prevent works best when delivered in partnership with our communities, who are working hard to uphold the security of this country, prevent radicalisation and make clear that the actions of Daesh and al-Qaeda are profoundly un-Islamic. 169 community based projects were delivered in 2016/17 reaching over 53,000 participants. 44% of these projects were delivered in schools, aimed at increasing young people’s resilience to terrorist and extremist ideologies. We also support community-based initiatives that challenge Daesh’s core communications and provide credible counter narratives.

In 2015/16, 36% of those receiving support on Channel was as a result of referrals from the education sector. Of individuals supported by Channel in 2015/16 over 70 per cent were aged 20 years or under and 85 per cent were male. Of those that received Channel support in 2015/16, 83 per cent left with no further CT concerns. Prevent has made a significant impact in preventing people being drawn into terrorism.

Radicalism: Schools

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to roll out the Prevent initiative to raise awareness of far-right extremism in schools. [HL6664]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Since July 2015, specified authorities, including schools, childcare providers, colleges and universities are required under the Prevent duty to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The Prevent duty guidance makes clear that the duty is intended to address all forms of extremism and terrorism, including Far Right.

The Government provides a range of support to schools to implement the duty. For example, the Prevent e-learning package includes examples of Far Right extremism, and our Educate Against Hate website for teachers includes lesson plans to support discussion about far right extremism in the classroom.

Radioactive Materials: USA

Asked by Lord Warner

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their contingency plan in the event that the United States Senate does not ratify by treaty a new Nuclear Cooperation Agreement by the end of 2020, following the UK's exit from Euratom. [HL6603]

Lord Henley: The US has a legal requirement for a nuclear cooperation agreement to be in place before civil nuclear trade with another country can be permitted. For
this reason, the Government has prioritised discussions
with the US, to ensure that a new bilateral agreement will
be in place when Euratom’s agreements no longer apply
to the UK. The strong links between US and UK on civil
nuclear matters ensure that both parties are keen to
progress this agreement to their mutual benefit.
Significant progress has been made on the substance of
the new agreement and it is on track to be presented to the
UK Parliament and US Congress in the course of 2018 for
ratification, ensuring that the agreement will be ready
well before the end of 2020

Railways: Fares

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether the full
range of cheaper train fares will be available when train
timetables will be confirmed only four to six weeks in
advance; and whether passengers will be able to claim
full refunds for tickets bought in advance if timetables
do not subsequently meet their needs. [HL6655]

**Baroness Sugg:** The full range of cheaper train fares
should be available and it is the responsibility of
individual train operating companies to ensure these are
available for purchase through the appropriate sales
channels.

Train Operating Companies are required under their
franchise agreements to inform passengers if they will be
unable to operate trains in accordance with the timetable 4
weeks before the travel date, where possible. When
passengers are unable to make informed decisions about
their ticket purchases, for example due to unannounced
timetable changes arising from engineering works, passengers are entitled to claim a refund if they choose
not to travel. Condition 30 of the National Rail
Conditions of Travel obliges train companies to refund
passengers when they are unable to honour the original
timetabled journey. No administration fee will be charged
for these refunds.

Railways: Freight

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether they have
a strategy for electrifying the freight railway; and if so,
whether that strategy includes the objectives of (1)
reducing the level of pollutants emitted from diesel
haulage, and (2) attracting additional freight to rail.
[HL6681]

**Baroness Sugg:** The Government’s Clean Growth
Strategy calls for more use of electric, bi-mode and
alternative fuel traction on the railway, and Government
has set out an ambition for a cleaner, greener railway with
all diesel-only trains phased out by 2040. The Minister of
State has written to industry to ask them to set out an
industry-wide vision for decarbonising the railway.

Government recognises the environmental benefits of
shifting freight from road to rail and we are committed to
supporting the long-term growth of the rail freight
industry. Government’s Rail Freight Strategy, published
in September 2016, sets out a shared vision for how rail
freight can increase its share of the freight market, and
courage modal shift from road to rail. To support future
growth of the rail freight industry the Secretary of State
confirmed in October 2017 that Government intends to
continue investment in improving the rail freight network

Railways: Reading

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what benefits, in
terms of timekeeping for both passenger and freight
trains, have accrued since the flyover at Reading was
commissioned. [HL6653]

**Baroness Sugg:** It is not possible to disaggregate the
benefits of the Reading viaduct from those brought about
by the overall Reading Station Area Redevelopment.
Cumulatively, the components of the redevelopment have
resulted in:

- a minimum of four additional train paths per hour in
each direction
- five additional platforms
- 125% improvement on through line platform capacity
- 38% improvement in service performance

The construction of the Reading Viaduct to the west of
Reading station formed one aspect of the wider £850m
investment in the Reading Station Area Redevelopment.
Other components of this project include the introduction
of seven new platforms, signalling upgrades and track
reconfiguration, as well as the construction of a new
tunnel to the west of the station.

The primary purpose of the flyover was to allow the
separation of passenger and freight services to help enable
faster journey times; one of Network Rail’s objectives in
Control Period 6 is to improve freight performance
through better average speed of freight services.

Railways: Tickets

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether they are
carrying out a review of railway ticketing systems; and
if so, who is responsible for that review, and when it
will conclude. [HL6682]

**Baroness Sugg:** While the Department for Transport
closely monitors the ticketing systems operated by the rail
industry, and is investing £80m this year to ensure that
passengers may travel without a paper ticket on almost all
of the GB rail network, there is no specific review
currently underway. However, the Office of Rail and
Road is conducting a market study under the Competition
Act 1998 into the ticketing systems market.
**Railways: Timetables**

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect rail companies to return to the 12-week deadline for publishing accurate advance timetables. [HL6707]

**Baroness Sugg:** As Network Rail have made clear, the industry is making temporary changes to the advanced availability of final timetables for approximately six months from 20 May onwards. The Office of Rail and Road, in their role as the independent regulator, will be monitoring progress against their proposed recovery plan.

**Refugees: Housing**

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many refugee families they have helped to find accommodation in each of the past three years. [HL6832]

**Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that accommodation for refugee families is of an acceptable standard. [HL6833]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Local authorities play a vital role in sourcing suitable accommodation for refugees that is affordable, sustainable, meets the complex needs of the families and meets local authority standards.

In the last three years, the UK has welcomed over 10,000 refugees through its resettlement schemes and we are grateful to local authorities for sourcing properties suitable for these vulnerable families, enabling them to begin to rebuild their lives.

**Reserve Forces**

*Asked by Viscount Waverley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to train and use reservists in both the public and private sectors to deal with hybrid threats. [HL6782]

**Earl Howe:** The need to respond to hybrid threats was recognised in the Strategic Defence and Security Review of 2015 which established, as part of Joint Force 2025, two innovative brigades comprising a mix of Regulars and specialist capabilities from the Reserves able to contribute to our strategic communications, tackle hybrid warfare and deliver better battlefield intelligence.

**River Exe: Flood Control**

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 15 March (HL5998), (1) when did Network Rail seek the Environment Agency's assurance in providing assistance to relieve the flood problems at Cowley Bridge Junction, (2) when the Environment Agency responded to that request, and in what form, (3) when is Network Rail expected to respond to this request, (4) how long the Environment Agency forecasts it will take to assess the consequences of the structure, and (5) in the meantime, what assessment has been made of the flood risk to the railway and surrounding area. [HL6438]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Environment Agency (EA) agreed in 2014, following flooding of the railway line in 2012 and 2013/14, to assist Network Rail in finding a technically appropriate solution to the problem, whilst ensuring that it does not conflict with the £30 million investment in new flood defences in Exeter.

The EA has had regular meetings with Network Rail to provide advice on its culvert installation and weir removal works at Cowley Bridge. The EA has also been working with Network Rail since November 2017 to advise on the flood risk modelling for its weir removal proposals. This includes the EA providing flood history information, geomorphology commentary and examples of issues experienced in other local weir removal projects.

The EA has also established a team to assist Network Rail with the technical and permitting requirements of both phases of its works at Cowley Bridge, and has accelerated the issuing of permits for the culvert works.

Network Rail's modelling is expected to be completed in spring 2018 and on completion the EA will provide feedback on the outputs. This is to ensure that Network Rail’s proposals do not increase flood risk to residential properties or adversely impact on the level of protection provided by new flood defences in Exeter. The EA will prioritise this work to ensure a timely response to Network Rail.

Although flood risk models have been available for discrete areas around Exeter and the Cowley Bridge location since 2005, no single model takes account of the whole system or all watercourses. The EA is working with Network Rail to ensure its latest modelling is comprehensive. In the interim there is a flood warning system for Cowley Bridge. This has been in place since 2012, with improvements to the forecasting model introduced in November 2017.

**Roads: Litter**

*Asked by Lord Mawson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that the highest environmental standards apply to motorways and highways of England with respect to litter. [HL6507]

**Baroness Sugg:** Highways England are responsible for complying with the mandatory legal requirements under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, which includes removing litter on England’s motorways and some trunk roads.

As part of the Government’s Litter Strategy (2017), the Department for Transport will be working with Highways
England and other stakeholders to update the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse.

Russia: Chemical Weapons

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they were aware that Russia had developed and produced Novichok for ten years; and if so, whether they made any complaint to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons or any other appropriate body. [HL6659]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Foreign Secretary said on 18 March that we had information indicating that within the last decade, Russia has investigated ways of delivering nerve agents likely for assassination and, as part of this programme, Russia has produced and stockpiled small quantities of Novichoks. This is a violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

It is the responsibility of each State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention to declare any chemical weapons or chemical weapon production facilities under its ownership or possession, and to destroy them. Russia should have done so.

Russia: Diplomatic Relations

*Asked by Viscount Waverley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to recall the UK Ambassador to Russia for consultation. [HL6617]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We and our EU partners stand shoulder to shoulder in sending the strongest signal to the Kremlin that Russia cannot continue to flout international law and threaten our security. All the other twenty-seven European Council leaders have confirmed they stand in unqualified solidarity with the UK in the face of the grave challenge Russia poses to our shared security. In addition, eighteen EU member states have so far announced they will expel a number of Russian diplomats.

We have no plans to recall the UK Ambassador to Russia for consultation. However, as part of our response to the Salisbury incident, we will keep further options under review and will not hesitate to act should it be necessary.

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have considered there may be serious grounds for suspecting the nerve gas used in the Salisbury attack on 5 March was brought into England by the Russian diplomatic bag, contrary to Article 27(4) of the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations; and if so, whether they intend to use the provisions of Article 36(2) of that Convention to inspect the personal baggage of Russian diplomatic agents entering the UK. [HL6817]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Article 36(2) of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations states that the personal baggage of a diplomatic agent shall be exempt from inspection, unless there are serious grounds for presuming that it contains articles not covered by relevant exemptions. We continue to respect the Vienna Convention.

Russia: Football

*Asked by Lord Truscott*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by the Foreign Secretary on 21 March comparing the way President Putin is promoting the World Cup in Russia to Hitler's use of the 1936 Berlin Olympics, what assessment they have made of the likely reception of the Foreign Secretary's words among the Russian population, particularly in the light of that country's response to Nazism during the Second World War. [HL6601]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Foreign Secretary repeatedly made it clear that we have no quarrel with the Russian people. The Foreign Secretary's concern was that President Putin could use the World Cup to serve his propaganda aims. Distortion of facts and divergence from the truth is a regular tactic of Putin's Russia. The Government are well aware of the huge sacrifices made by the Russian people during the Second World War, and our shared history in defeating Nazism.

Russia: Foreign Relations

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what overall strategic approach they have for future relations between the West and Russia. [HL6496]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Salisbury incident has shown that Russia does not respect international boundaries. It highlights the threat that Russia poses to our national security - threats we will face together. We will work with our EU allies and other international partners to hold Russia to account for this flagrant breach of international laws; to ensure that such a heinous crime is never repeated; to uphold and protect the international rules-based order and to protect our shared security in the face of the long-term challenge that Russia poses. As the Prime Minister said in her statement on 14 March, it is not in our national interest to break off all dialogue with Russia. It is important to work together on challenging issues which impact on international security.

Rwanda: Immigrants

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many death threats against Rwandans living in the UK they are aware of in each year since 2000; how many of those they suspect emanate from the government of Rwanda;
Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are aware of recent media reports about police warnings of death threats made against two Rwandan dissidents resident in the UK. We are also aware of threats made by representatives of the Rwandan Government in 2011 against two individuals resident in the UK.

The UK takes a zero tolerance approach to violence and threats. We do not comment on individual cases, but anyone who receives threats against their person should report these to the police.

**Schools: First Aid**

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what steps they are taking to ensure that there are adequate numbers of medically-trained staff in schools. [HL6709]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: In December 2015, we published the attached statutory guidance for schools on managing the medical conditions of their pupils.

The guidance states that governing bodies must make arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions in school. They should also ensure that sufficient staff have received suitable training and are competent before they take on responsibility to support children with medical conditions.

The relevant healthcare professional should normally lead on identifying and agreeing with the school the type and level of training required, and how this can be obtained.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Supporting_school_pupils_with_medical_conditions [HL6709 attachment.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at: http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-27/HL6709

**Schools: Security**

*Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reply by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 8 February (HL Deb, col 2072), when the Department for Education’s review of its health, safety and school security advice will be completed; whether in reviewing its guidance it will consult the Community Security Trust; whether it will advise schools to consult counter-terrorism security advisers; and if so, whether police forces are adequately resourced to provide such advice. [HL6450]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The department is currently reviewing the health, safety and school security advice it provides to schools, with the intention of publishing revised school security guidance later this year. As part of the review, departmental officials are consulting with a range of government departments, agencies and other stakeholders, including the Community Security Trust.

We anticipate that new guidance will signpost schools to the specialist advice on protective security that is already provided to them, through a range of mechanisms, including by specialist police Counter-Terrorism Security Advisors who operate in every police region. It will also reference advice from other sources, including the National Counter Terrorism Security Office.

**Schools: Sports**

*Asked by Lord Lucas*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Agnew of Oulton on 12 March (HL6256), what assessment they have made of the extent to which it would aid the spread of good practice in the effective use of the PE and Sport Premium if schools which felt that they had used that Premium particularly well were encouraged to broadcast that message and supporting information on social media on 4 April using a common hashtag. [HL6700]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The department supports schools sharing good practice to maximise effective use of the premium through social media and other channels. It is up to schools to decide how and when to do so but the department’s blog for teachers, provides a way for schools to share how they are using their PE and Sport Premium. The department’s blog is available at: https://teaching.blog.gov.uk/category/pe-and-sport-premium/. The department will also look at whether there are further ways to support schools to share how they use the funding.

Other sources of shared good practice for schools include the attached Ofsted report published in October 2014, which identifies and shares good practice to maximise effective use of the funding. Sport England has also produced short films on using the PE and sport premium effectively; the films can be viewed at: http://www.sportengland.org/our-work/children-and-young-people/primary-school-sport/.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

PE_and_sport_premium_for_primary_schools [HL6700 attachment.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at: http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-27/HL6700

**Schools: Syria**

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will initiate a schools twinning programme between schools in England and schools in Syria. [HL6712]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The Department for Education has no plans to initiate a twinning programme between
schools in England and schools in Syria. Before the conflict, the British Council’s Connecting Classrooms programme operated in Syria and provided a funded opportunity for teachers in the UK and the Middle East North Africa region to meet and share best practice. Whilst this programme is not currently active in Syria, schools in Jordan, where there are a number of Syrian refugees, and schools in Lebanon, where there are high proportions of Syrian pupils, continue to participate in the programme. Once the situation in Syria stabilises, the Department for Education would be very supportive of Syria re-joining the British Council’s Connecting Classrooms programme.

Schools: Transport

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to maintain the statutory responsibility for local authorities to provide free school transport; and whether they intend to vary the terms of that responsibility. [HL6652]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: Statutory responsibility for providing free home to school transport for eligible children rests with local authorities. There are currently no plans to change those duties.

Slaughterhouses

Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many veterinary surgeons who work in abattoirs come from (1) the UK, and (2) other EU countries. [HL6456]

Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to address the potential shortage of veterinary surgeons working in abattoirs after Brexit. [HL6457]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: There are currently 14 official veterinarians from the United Kingdom and 311 official veterinarians from European Union countries carrying out official controls across 303 approved slaughterhouses.

Official veterinarians play a vital role in safeguarding UK public health, maintaining animal health and welfare and enabling trade. To deliver official hygiene and animal welfare controls in slaughterhouses, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) relies on EU nationals who work as official veterinarians and contract meat inspectors. If, post exit, it is no longer possible to recruit new vets from other EU member states, veterinary resource will need to be sourced from elsewhere to fulfil this role. The FSA is also aware of potential increase in workforce needed to carry out other regulatory functions once the UK is outside the EU, and is planning for a range of scenarios relating to this to ensure that the UK maintains the excellent standards of food safety that the UK currently enjoys, and maintain an effective workforce.

Slavery

Asked by Baroness Doocey

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many negative National Referral Mechanism decisions have been reconsidered and re-issued as a positive decision in the past three years. [HL6622]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office does not publish data on the number of National Referral Mechanism (NRM) decisions that have been reconsidered.

The National Crime Agency publishes NRM statistics on their website.


Asked by Baroness Doocey

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many times the defence set out in section 45 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 has been applied. [HL6753]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Data on the number and type of cases where the statutory defence set out in section 45 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 has been applied are not collated centrally.

The statutory defence could arise in any category of offence and may be a consideration in the decision as to whether to charge an individual in circumstances where the defence could apply.

Slavery and Trafficking Reparation Orders

Asked by Baroness Doocey

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Slavery and Trafficking Reparation Orders have been applied for. [HL6626]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government does not centrally collate data on the number of applications for Slavery and Trafficking Reparation Orders.

Slavery and Trafficking Risk Orders

Asked by Baroness Doocey

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Slavery and Trafficking Risk Orders have been (1) applied for, and (2) granted, since the introduction of those orders. [HL6752]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The latest data for Slavery and Trafficking Risk Orders, made available to the Home Office, is for the period July 2015 to September 2017 and covers applications made in Magistrates’ Courts. During this time 33 applications were made for Slavery and Trafficking Risk Orders, of which 26 were granted, 5 were refused and 2 were withdrawn.
This data has been run specifically to answer this question and is not verified to the same standard as Official Statistics.

**Slavery: Court Orders**  
*Asked by Baroness Doocy*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Slavery and Trafficking Prevention and Risk Orders have been granted (1) on application, and (2) on sentencing. [HL6627]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The latest data made available to the Home Office is for the period July 2015 to March 2017 where 56 Orders were issued in total, consisting of 37 Prevention Orders on conviction, and 19 Risk Orders on application. These figures were published in the 2017 UK annual report on Modern Slavery;  
The Answer includes the following attached material:  
2017 UK Annual report on modern slavery  
[2017_uk_annual_report_on_modern_slavery.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-26/HL6627

**Small Businesses: Billing**  
*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to address concerns that small businesses lack the funds and resources necessary to fully take advantage of global trade agreements after Brexit; and whether they are considering future measures to help such businesses in this area. [HL6516]

**Baroness Fairhead:** The Department for International Trade supports small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through its overseas network, international events programme, and online services. The great.gov.uk website offers digital tools to help businesses export and has had over 3 million visitors. Ministers from across Government have carried out extensive engagement on EU exit with businesses and industry bodies from all sectors of the economy and all regions of the UK.

UK Export Finance (UKEF), offers SMEs support to export and invest overseas with confidence. In 2016-17, 79% of UK companies supported by UKEF were SMEs. In October 2017 UKEF partnered with high street banks offering SMEs, including businesses that supply exporters, access to government backed trade finance directly from their banks. UKEF also recently launched an enhanced overseas investment insurance product to protect UK businesses against political risks when investing abroad.

The Government is developing a new Export Strategy which will be published in the coming months, and have engaged with numerous businesses, and organisations such as the Federation of Small Businesses and the British Chamber of Commerce, and other Government departments, including BEIS, to consider how best to support all businesses, including SMEs, to export or export more.

**Smoking: Young People**  
*Asked by Viscount Ridley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what lessons they have learnt from Norway's success in reducing its smoking rate among young women from 30 per cent to 1 per cent in the last 16 years. [HL6708]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The Government published its Tobacco Control Plan (TCP), Towards a Smokefree Generation: A Tobacco Control Plan for England, in July of 2017. In developing policy proposals for the plan it reviewed evidence on how other leading tobacco control countries have implemented policies to reduce tobacco use.

Smoking rates for women in England are currently at 13.7%, the lowest they have ever been. As outlined in the TCP there is a commitment to reduce smoking among adults from 15.5% to 12% or less by 2022. A copy of the TCP is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:  
Tobacco Control Plan for England  

The material can be viewed online at:  
Social Media: Harassment

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment have they made of the Network Enforcement Act passed by the German parliament as an effective tool to deal with abuse on social media. [HL6810]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** We are monitoring the effectiveness of the German Network Enforcement Act, which only came into force in January 2018.

Social Media: Offences against Children

*Asked by Lord Triesman*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have held in the last year with Facebook and other social media companies about online grooming of children; and with what outcomes. [HL6727]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government has been working closely with tech companies and tackling online grooming as a form of child sexual exploitation is a priority for the Home Secretary.

To address the progress of what social media companies are doing about online grooming, the Home Secretary visited the US in February 2018 and November 2017 and met with social media companies to discuss what they are doing to prevent child sexual abuse material on their platforms.

Additionally, Facebook are a member of the WePROTECT Global Alliance Board. The Board meets bi-annually, and most recently launched the Global Threat Assessment on 14th February 2018, highlighting the changing nature of the online threat to children.

Social Rented Housing: Auctions

*Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action, if any, they will take to prevent the auctioning off of social housing. [HL6677]

**Lord Bassam of Brighton:**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action, if any, they will take to prevent social landlords, including local authorities, from evicting tenants from their homes to enable the auctioning off of properties in lot sales. [HL6678]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:**

Social landlords may choose to sell some of their older, more expensive to maintain homes, helping to free up resources which could be used to invest in new, modern homes or in existing stock for their tenants.

Social landlords should provide their tenants with a written tenancy agreement at the start of their tenancy, detailing both the tenant's and the landlord’s legal rights. Social housing tenants cannot be evicted unless a court grants possession to a landlord. The court has discretion to do this if a landlord intends to carry out redevelopment or major works that could not be completed otherwise and it is satisfied that suitable alternative accommodation will be available for the tenant. Social landlords are also required by the Regulator of Social Housing to consult fully with residents who would be affected by a change in landlord or a significant change in management arrangements due to the sale of properties. Some landlords choose to offer to pay residents’ home removals costs and offer a guaranteed right of return with an equivalent tenancy once the redevelopment or major works are complete.

In the exceptional circumstances where a local authority wishes to sell tenanted homes, it must first seek permission to do so from the Secretary of State under the Housing Act 1985. Similarly, a housing association may choose to sell tenanted homes and on these occasions, sales are usually within the housing association sector with existing tenant’s rights continuing. Housing associations must notify the Regulator of Social Housing if they sell or transfer the ownership of homes and any government grant that was initially invested in the properties must be reinvested in new affordable housing.

Social Security Benefits: Domestic Violence

*Asked by Lord Bradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many separate bank accounts have been established in the last 12 months for benefit claimants suffering from domestic violence. [HL6680]

**Baroness Buscombe:** The information requested is not readily available and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost. DWP statisticians are currently working to develop official statistics on Alternative Payment Arrangements for Universal Credit (UC) which will include information on split payments.

Social Services: Children

*Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they intend to ensure that there is sufficient funding for local government children’s services. [HL6479]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:**

Over the Spending Review period, councils will have access to more than £200 billion for local services, including children’s services. The 2018/19 Local Government Finance Settlement confirmed a real terms increase in resources
available to local government over the next two years - £44.3 billion in 2017-18 to £45.6 billion in 2019-20. Core Spending Power is largely unringfenced so that local authorities can decide how to direct their funding.

In addition, my Department and the Department for Education are working together on the fair funding review of relative needs and resources. This aims to address concerns about the current funding distributions. The Government is committed to working with partners to understand how the Department for Education might further support improvement across the system.

Special Educational Needs: Finance

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what additional financial support is given to those schools with a high number of pupils on Education, Health and Care plans. [HL6841]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** Mainstream schools are funded through the formula set by their local authority. The funding formula is decided by each local authority and often uses factors such as pupils’ prior level of attainment in the school, to give an estimate of additional support required for pupils’ special educational needs (SEN).

In addition to the core funding provided to mainstream schools, we provide each local authority with a high needs budget. This supports provision for children and young people with SEN and disabilities, and alternative provision for pupils who cannot receive education in schools.

Local authorities are required to delegate funds to a level that enables schools to meet the additional cost of supporting pupils with SEN up to £6,000 per annum. When a school can demonstrate that the costs exceed this, the local authority should allocate top-up funding from its high needs budget.

The local authority can also use its high needs budget to give extra funding to schools with a disproportionate number of pupils with SEN, including those with a high number of pupils on education, health and care plans.

We provided local authorities with £130 million of additional funding for high needs last year, and are providing a further £142 million this year, bringing the total high needs funding across England to £6 billion per annum.

Strokes: Young People

*Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reduce the number of strokes in young adults across the UK. [HL6573]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The risk factors for stroke in young people are largely the same as for older people. However, there are some additional risk factors that are seen more frequently in younger people such as dissection of the neck arteries, congenital abnormalities of the blood vessels in the brain, recreational drug use and antiphospholipid syndrome.

Public Health England is focussed on primary prevention to reduce the number of strokes in young adults across the United Kingdom. Educating the public to adopt a healthy lifestyle is an important factor in this. Change4Life is Public Health England's flagship campaign to help families and children in England to eat well and move more.

In partnership with the Stroke Association, Public Health England relaunched the national ‘Act FAST’ stroke campaign in February 2017 and did so again in February 2018. This campaign targets people of all ages and aims to raise awareness of the symptoms of stroke, encouraging people who recognise any of the signs, in themselves or others, to call 999.

Sudan: Christianity

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was their response to (1) the reported arrest in Sudan, since 2011, of nearly 200 Christian leaders, (2) the reported demolition or partial demolition of 20 churches in Sudan, (3) the reported refusal of the Sudanese authorities to provide permits for the replacement of those churches, and (4) the statement of the former US Secretary of State that the government of Sudan “arrests, detains, and intimidates clergy and church members”; and what British aid is being used within Sudan to promote recognition of the obligations under Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, concerning freedom of religion or belief. [HL6745]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Sudan remains a Human Rights Priority Country for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), and we are deeply concerned by the continuing demolition of churches, and restrictions on Christian school opening days. We are considering ways that FCO programme funding could help to promote freedom of religion or belief in Sudan. We continue to raise our concerns about freedom of religion or belief with the Government as part of the human rights element of our UK-Sudan Strategic Dialogue, the next round of which will take place in April.

Sudan: Corruption

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Corruption Perceptions Index 2017, published by Transparency International, which states that among 180 countries assessed Sudan is in 175th place; and how they plan to ensure that, in such a climate, increased bilateral aid will benefit the average Sudanese citizen. [HL6746]
Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Helping the Government of Sudan to tackle corruption is a key part of our bilateral engagement. We are working with the Government on improvements to the regulatory and business environment, and are collaborating with the World Bank to improve public financial management and remove barriers to private sector development, including corruption. The UK does not provide money directly to the Government of Sudan, but funds international NGOs and UN agencies to deliver programmes that target the most vulnerable Sudanese citizens.

Sudan: Human Trafficking

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the findings, reported by Klaas van Dijken and Abdulmoniem Suleiman in January, that key individuals in the government of Sudan are complicit in people smuggling and trafficking; what is their assessment of the extent to which the €100 million EU development package given to Sudan to tackle the flow of irregular migration has addressed that problem; and whether they regard the government of Sudan as part of the solution or part of the problem in combatting human trafficking. [HL6747]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We continue to raise our concerns with the Government of Sudan over allegations that some government officials are involved in the smuggling and trafficking of refugees. Reports such as those by Klaas van Dijken and Abdulmoniem Suleiman help us to engage constructively.

The EU has not yet published any results from its €100 million package. It is therefore too early to say what impact the funding has had. Sudan remains a significant source, transit, and host country for migration to the UK. It is vital that we continue to work on irregular migration with the Government of Sudan and with civil society representatives, both as part of the UK-Sudan Strategic Dialogue and under the umbrella of the Khartoum Process.

Syria: Armed Conflict

*Asked by Lord Alton of Wimbledon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the governments of Germany and other states about the supply of weapons and munitions to Turkey, Iran and other combatants in Syria. [HL6452]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We discuss the situation in Syria regularly with Germany and other international partners. Such discussions include military aspects of the conflict. We have repeatedly expressed our concern at Iranian actions in Syria, which detract from efforts to get a genuine peace process under way.

Syria: Crimes against Humanity

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they will take in response to the finding by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, published on 11 March, that rape and other acts of sexual violence carried out by government forces in Syria amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity; and whether they intend to refer Syria to the International Criminal Court. [HL6758]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK is committed to ensuring that those responsible for violations of international law and human rights abuses in Syria are held to account. The UK strongly supports the work of the UN Commission of Inquiry on Syria whose reports have shone a light on the most serious human rights violations in the Syrian conflict. On 23 March the UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution welcoming the work of the UN Commission of Inquiry and renewing its mandate for another year. The resolution was presented by the UK on behalf of France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the UK and the US.

The UK has publicly expressed its support for referring the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court and immediate implementation of resolution 2401, which was adopted on 5 March.

The UK has repeatedly urged Russia bilaterally and in other multilateral fora to use its influence to ensure adherence to the ceasefire and that the Assad regime allows rapid, unimpeded and sustained UN-led humanitarian access to deliver urgently needed food and medical supplies to Eastern Ghouta.

The Foreign Secretary and International Development Secretary issued joint statements on 15 March and 22 March, condemning the appalling situation in Eastern Ghouta and calling for the implementation of UNSCR 2401.

We will continue to urge all parties with influence to support an effective and sustainable ceasefire in Syria, and to work constructively with the UN-mediated political process to reach a lasting settlement to the Syrian conflict, in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2254.

*Answer*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they intend to take in response to the finding by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, published on 11 March, that rape and other acts of sexual violence carried out by government forces in Syria amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity; and whether they intend to refer Syria to the International Criminal Court.
(ICC). In May 2014, the UK co-sponsored a UN Security Council resolution to refer all those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Syria, regardless of affiliation, to the ICC. Russia and China chose to veto this resolution. In support of a future process of justice, the UK co-sponsored a UN General Assembly resolution establishing a new international, impartial and independent mechanism to support the investigation and prosecution of those responsible for the most serious crimes. In partnership with other donor countries, we are funding the collection of documentary evidence for use in any legal procedures in the future.

**Asked by Baroness Helic**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they recognise the perpetration and commission of war crimes, including rape and other forms of sexual violence, committed by parties to the Syrian conflict, as recommended in article 136 of the report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic published on 11 March. [HL6759]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Any determination as to whether war crimes have occurred is a legal decision for a recognised court. The UK is committed to ensuring that those responsible for violations of international law and human rights abuses in Syria are held to account. We have been at the forefront of international action. The UK co-sponsored a UN General Assembly resolution establishing a new international, impartial and independent mechanism to support the investigation and prosecution of those responsible for the most serious crimes. The UK strongly supports the work of the UN Commission of Inquiry whose reports have shone a light on the most serious human rights violations in the Syrian conflict. In partnership with other donor countries, we are funding the collection of documentary evidence for use in any legal procedures in the future.

**Syria: International Assistance**

**Asked by The Lord Bishop of Southwark**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to international donors to increase the payment rate as a proportion of pledged donations to the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan for Syria. [HL6718]

**Lord Bates:** We are working closely with other donors to ensure that where money has been pledged to the Regional Crisis and Resilience Plan, and its equivalent inside Syria, these pledges are fulfilled.

The European Union leads on tracking and public reporting of money pledged for the Syria Crisis. The UK continues to participate fully in feeding into these reports and encourages other donors to do so as well.

**Asked by The Lord Bishop of Southwark**

To ask Her Majesty's Government at what level the UK will be represented at the second Brussels Conference on Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region on 24 and 25 April; and whether they intend to press participating states and non-governmental bodies to agree a mechanism for timely and transparent receipt, disbursement, and accounting of money pledged. [HL6719]

**Lord Bates:** The Government’s representation at the upcoming Brussels Conference: Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region is currently under consideration.

The European Union leads on tracking and public reporting of money pledged for the Syria Crisis. The UK continues to participate fully in feeding into these reports and encourages other donors to do so as well.

**Syria: Overseas Aid**

**Asked by The Lord Bishop of Southwark**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking (1) to ensure that there is no reduction in the level of UK funding to alleviate the humanitarian crisis in Syria, and (2) to aid the relief effort in neighbouring countries in 2018–19. [HL6720]

**Lord Bates:** DFID country allocations for 2018 and 2019 are yet to be determined. However, we remain at the forefront in delivering on pledges. In 2017, the UK met its pledge for the regional Syria Crisis Response, disbursing £508 million, or 102% of our pledge against the commitment of £500 million made at the April 2017 Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region conference.

The Government will also continue to provide assistance to support Syrian refugees in the neighbouring countries of Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey.

**Syria: Peace Negotiations**

**Asked by Lord Hylton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to ensure that the negotiations for a peaceful settlement in Syria, now taking place in Geneva and Astana, are effectively drawn together to produce a satisfactory result, minimising continued loss of life. [HL6546]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The British Government is clear that the UN-led Geneva process between the Syrian parties, mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 2254, remains the forum for reaching a lasting political settlement to end the conflict in Syria and we fully support the efforts of UN Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura. All international efforts towards peace in Syria must be in support of the UN-led process. The Syrian Negotiation Commission continues to engage constructively, in good faith and without preconditions. The Asad regime must now engage credibly in Geneva talks and Russia must use all the influence it can to ensure that it does so.
Syria: Sexual Offences

*Asked by Baroness Helic*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to provide (1) expertise to assist in the preservation and documentation of evidence relating to sexual violence in the Syrian conflict, and (2) funding for psychological support programmes for survivors of sexual violence, as recommended by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic in its report published on 11 March. [HL6760]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Through the Conflict Pool and its successor, the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund, the United Kingdom has provided over £8 million in funding to projects related to the training of Syrians to collect evidence of human rights violations and abuses. This includes the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative, capacity building for doctors in producing evidence of torture and rape, enabling survivors to find access to psychosocial support networks, expanding local networks of Syrian human rights defenders, and support for justice and accountability.

The Department for International Development is also providing up to £25 million from 2015 to 2018 to UN Population Fund (UNFPA) to strengthen the prevention of - and response to – gender based violence (GBV), and provide sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services for women and girls. The project aims to ensure that survivors of GBV receive the vital medical, psychosocial, and security services they need. It establishes safe spaces for women and girls across Syria as well as supports hospitals and mobile health units to deliver vital SRH services. In addition, UNFPA coordinates the wider GBV response in Syria at the national and regional level.

**Teachers: Recruitment**

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Ely*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking, if any, to improve recruitment and retention of teachers in small rural schools. [HL6754]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** The department is working directly with schools facing teacher supply challenges, including small rural schools. £30 million of funding has been announced, tailored to help these schools recruit and retain teachers.

The department will be working with education organisations, including teachers and head teachers from small rural schools, to develop a teacher recruitment and retention strategy. The strategy will consider the challenges facing a range of types of schools, including small rural schools.

**Telecommunications: Competition**

*Asked by Lord Fox*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of problems switching fixed telephony provider on the competitiveness of the fixed voice market in the UK. [HL6800]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** Ofcom, the independent communications regulator, have recently reviewed the voice only (fixed telephony) market. They found that there are some competitiveness issues in this market which have arisen due to a large majority of consumers moving to voice and broadband packages, and as a result major communications providers withdrawing from the voice only market, limiting consumer choice. Ofcom found that the consumers remaining in the voice only market are largely unengaged, with average contracts lasting over 20 years and is therefore working with the largest provider of voice only services (BT), to explore how communications with these consumers could improve their engagement.

Switching issues within the voice only business market mainly relate to the process of porting numbers, which is the ability to retain telephone numbers as you move to a new communications provider. The Office of the Telecommunications Adjudicator is independent from Ofcom and industry, and is leading discussions on how to improve porting arrangements. Further details about its role can be viewed at: http://www.otfa.org.uk.

**Telecommunications: EU Law**

*Asked by Lord Clement-Jones*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to remain fully aligned throughout the transition period with the EU Electronic Communications Code in the event that implementation of that Code is delayed until after the European Union (Withdrawal) Act comes into force. [HL6794]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The European Electronic Communications Code (EECC) is still under negotiation. We anticipate that it is likely to be adopted by the EU this year. It is not yet clear how long the transposition period will be, but we anticipate that the deadline for transposition will be after EU Exit but during the expected post-Exit Implementation Period. As the terms of the Implementation Period have been agreed, common rules will remain in place until the end of the period.

**Telecommunications: Regulation**

*Asked by Lord Clement-Jones*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to establish an equivalent, domestic, mechanism to Article 7 of the EU's Electronic Communications Framework Directive (2002/21/EC) to provide oversight of Ofcom's decisions. [HL6795]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The Government will ensure that the legislative framework for electronic communications in place after exit day will continue to provide an appropriate level of regulatory control that balances the needs of industry and consumers. We will
announce our plans regarding the Article 7 process in due course.

*Asked by Lord Clement-Jones*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to update the regulation of the electronic communications sector in a manner which will avoid imposing additional complexity on British companies trading across Europe after Brexit; and whether those plans are dependent on whether the EU Electronic Communications Code is implemented during the transition period after the UK leaves the EU. [HL6796]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** We will ensure that regulation of the electronic communications sector remains fit for purpose and avoids any unnecessary complexity for business and consumers. Those objectives are not dependent on the implementation of the European Electronic Communications Code, although we will of course adhere to the applicable legal framework at all times.

*Telecommunications: Rural Areas*

*Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to improve (1) mobile phone coverage, (2) broadband access, and (3) internet speeds, in rural areas. [HL6459]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** As set out in our 2017 5G Strategy our ambition is for the UK to have good quality mobile connectivity where people live, work and travel. This is why we reformed mobile planning laws in England in 2016, reformed the Electronic Communications Code in December 2017 and signed an Accord with the Church of England in February 2018 to make it easier and cheaper to install digital infrastructure across the UK including rural areas.

We also welcome Ofcom’s consultation, launched on 9 March, which outlines potential new licence obligations for rural coverage as part of the upcoming 700MHz spectrum auction. This will further help drive coverage improvements for consumers

£1.7 billion of public money is being invested to support vital improvements in superfast broadband coverage across the UK. BDUK will continue supporting delivery of superfast broadband beyond the 95% level, and at least a further 2% is likely to be achieved. Of which, 340,000 premises (over 1% of premises) are contracted to be delivered by March 2019

The Better Broadband Scheme is available to those who are unable to obtain a connection speed above 2Mbps. The Scheme can support access to satellite broadband, 4G or wireless connections in some locations, and can also support community fibre broadband projects through the BT Community Fibre Partnerships scheme.

As confirmed in our announcement in December 2017 we are pushing ahead with our plans for a Universal Service Obligation (USO) so that, by 2020, everyone across the UK will have a clear, enforceable right to request 10 Megabit per second broadband.

Defra has also allocated £30 million of grant funding from the Rural Development Programme for England, targeted at helping to connect businesses with broadband in hard to reach rural areas.

Full fibre broadband connections offer the fastest and most reliable speeds available, and the government is strongly committed to a vision of full fibre Britain. In the Spring 2017 Budget £200m of funding was allocated to the Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) programme. This funding was used to launch a £190m Challenge Fund designed to stimulate commercial investment in full fibre networks in both rural and urban locations across the whole of the UK. We also recently announced our £67m Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme. The voucher scheme is designed to further the strategic objective of the Local Full Fibre Networks programme to stimulate commercial investment in full fibre coverage across the UK. Gigabit broadband vouchers can be used by small businesses and local communities to subside the installation cost of ultrafast connections over gigabit-capable infrastructure.

*Territorial Waters*

*Asked by Lord Rogan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many incursions into British territorial waters there were from 1 March 2017 to 28 February 2018, broken down by country. [HL6834]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Her Majesty's Government does not hold centrally details of incursions into the 12 nautical mile limit of UK Territorial Waters. The protection of UK Territorial waters is a shared responsibility between the Ministry of Defence and the Royal Navy; Border Force; Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC); and, in relation to fisheries, the Marine Management Organisation in England, Marine Scotland and Northern Ireland's Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

Entry into UK Territorial Waters by foreign warships without prior diplomatic clearance, or when exercising Innocent Passage, is rare. The Ministry of Defence routinely monitors the activity of foreign military vessels, but does not release these figures for National security reasons.

Border Force, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the National Crime Agency regularly intercept suspected maritime smuggling operations. Border Force Statistics are publicly available as part of the Home Office Migration Transparency Data initiative. NCA do not collect data on the legal status of any vessels intercepted.
Terrorism

As asked by Lord Marlesford

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to arrange for all persons serving custodial sentences for terrorist offences to receive copies of the judgment of Mr Justice Haddon-Cave when he sentenced Ahmed Hassan to a minimum of 34 years in prison for attempted murder for planting a bomb on a tube train at Parsons Green. [HL6772]

Lord Keen of Elie: We have no plans to do so. Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) works closely with a range of partners to tackle terrorism and extremism of all ideologies. HMPPS also has a strong multi-faith Chaplaincy dedicated to working with prisoners on all faith matters including providing a proper understanding of Islam. In addition over 13,000 prison staff have received specialist extremism awareness training since January 2017.

Theatres: Lighting

As asked by Baroness Eaton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on theatre groups and lighting designers of the proposed phasing out from 2020 of the use of tungsten halogen lamps. [HL6575]

Lord Henley: The current proposals from the European Commission are still open for discussion and no decisions have yet been made about the future of tungsten lighting for use in theatres. We are aware of the concerns raised by theatre groups, lighting designers and others and will as, part of our evidence gathering seek views prior to voting on the Regulation. Our initial technical advice suggests there are low energy lighting alternatives (e.g. LEDs) which use much less energy and have a longer lifetime than the tungsten lightbulbs. As a result, savings on energy bills will outweigh higher purchasing costs over the lifetime of the product. The Department also carries out a cost benefit analysis of these measures but this does not address specific sectors.

T-levels

As asked by Lord Allen of Kensington

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan for the Institute for Apprenticeships to take on responsibility for the new T level qualifications. [HL6734]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: We are working closely with the Institute for Apprenticeships (IfA) to prepare for the transfer of responsibility for T levels. The transfer will take place once their new legal powers have been commenced. More details will be set out in the forthcoming strategic guidance to the IfA.

Trade Barriers

As asked by Viscount Waverley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the position the UK intends to ally the UK to country or countries the intend to ally the UK to in the event of a global trade war; and in particular, with which country or countries the intend to ally the UK to maintain the current rules-based international trading system. [HL6614]
Baroness Sugg: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking, if any, to avert a global trade war. [HL6616]

**Baroness Fairhead:** The UK fully supports the global rules-based trade system, open and free trade, and measures to tackle unfair trade where necessary. We maintain our position that multilateral action and a balanced, proportionate, WTO compliant approach remain the best ways of resolving issues within international trade without the need for escalation.

**Trade: Anguilla**

*As asked by Viscount Waverley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of Anguilla's reliance on trade with other non-UK EU Caribbean islands; and what consideration they have given during the Brexit negotiations to the case for continuing trade and other relations between Anguilla and those islands. [HL6673]

**Lord Callanan:** We are working closely with the Government of Anguilla in order to understand the extent to which they rely on the EU Overseas Countries and Territories for Trade, and the impact of EU exit on existing trading arrangements with its neighbouring islands. The Government is considering Anguilla's interests, just as it is considering the interests of all UK Overseas Territories as we move forward with our exit from the EU.

The UK Government is fully committed to involving all the UK Overseas Territories in our planning as we leave the EU, and ensuring that their interests are properly taken into account.

**Trains: North of England**

*As asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the statement by the Secretary of State for Transport on 27 March (HC Deb, col 652) that “we are replacing every single train in the north”, whether “we” refers to Her Majesty's Government; if not, who is responsible; and whether “the north” refers only to the northern franchise or to all the rail services in the north. [HL6801]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** As part of the franchise process, the rail industry will be replacing

with new, or refurbishing as new, all Northern and TransPennine Express trains.

The Northern franchise will introduce 281 new vehicles into the franchise from 2018 onwards to replace the 208 ‘Pacers’. The Northern fleet will see an overall increase by nearly one hundred and fifty vehicles.

The TransPennine Express fleet will see 87 vehicles refurbished as new. The remaining fleet of 124 vehicles (as at the time the franchise started) will be replaced by 220 new build vehicles; this means the fleet will increase by nearly one hundred vehicles.

**Travellers: Caravan Sites**

*As asked by Baroness Whitaker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government following the statement by the Secretary of State for Transport on 27 March (HC Deb, col 652), what is the timetable for the replacement of every single train in the north, and in particular for the classes 150, 153, 156 and 158 diesel multiple units and classes 319, 321, 322 and 333 electric multiple units; and which classes of trains will replace those trains. [HL6802]

**Baroness Sugg:** As a benefit secured through the franchising process, the rail industry will be replacing

the TransPennine Express trains.

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welcome views on this issue in response to the consultation.

**Travellers: Equality**

*Asked by Baroness Whitaker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what mechanisms will be in place after Brexit to take the place of the EU Roma Integration Strategy to improve the life outcomes of Gypsies, Travellers and Roma. [HL6728]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** As the Prime Minister has said, to leave the EU does not mark an ending. It marks a new beginning for the UK and our relationship with our European allies. We will continue to advance Roma integration within broader social inclusion and integration policies, and champion race equality at international level in a wide range of settings, collaborating with the Council of Europe and the United Nations. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has also published an Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper. This invites views on the Government’s vision for building strong integrated communities, including Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, to engage with the Green Paper.

*Asked by Baroness Whitaker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the recommendation of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination that the UK should “develop a comprehensive strategy, in consultation with members of Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities” to improve outcomes in housing and employment. [HL6785]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Government is concerned about the inequalities experienced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. The Race Disparity Audit has shown us these groups are amongst the most disadvantaged in British society. We are committed to do more to ensure nobody is excluded or left behind. The UK Government supports efforts at international level to further the integration of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, including through the United Nations International Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (UN ICERD), on which the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government leads.

The Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper, published in March, invites views on the Government’s vision for building strong integrated communities where people – whatever their background – live, work, learn and socialise together, based on shared rights, responsibilities and opportunities. We encourage all groups, including Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, to engage with the Green Paper.

**Undercover Policing Inquiry**

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether (1) the Home Office, and (2) the Metropolitan Police Service, intend to provide position statements to the Mitting Inquiry, setting out (a) their respective responsibilities for undercover policing, (b) their assessment of failings in respect of such policing, and (c) who was responsible for any such failings; and if so, whether they will publish those statements. [HL6646]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Undercover Policing Inquiry was set up by the then Home Secretary to inquire into and report on undercover police operations conducted by English and Welsh police forces in England and Wales since 1968. Under the Inquiry’s Terms of Reference, this includes identifying and assessing the adequacy of the statutory, policy and judicial regulation of undercover policing and ascertaining the state of awareness of undercover police operations of Her Majesty’s Government. The Home Office is a Core Participant and, in addition to ongoing voluntary disclosure, is providing such assistance as is requested of it by the Inquiry. The Metropolitan Police Service is independent of Government and decisions on their statements and disclosure to the Inquiry are a matter for them. The Inquiry will report on its findings once all evidence has been reviewed.

**Vetting: Construction**

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to paying compensation to those construction workers who were blacklisted as a result of information supplied to industry bodies by Special Branch and undercover police. [HL6644]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Police are independent of Government and decisions relating to compensation are a matter for them.

**Vietnam: Human Rights**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the upcoming trials of Vietnamese human rights activists, (1) lawyer Nguyen Van Dai, (2) Pastor Nguyen Trung Ton, and (3) activist Nguyen Bac Truyen, who face prison sentences of between 12 and 20 years, life imprisonment or capital punishment if convicted. [HL6787]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Minister of State, Harriett Baldwin MP, has issued a public statement to underline that we are deeply concerned by the conviction of the six members of the Brotherhood for Democracy and the draconian sentences they received. We do not accept that the peaceful expression of views on Vietnam’s
own political system, or promotion of basic and universal human rights, should constitute a criminal offence.

**Visas: Fraud**
*Asked by Baroness Hamwee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of bogus colleges previously closed down for having sponsored visas for people who intended to work in the UK rather than study that are now operating under new names. [HL6637]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Since 2010 the Home Office has revoked over 900 Tier 4 Licences which will include circumstances where the sponsor was found to be non-compliant with our requirements. The Home Office does not routinely hold data on the activities of or changes made to an institution after it has been revoked, as we no longer retain any oversight of the institution.

When new Tier 4 licence applications are made, we undertake checks on an institution to see if they have previously had a licence revoked. We will also check any key personnel and others involved in the running of the institution to examine their suitability to hold a sponsor licence. This will include checks regarding any previous ownership of revoked institutions and the circumstances for revocation. Where appropriate we will refuse a licence application where we are not satisfied the institution or personnel involved meet the suitability criteria to hold a Tier 4 sponsor licence.

**Weapons of Mass Destruction**
*Asked by Lord Campbell of Pittenweem*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to enhance the chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defence capability of the UK in the light of the ongoing enquiries into recent events in Salisbury and the possibility of further similar events within the UK. [HL6538]

**Earl Howe:** We are already evolving Defence capability to respond to the range of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) threats. For example, as the Secretary of State for Defence recently announced, we are building on our world class expertise at the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory in Porton Down by investing £48 million in a new Chemical Weapons Defence Centre to maintain our cutting edge in chemical analysis and defence. The Ministry of Defence will re-evaluate its overall CBRN capability as part of its Modernising Defence Programme.

**West Bank: Internally Displaced People**
*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action, if any, they will take to prevent the forcible transfer of farming-shepherding communities throughout Area C of the West Bank. [HL6668]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK is concerned by Israeli proposals to forcibly transfer some communities in Area C, including the Bedouin population from the E1 area, which the UN has said could constitute forcible transfer. We have been clear about this with the Israeli authorities and we regularly raise the matter through our Embassy in Tel Aviv. The Minister for the Middle East and North Africa discussed the threat of forcible transfer with the Susiya Bedouin community during his visit to the Occupied Palestinian Territories in August 2017 and most recently raised our concerns about plans to demolish the village with the Israeli Ambassador to the UK on 27 February 2018. I visited the Bedouin community in Abu Nuwar on 10 April, and subsequently raised concerns about their treatment in meetings with Israeli Ministers and senior officials on 11 April.

**West Coast Railway Line: Trains**
*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to ensure that the Pendolino trains currently operating on the West Coast Main Line will be able to operate on the HS2 line, at least during times of maintenance or disruption of the West Coast Main Line. [HL6750]

**Baroness Sugg:** There are no plans to operate Pendolino trains on the new high-speed railway line. Pendolino trains are currently limited to 200kph and operating these on a high-speed line with trains routinely operating at 330kph, and up to 360kph, would mean that we would be unable to maintain journey times and this would reduce the capacity of HS2.

**Work in Fishing Convention**
*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to lay before Parliament the statutory instruments necessary to implement the European Union (Definition of Treaties) (Work in Fishing Convention) Order 2018; and whether they intend that those statutory instruments should be approved by both Houses before the UK leaves the EU. [HL6763]

**Baroness Sugg:** The European Union (Definition of Treaties) (Work in Fishing Convention) Order 2018 will provide the powers to fully implement the International Labour Organization’s Work in Fishing Convention (No. 188). The Government intends to lay the statutory instruments implementing the Convention in summer 2018. These instruments will be laid under negative procedure.

**Wound Dressings**
*Asked by The Earl of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the NHS is undertaking a fast-track trial of wound care products;
and if so, when they expect to report on that trial. [HL6699]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: There is currently no fast track trial of wound care products.

However, the National Health Service Clinical Evaluation Team are undertaking a number of evaluations on everyday healthcare consumables, which includes wound care products that are currently held in the NHS Supply Chain catalogue. Reports on these are published on an ongoing basis on the NHS Business Services Authority’s website.

Written Questions

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what structures are in place to ensure consistency of quality across departments in responding to Questions for Written Answer in line with constitutional norms, especially regarding the need to be "as open as possible" in answering (LJ (1996–97) 404). [HL6676]

Lord Young of Cookham: It is for individual Departments to ensure that written Parliamentary Questions (PQs) are answered in line with the Ministerial Code.

The Ministerial Code sets out that Ministers must give accurate and truthful information to Parliament. It also states that Ministers should be as open as possible with Parliament. The Cabinet Office produces guidance to officials on drafting answers to PQs. This is available on GOV.UK;

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drafting-answers-to-parliamentary-questions-guidance. A Minister may refuse to answer a question on the grounds of unreasonable or disproportionate cost of researching an answer.

The Leader of the House of Lords’ Office oversees Departments’ performance and the quality of answers in response to Peers questions. Internal committees of both Houses conduct similar scrutiny of Departmental performance in responding to PQs.

Yemen: Armed Conflict

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent discussions they have had with (1) the government of Saudi Arabia, (2) the EU, (3) the United Nations, and (4) the government of Yemen, concerning the humanitarian crisis in Yemen. [HL6547]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We engage regularly with regional and international partners on the humanitarian situation in Yemen both bilaterally and through multilateral fora. Regular discussions at all levels are held with Saudi Arabia, the EU, the UN and the Government of Yemen. Ministers have had discussions recently with President Hadi during the Riyadh International Humanitarian Forum, with the Saudi Crown Prince during his recent visit to the UK, and with UN Security Council colleagues where a UK-sponsored Presidential Statement focused on the humanitarian situation was agreed on 15 March.

Asked by Lord Truscott

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will support an independent inquiry into human rights abuses by all parties in the conflict in Yemen. [HL6845]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK is deeply concerned by the human rights situation in Yemen and takes allegations of violations of international human rights law very seriously. That is why we strongly supported the UN Human Rights Council Resolution on the human rights situation in Yemen in September 2017. It was a single, impactful, consensus resolution which mandates that a group of eminent international and regional experts conduct an independent investigation into the human rights situation in Yemen. We are working to ensure that the resolution is fully implemented.

Yemen: Humanitarian Aid

Asked by Lord Truscott

To ask Her Majesty's Government what aid they are supplying to Yemen to prevent mass starvation of the population. [HL6846]

Lord Bates: The Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa announced £170 million in response to the humanitarian crisis in Yemen on the 3 April for the financial year 2018/2019. This funding will meet immediate food needs for 2.5 million Yemenis, and is in addition to over £400 million in bilateral support since the conflict began in 2015.

In the 2017/2018 financial year, the UK was the second-largest donor to the UN Humanitarian Appeal for Yemen and the third-largest humanitarian donor to Yemen overall, providing £205 million. This support aimed to provide enough food to meet immediate needs for 3.4 million people and fuel to mill enough wheat to feed a million people for over a year, as well as nutrition support for 1.7 million people, and clean water and sanitation for an expected 1.2 million people.

Alongside our funding, the UK has taken a leading role in calling on all parties to the conflict to allow unhindered humanitarian and commercial access throughout Yemen. As set out in the UK-led Presidential Statement adopted by the Security Council on 15 March, it is essential that all parties facilitate the safe, rapid and unhindered access for supplies, particularly through Hodeidah and Saleef ports, to help prevent mass starvation.

Yemen: Peace Negotiations

Asked by Lord Truscott

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to table a resolution in the UN Security
Council calling for an immediate ceasefire and peace talks in Yemen. [HL6842]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government keeps under consideration whether a new UN resolution would support progress towards a politicial settlement in Yemen. Any new UN Security Council resolution requires consensus amongst the international community and the cooperation of regional parties to have an effect on the ground. Passing a resolution without clear progress on the political track risks undermining the authority of the Council. At present we judge that the best opportunity for progress comes through the appointment of Martin Griffiths as the new UN Special Envoy for Yemen. We encourage the parties to return to negotiations and participate constructively in the UN-led political process.

*Asked by Lord Truscott*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are bringing diplomatic pressure to bear on the government of Saudi Arabia to bring about a ceasefire in Yemen. [HL6843]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We sponsored a UN Security Council Presidential Statement, agreed on 15 March, which called upon the parties to the conflict to agree the modalities for a cessation of hostilities. There is no military solution to the conflict and only a political solution can bring long-term stability to Yemen. During the visit of the Saudi Crown Prince to the UK in March, the UK and Saudi Arabia agreed on the importance of reaching a political solution to the crisis in Yemen and resolved to work closely together and with partners, including the newly appointed UN Special Envoy to Yemen to achieve this.

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**Young People: Voluntary Work**

*Asked by Baroness Garden of Frognal*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of young people who participated in full-time social action in each of the last five years. [HL6543]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** We do not hold an official estimate of the number of young people participating in full-time social action.

The recently published independent Review of Full Time Social Action led by Steve Holliday CBE reviewed evidence from the sector and estimated that 1,000 young people per annum take part in social action on a full-time basis.

The Government will publish its response to the Review’s report in due course.

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**Zimbabwe: Politics and Government**

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the situation in Zimbabwe. [HL6815]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We welcome the statements from President Mnangagwa on his intention to implement a wide range of economic and political reforms, including his commitment to holding free and fair elections this year. Implementation of these reforms will be critical for Zimbabwe to realise its desire for international re-engagement.
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