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Monday
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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

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

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

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Written Statements

Monday, 21 May 2018

Call-Out Order (Mali)

[HLWS677]

Earl Howe: My right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Armed Forces (Mark Lancaster) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

A new call-out order has been made under section 56(1B) of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 to enable reservists to be called out into service to support operations in Mali.

Currently, we plan on calling out only willing and available reservists who have the support of their employer.

The order took effect from 18 May 2018 and ceases to have effect on 17 May 2019.

Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement

[HLWS680]

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

My Department has today laid the European Union (Definition of Treaties) (Canada Trade Agreement) Order 2017 to designate the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement as a Treaty in accordance with the European Communities Act 1972.

The European Union and Canada have concluded negotiation and signature of this Agreement, which was provisionally applied on 21 September 2017 and requires ratification by the EU Member States to come fully into effect.

We have laid this Order which will be followed shortly by the laying of the text of the Agreement as a Command Paper under the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act for scrutiny. This is, in effect, the start of the formal process of ratification of the Agreement in the UK.

This Agreement will boost the economies of the UK, Canada, and the EU, promoting bilateral trade and economic growth. It removed 98.2% of Canadian tariff lines with provisional application on 21 September 2017. This will rise to almost 99% over the next seven years. The Agreement also reduces non-tariff measures that businesses face when trading goods and services and when investing in Canada.

The Government remains committed to supporting the EU's ambitious trade agenda including the free trade agreements it is putting in place. We see UK ratification of CETA, whilst the UK is still an EU Member State, as a sound demonstration of this commitment.

The Government has been clear that it will seek to ensure continuity in its existing EU trade agreements and other preferential arrangements as we leave the EU, including CETA. The Prime Minister and the Canadian Prime Minister have confirmed that both countries remain committed to a seamless transition of the trade preferences between the UK and Canada brought into effect with this Agreement.

We have also laid before the House an Explanatory Memorandum to this Order. This explains the background and rationale of the Agreement and ratification. At the same time, we are publishing our economic impact assessment of this Agreement and the external study on which it is based. Copies of these documents are being placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Early Recovery Assistance: Overseas Territories

[HLWS678]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: My Right Honourable Friend, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Boris Johnson), has made the following written Ministerial statement:

The United Kingdom is strongly committed to supporting the recovery of the British Overseas Territories of Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands following the devastation caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria last September. Through the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund we committed £72 million to support the immediate needs of the affected Territories from September 2017, of which £15m was approved on top of the initial commitment of £57m to support early recovery needs. This allocation was first brought to Parliament's attention in the written ministerial statement made on 14 December 2017 (HCWS355) following the Joint Ministerial Council on Tuesday 28 and Wednesday 29 November. This funding, supplemented by Foreign and Commonwealth Office programme funds, supported Overseas Territory Governments in meeting their immediate needs.

The Overseas Territories Directorate has led on dispersing this funding in consultation with Overseas Territory Governments, to achieve the following early recovery deliverables each worth over £100,000:

Anguilla

1) Repairs to educational infrastructure in Anguilla, with a value of up to £344,000 for phase 1, ensuring there is sufficient space for examinations, language tuition and theatre productions. This work is still ongoing

2) Orders worth £1,170,000 that provided Anguilla with a temporary air traffic control tower, fencing and ground lighting which contributed to the recertification of the territory's airport. 3) Reimbursement to the Government of Anguilla for £2,740,000 of invoices for island-wide waste cleanup, interim infrastructure repairs and generator/electrical works for school buildings, and buildings costs on the Anguilla Fire and Rescue Services Building

4) Repairs and safety equipment for Her Majesty's Prison, totalling £211,000.

British Virgin Islands

5) Promotion of employment in the construction sector in the British Virgin Islands, worth £363,000. This project is supporting the reform of the labour market and laws, as well as vocational training (construction and maritime) to prepare for the recovery and to promote more resilient building practises

6) Immediate repairs to housing for vulnerable families with inadequate insurance coverage, worth at least £1,260,000 This project is working with the British Virgin Islands Government plan to repair 70-100 homes and provide technical advice to use the repairs to spearhead the BVIG US\$15m housing recovery programme.

7) A temporary magistrate's court, worth up to £320,000. This will provide a secure premises for tackling the backlog of criminal cases, increasing public confidence in visible and effective rule of law while longer term criminal justice infrastructure is addressed. 8) Ongoing prison infrastructure repairs worth up to £676,000 to restore perimeter and internal fencing, roofing and locking systems, so that prisoners and staff have secure and decent living and working conditions. 9) The repair of 7 reservoirs on the British Virgin Islands, worth up to £1m that will restore the potable water network and enable basic water access for the majority of the population. 10) Repairs to the sewage and waterworks infrastructure and the procurement of maintenance vehicles to prevent it falling back into a state of disrepair, worth up to £1.1m. 11) The deployment of UK police personnel at a cost of £1,008,000 to provide surge support for law enforcement and support the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force to sustain public order

12) A programme of further support to meet the immediate capacity building needs of the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force, currently worth £1,349,000 with plans for continuation of training and leadership development support during the coming year.

Turks and Caicos Islands

13) Ongoing and planned prison infrastructure repairs worth up to £580,000 to repair perimeter lighting and install internal zonal fencing, improving movement and management of prisoners, and enabling the temporary restricted regime in place since the hurricanes to be lifted. 14) Restoration of the Radar system on the Turks and Caicos Islands, worth up to £350,000, enhancing border control and contributing to the security required for long-term recovery.

Cross-Territory Support

15) An order worth £5,296,000 that supported the electricity authorities in Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands to restore power to both territories

16) Orders worth £522,000 to provide uniforms and equipment for the police forces in all three affected territories 17) The deployment of security personnel to

TCI, BVI and Anguilla to fill staffing and capability gaps and support prison leadership and management. Support delivered in TCI up to the end of March 2018 (at a value of £475,000) has been extended (at a further cost of £119,000) to ensure basic safety, security and leadership development while repair work proceeds and TCI Government recruits additional staff. Additional personnel support to Anguilla from the same organisation (£217,000) has provided enhanced leadership planning and capability following the impact of the hurricanes. Support to BVI at a value of £194,000 has provided interim support until the arrival of the Scottish Prison Service in April 2018 to assist with enhanced security and management measures. 18) The provision of technical assistance and advisory support on recovery worth £547,000 19) An order worth up to £1.2m to provide equipment for the tackling of the spread of vector borne diseases across the affected OTs, which will be funded from the FY 2018-19 OT CSSF programme.

The provision of this assistance was in line with the Government's hurricane recovery objectives for the Overseas Territories. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials, along with UK Government advisors oversaw the procurement and delivery process. Where applicable, Memoranda of Understanding have been agreed with the Anguilla, Turks and Caicos Islands and British Virgin Islands Governments to cover their responsibilities once ownership has been transferred.

In November 2017 the Prime Minister confirmed a further £70 million package of recovery and reconstruction support. £10m of this has been allocated to the British Virgin Islands and £60m to Anguilla. In the British Virgin Islands it will be supplemented by up to £300 million of UK loan guarantees. The British Virgin Islands House of Assembly has passed legislation to establish a Recovery and Development Agency that will take this programme forward.

In Anguilla funds have been released for 6 priority projects, which the Government of Anguilla has estimated at approximately £10m. The release of further funding by UK Ministers is conditional on agreement of a Medium Term Economic and Fiscal Reform Plan to put Anguilla's public finances on a stable footing for the long term.

Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council

[HLWS679]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: My Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (Rt Hon Matthew Hancock) has made the following Written Statement:

The Education, Youth, Culture and Sport (EYCS) Council will take place in Brussels on 22 and 23 May 2018. Lord Ashton of Hyde will represent the UK at the Youth session of this Council (on 22 May). The UK's Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU will represent the UK on 23 May for the meetings on Culture & Audiovisual and Sport.

Youth

This session of the Council will begin with the adoption of Council conclusions on the role of young people in building a secure, cohesive and harmonious society in Europe. The Council will then seek to adopt Council conclusions on the role of youth in addressing the demographic challenges within the European Union.

Also tabled for this session is a policy debate on the future priorities for EU Youth policy.

In addition, there will be information from the Commission on European Youth Together, followed by information from the Belgian and French delegations on the Franco-Belgian declaration of Ministers responsible for youth on the prevention of violent radicalisation.

Culture/Audiovisual

This meeting will begin with the adoption of Council conclusions on the need to bring cultural heritage to the fore across policies in the EU.

There will be also a policy debate on the long term vision for the contribution of culture to the EU after 2020, in particular looking forward to the next Multiannual Financial Framework (2021-2027).

Additionally, there will be a public deliberation of current legislative proposals. For this, the Council will first welcome information from the German delegation on the Directive amending Directive (2006/112/EC) as regards rates of value added tax - actively engaging in negotiations from a cultural policy perspective. In extension to this, there will be information from the French delegation on the regulation on the Import of cultural goods. No legislative decisions will be made in these debates, so there are no implications for the parliamentary scrutiny reservation.

Information will be provided by the Lithuanian and Luxembourg delegations, on their respective hosting of the European Capitals of Culture 2022.

Sport

The sport session of EYCS will begin with the adoption of Council conclusions on promoting the common values of the EU through Sport. This will be followed by a policy debate on the commercialisation of elite sports and the sustainability of the European Model of Sport.

The EU Member States representative in the World Anti-Doping Agency Foundation Board, will present information on the Foundation Board meeting on 16-17 May. The French delegation will present information on the informal meeting of the EU Minister for Sport (Paris, 31 May 2018) signing of a declaration for a Europe of Sport on the horizon of the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Other

There will be information from the Austrian delegation, setting out their work programmes as the incoming Presidency, for the second half of 2018.

**Human Medicines Regulations 2012
Advisory Bodies: Annual Report 2017**[\[HLWS676\]](#)

Lord O'Shaughnessy: I have received the annual reports of the Human Medicines Regulations Advisory Bodies for 2017, which has been laid before Parliament today in accordance with the requirements of Part 2 Section 12 (4) of the Human Medicines Regulations 2012.

I am glad to acknowledge the valuable work done by the distinguished members of the Human Medicines Regulations advisory bodies and thank them for the time and effort dedicated in the public interest to this important work. I attach a copy of the report.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Annual Report 2017 [Human Medicines Regulations 2012
Advisory Bodies Annual Report 2017.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2018-05-21/HLWS676/>

Jobseeker's Allowance Trial[\[HLWS674\]](#)

Baroness Buscombe: My honourable Friend the Minister of State for Employment (Alok Sharma MP) has made the following Written Statement.

It has been a long-standing policy of successive Governments that claimants on work-related benefits are generally expected to undertake certain activities in return for financial support through the benefit system. This system of 'conditionality' can lead to sanctions, which deduct benefit from claimants when they fail, without good reason, to meet a conditionality requirement, such as failing to attend a Jobcentre interview or failing to search for work. This ensures a fair, proportionate and effective use of public money, in support of employment and wider outcomes for society.

Today, we are publishing the Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) Sanctions Early Warning Trial's final evaluation report (Jobseeker's Allowance Sanctions Early Warning Trial Evaluation – Final report) and qualitative research (Jobseekers Allowance: Sanctions Early Warning Trial).

In October 2015, the Department for Work and Pensions announced that it would be trialling a new process for JSA sanctions in response to the Work and Pensions Select Committee's recommendations to review the JSA sanction process.

The trial was delivered between April and September 2016 and involved 6,500 claimants. It tested an approach of adding an additional step into the sanction decision making process, by informing claimants through a 'Sanction Warning Letter' that, on the basis of information available, the Decision Maker intended to apply a sanction. Claimants were then given a further 14 days (on top of the standard 7 days they already receive before the decision is initially considered) to submit

evidence of good reason for not meeting their conditionality.

The aim of the trial was to consider whether such an approach would have an effect on:

- The volume of claimants that provide reasons for not meeting their conditionality requirements.
- The volume of claimants sanctioned who request a Mandatory Reconsideration of the initial sanction decision.
- The service received by the claimant and whether this represented value for money.
- The effectiveness of the process as perceived by Decision Makers.

The key findings of the trial were:

- 13 per cent of those receiving a 'Sanction Warning Letter' responded to it during the additional 14 days and provided evidence. In around half of these cases the evidence provided did not contain a good reason for the Labour Market Decision Maker to change their decision and the sanction was applied.
- There were some indications that the trial had an impact on reducing the proportion of cases where a Decision Review or Mandatory Reconsideration was carried out. However, as these findings are based on low volumes, they are indicative only.
- The qualitative evaluation concluded that given the additional burden placed on the Departmental resources and marginal gains achieved, the trial did not appear to be an effective use of the Department's resource.
- Results from the qualitative evaluation showed that there was support from staff for the intentions underpinning the trial, however evidence from interviews with staff suggested that in practice the trial appeared to make little difference to the outcomes of claimants.

Given the low proportion of cases in which claimants provided further evidence and the even lower proportion of cases where decision outcomes were changed, we do not consider that the benefits of the approach are sufficient to justify the extra time and cost it adds to the process.

We are now exploring the feasibility of an alternative process to give claimants written warnings, instead of a sanction, for a first sanctionable failure to attend a Work-Search Review. The aim will be to conduct a small-scale proof of concept to obtain qualitative feedback from staff on this new process, followed by any subsequent tests. More details will be made available once we have progressed with the design work.

Road Haulage Update

[HLWS675]

Baroness Sugg: My Honourable Friend, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport (Jesse Norman), has made the following Ministerial Statement.

The Department for Transport is today updating the house on our work to improve on the current Operation Stack arrangements and ensure that traffic can keep flowing on the M20 even in the event of serious disruption to cross-Channel transport.

At the same time, we are announcing a package of measures to tackle the blight of fly-parking across the south-east and other parts of the country, including plans to increase overnight lorry parking capacity which could potentially add an additional 1,500 spaces.

Further to the Secretary of State's statement of 15 November 2017, Highways England will soon be starting the consultation process on a permanent solution for holding lorries in the event of cross-Channel disruption, with a full public information exercise launching in June. The consultation will consider the broad solutions rather than specific sites. It will also seek views on the potential use of any future lorry park or parks for 'business as usual' overnight lorry parking; while remaining sensitive to the Government's desire not to deter any planned private investment.

In his November announcement, the Secretary of State also asked Highways England to develop an improved interim arrangement for holding lorries on the M20, whilst allowing traffic to continue to flow in both directions and keeping junctions open. The Department has now agreed with Highways England that this arrangement should take the form of a contraflow system which would see lorries for the Port of Dover and Eurotunnel held on the coast-bound carriageway between junctions 8-9 of the M20, while other traffic will use a contraflow to continue their journey on the other side of the motorway. Highways England are starting the preparatory works for the scheme now and it will be available from early 2019.

As well as improving the contingency arrangements as to lorry parking, the Government is also focused on improving the situation for business-as-usual lorry parking. We have published the results of an in-depth survey carried out on the national picture of overnight lorry parking in England.

The detailed information in the report will help local planning authorities to understand the nature of the issue better, at both a regional and local level. However, it is important to note that developers are already responding to what is currently a mismatch between supply and demand. There are planning applications in the pipeline which it is estimated would, if delivered, equate to over 1,000 additional spaces across the country.

Given the evident need for further parking spaces, the Government will be taking three steps on its side:

First, Highways England have begun to analyse their landholdings in order to identify sites with the potential to be developed into lorry parks. Initial work suggests that this might facilitate a total of around 1,500 additional parking spaces nationwide. Detailed feasibility work will be undertaken in the next six months.

More generally, Highways England intend in future to give increased priority to the provision of lorry parking across the Strategic Road Network. Its initial report for the second Road Investment Strategy period (2020-2025) Highways England propose funding to support the provision of better roadside facilities, which would include lorry parking. The Department has consulted on this proposal and is carefully considering the responses received.

Secondly, I have written with Planning Minister Dominic Raab to local planning authorities to draw their attention to the survey results, which show a strategic national need for more lorry parking and highlight shortages in specific areas.

In addition, I am asking Highways England to develop their existing role as a statutory consultee on all proposed developments that are on or that directly affect the strategic road network. In future, Highways England will seek to use their unique network-wide perspective to assist local authorities in actively identifying areas of lorry parking need and potential solutions, including in the context of specific planning applications where these might help alleviate the situation.

Thirdly, the Department will consider further steps to make it easier for local authorities to take enforcement action against hauliers who park inappropriately. In Kent the trial on a stretch of the A20 of innovative enforcement approaches has had considerable success in its first six months of operation, with a significant fall in the number of vehicles parked overnight, and increased use of

commercial parking facilities in the area, especially at weekends. Subject to the findings of this 18-month trial, we will be looking to promote the wider application of such measures elsewhere.

UK-EU Security Partnership

[HLWS681]

Lord Callanan: The Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, the Rt Hon David Davis MP, has made the following written statement:

On Wednesday 9 May, we published the Framework for the discussions with the EU on the UK and EU's future security partnership. These slides have been produced by the UK negotiating team for discussion with the EU, in order to inform the development of the future framework. This framework will set out the terms of our future relationship and will be concluded alongside the Withdrawal Agreement later this year.

The United Kingdom wants to build a new, deep and special partnership with the European Union, enabling us to protect our shared interests and ensure we act together for our mutual benefit. The threats we face do not recognise the borders of individual nations. The Security Partnership we are seeking with the EU builds on the breadth and depth of our shared interests and values, and goes beyond any existing third country arrangements.

Copies of these slides will be deposited in the libraries of both Houses.

Written Answers

Monday, 21 May 2018

Armed Forces: Pensions

Asked by Baroness Kramer

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the financial consequences for senior medical consultants in the Armed Forces of the combined effect of annual non-voluntary contributions which the military requires to be made to the Armed Forces Pension Scheme and current limits on annual and lifetime allowances for tax-free pension contributions. [\[HL7749\]](#)

Asked by Baroness Kramer

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on the retention of senior medical consultants in the Armed Forces of the effects of the non-voluntary contributions which the military requires to be made to the Armed Forces Pension Scheme and current limits on annual and lifetime allowances for tax-free pension contributions. [\[HL7750\]](#)

Asked by Baroness Kramer

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of compulsory contributions by members of the military to the Armed Forces Pension Scheme in the light of the current limits on annual and lifetime allowances for tax-free pension contributions. [\[HL7751\]](#)

Earl Howe: The Armed Forces Pension Schemes are non-contributory, defined benefit, final salary or career average schemes. They remain the only public-sector schemes that do not require their members to contribute to their future pension, and reflect the unique sacrifice the Armed Forces and their families make to this country. The Government has no plans to alter the schemes.

Annual and lifetime allowance limits have reduced. Consequently, more senior officers are breaching their annual and lifetime allowances and incurring a tax charge. Options are available to these individuals to mitigate a tax charge, including using unclaimed tax allowance from previous years or asking their pension scheme to pay the charge out of future benefits. The Department is keeping the impact on retention of the changes under review.

Arms Trade: Burma

Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to develop international support for a UN-mandated global arms embargo against Burma. [\[HL7686\]](#)

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Regardless of broader international support, a UN arms embargo would require majority support in the Security Council and the absence

of a veto from any Permanent members. It is our assessment that there is insufficient support amongst Council members at this time but this is an issue under constant review. We have therefore concentrated on renewing and expanding the existing EU arms embargo.

Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with other EU governments about expanding the EU arms embargo to cover the sale of all equipment to the military and military-owned firms in Burma. [\[HL7688\]](#)

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK was instrumental in renewing and expanding the EU arms embargo on Burma. This was adopted formerly on 26 April via written procedure. We do not support the introduction of financial sanctions (beyond asset freezes on individual military figures) at this stage. On balance the FCO believes targeting companies or sectors, and disrupting Burma's financial system, could harm economic development across Burma and impact worst the most vulnerable.

British Council

Asked by Lord McInnes of Kilwinning

To ask Her Majesty's Government which countries have had a British Council establishment closed since 1990. [\[HL7624\]](#)

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Since 1990, British Council offices in the following countries have been closed: Belarus, Bolivia, Brunei, Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Denmark, Ecuador, Eritrea, Finland, Iran, Lesotho, Norway, Swaziland, and Sweden.

Asked by Lord McInnes of Kilwinning

To ask Her Majesty's Government which countries have had a British Council establishment opened since 1990. [\[HL7625\]](#)

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Since 1990, the British Council has opened new offices for the first time in Switzerland, Rwanda, Namibia, Taiwan, and Mozambique. They also established offices in the newly independent states of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Russia, after the break-up of the Soviet Union. Following the break-up of Yugoslavia, the British Council established offices in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, the Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Slovenia; they also opened offices in the Czech Republic and Slovakia when they became independent states.

Burma: International Criminal Court

Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with members of the UN Security

Council to secure support in principle for referral of Burma to the International Criminal Court to investigate alleged crimes against humanity committed by the Burmese armed forces. [HL7687]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UN Security Council visited Bangladesh and Burma from 28 April to 1 May. The importance of accountability was discussed in Bangladesh and Burma and between Council members. Referring Burma to the International Criminal Court does not have the necessary support from Council members at this time.

Bus Services: Rural Areas

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the provision of rural bus services in rural communities. [HL7558]

Baroness Sugg: The Government recognises the extra pressures placed on local authorities to provide services in more isolated areas. Where there is not enough demand for a bus route to be commercially viable in its own right, all local authorities have powers to subsidise bus services.

Since January 2014, £40m Bus Service Operator Grant (BSOG) funding per year is paid directly to local authorities, rather than bus operators, in relation to the services that councils fund. This funding is ring-fenced to ensure that it is used to support bus services, but within that it will be for each local authority to decide how to use it.

We are also encouraging local authorities to innovate such as through our Total Transport pilot projects which have explored ways to join up the commissioning of publicly funded transport services so that available funding goes further.

The Bus Services Act 2017 also provides a number of tools to facilitate local authorities working together with operators and communities to provide improved bus services in rural areas.

Charity Commission: Pay

Asked by Lord Foulkes of Cumnock

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the annual salary and expenses of the Chair of the Charity Commission. [HL7603]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The Chair of the Charity Commission is remunerated at £62,500 per annum (2.5 days per week). A pension is not offered for this appointment. The Chair is expected to undertake some travel in connection with the role, for which reasonable expenses are paid in line with the Charity Commission's expenses policy.

Charity Commission: Public Appointments

Asked by Lord Foulkes of Cumnock

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people were interviewed for the recent appointment of Chair of the Charity Commission; who conducted the interviews; and whether a candidate was recommended by the interview panel to ministers for appointment. [HL7602]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: Six candidates were shortlisted for interview for the Chair of the Charity Commission role. The Advisory Assessment Panel comprised:

- Sue Owen Panel Chair and DCMS Permanent Secretary
- Charles MacKay Senior Independent Panel Member
- Julia Unwin Independent Panel Member with Sector experience
- Alan Downey Charity sector representative

Paragraph 3.1 of the Cabinet Office Governance Code for Public Appointments stipulates that Advisory Assessment Panels must not rank candidates unless specifically requested by the appointing Minister. The Advisory Assessment Panel received no such request for this competition and candidates were therefore assessed as either 'appointable' or 'unappointable.'

Following the satisfactory completion of the interview process, the Advisory Assessment Panel presented Ministers with a list of three individuals and Ministers selected the candidate who they assessed as most suitable for the role. As a result, Baroness Stowell has been appointed as Chair of the Charity Commission.

Asked by Lord Foulkes of Cumnock

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to ensure that the Chair of the Charities Commission has suitable experience of the Third Sector. [HL7604]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The role of Charity Commission Chair were assessed by the Advisory Assessment Panel against the published selection criteria for the role as per Paragraph 5.3 of the Cabinet Office Governance Code for Public Appointments. The published essential criteria are as follows:

- to be an accessible and engaging ambassador for the organisation, and have the ability to influence high level stakeholders within government and Parliament, the media, the charity sector and the business world;
- the ability to make strategic decisions within a complex and shifting external landscape;
- a commitment to the charity sector's effective, independent, proportionate, and impartial regulation;
- the ability to provide a high quality service and deliver value for money for the taxpayer;
- an understanding of and interest in the charity sector, including an awareness of the multifaceted challenges it

faces resulting from changing social and economic circumstances;

- the skills to lead a Board and support the leadership of a high profile organisation by providing strategic guidance and effective challenge;
- the ability to support the organisation through a period of significant change and cultural development as demonstrated by experience in either the private or charity/not for profit sector;
- the ability to apply strategic insight and constructive challenge to the Executive team's plans across wide-ranging strategy, delivery and organisational issues; and
- personal integrity and resilience, demonstrable independence and other attitudes consistent with the expectations of senior public office in a high profile role

The successful candidate met the criteria for the role as assessed by the Assessment Advisory Panel.

Civil Liability Bill (HL)

Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what provision they have made, or will make, for the loss to HMRC of £140 million per annum as estimated in the Impact Assessment to the Civil Liability Bill. [HL7583]

Lord Bates: The figure quoted in the Impact Assessment is a forecast based on a range of assumptions on the impact of the reforms.

In line with their statutory duties, the independent OBR includes the impact of government policy at the forecast following the policy's announcement.

The Government makes decisions every year on tax, spending and borrowing taking into account such changes in forecasts.

Claims Management Services: Insurance Companies

Asked by Baroness Primarolo

To ask Her Majesty's Government what evidence they have that insurers own or have financial interests in claims companies; and whether they intend to publish any such evidence. [HL7652]

Lord Bates: The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) is responsible for monitoring and regulating the insurance industry.

The Treasury does not investigate the financial interests of insurers, nor does it hold this information.

Deportation: Caribbean

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many members of the Windrush generation have been deported. [HL7470]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office has been checking around 8,000 records of removals and deportations dating back to 2002 to determine whether there have been any wrongful removals or deportations of Caribbean nationals who arrived before 1973.

Of these 63 cases have been identified where the individual could have entered the UK before 1973. This is split between 32 Foreign National Offender deportations and 31 administrative removals.

We are now reviewing each of these cases carefully in more depth - including bringing paper files out of storage if necessary - to determine whether anyone who was protected under the 1971 Act was removed or deported unlawfully. This work will be independently assured.

This does not mean that 63 people have been wrongfully removed or deported. It is the number of cases which merit further investigation.

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many members of the Windrush generation are in the process of being deported. [HL7471]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office is reviewing the cases of criminal offenders who may have arrived before 1 January 1973. No deportation action will be taken against these individuals until these checks are completed.

Developing Countries: Corruption

Asked by Lord McInnes of Kilwinning

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much of the Department for International Development's (DfID) budget was spent on anti-corruption support for developing countries in (1) 2015–16, (2) 2016–17, (3) 2017–18; and what are those figures as a proportion of DfID's total budget for each of those years. [HL7626]

Lord Bates: The amount and proportion of Official Development Assistance spent by DFID on anti-corruption ¹ activities in calendar years 2015 and 2016 are given in the table below:

Table – DFID Net ODA on anti-corruption activities ¹

	2015		2016	
	£m	% of total DFID ODA	£m	% of total DFID ODA
Total DFID Net ODA on anti-corruption activities	654	6.7%	570	5.8%
<i>Of which</i>				
Bilateral	444	4.5%	379	3.8%
Multilateral	210	2.1%	191	1.9%
Total DFID Net ODA	9,772	100.0%	9,871	100.0%

1) Anti-corruption activities cover support to anti-corruption organisations and institutions, public finance management, public sector policy and management, tax and administrative support, mining policy and administrative management, and sub-national government.

In line with the international definitions, ODA is collected on a calendar year basis. The table reflects the latest published data and figures for 2017 UK ODA spending will be published in autumn 2018.

Asked by Lord McInnes of Kilwinning

To ask Her Majesty's Government which countries they are prioritising for anti-corruption aid between 2018 and 2020. [HL7628]

Lord Bates: DFID's anti-corruption country strategies support the five DFID partner countries who attended the London Anti-Corruption Summit in 2016 (Afghanistan, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and Tanzania) to deliver on their commitments. This is in addition to work with international partners to improve global standards and transparency, and strengthen international architecture to deter corruption and track stolen assets so they can be returned to developing countries.

Duchy of Cornwall: VAT

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 30 April (HL6867), why the Duchy of Cornwall has a VAT number from the Government department registration series. [HL7676]

Lord Bates: There is a single series of VAT registration numbers for all crown bodies.

EU Aid

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to continue to contribute to EU overseas aid projects in order to meet their spending commitments on overseas development aid. [HL7917]

Lord Bates: We believe it makes sense for the UK and EU, as leading global donors, to continue working together to alleviate poverty and to tackle shared global challenges. The UK is open to pooling resources with the EU, either through EU instruments or a bespoke mechanism, drawing on collective expertise to tackle specific global challenges and improve our combined impact. We have identified some specific thematic areas where we think a UK-EU strategic partnership would be in our mutual interest, such as humanitarian aid, migration and peace and security. In return for any UK participation (or funds) we would expect that the UK have an appropriate governance role at the strategic and operational level, and eligibility for UK entities to implement relevant programmes.

It is also important to remember that the vast majority of the UK Development work is not done via the EU. We remain committed to spending 0.7% of GNI on development by working through other multilateral and bilateral delivery channels, and achieving the Global Goals by 2030. Post EU Exit we will be able to better target UK aid to the poorest people in the world and in the best interest of UK taxpayers; and improve on the EU's trade offer for developing countries

Explosives: Seas and Oceans

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to combat the threat of modern digital mines at sea. [HL7839]

Earl Howe: As part of the active and ongoing research into Mine Countermeasures, the Government announced in May this year that the Royal Navy is currently undertaking trials of an autonomous minesweeping system. The findings of these trials will inform future decisions on the procurement of operational systems to defeat the threat of modern digital mines.

Financial Services: Insolvency

Asked by Lord Lee of Trafford

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 8 May (HL7245), what advice they give to stockbrokers and fund managers to ensure that client's assets are fully protected from Investment Bank Special Administration Rules and their related costs. [HL7690]

Asked by Lord Lee of Trafford

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 8 May (HL7245), what restrictions are placed on the level of costs for administrators operating under the Investment Bank Special Administration Rules; and where responsibility lies for monitoring such costs. [HL7691]

Asked by Lord Lee of Trafford

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 8 May (HL7245), whether the costs of the Investment Bank Special Administration Rules can be taken from an individual's ISA or self-invested personal pension; and if so, whether that ISA or self-invested personal pension can be subsequently rebuilt and reimbursed to the previous level. [HL7692]

Lord Bates: The investment bank special administration regime (SAR) applies to a broad range of businesses which are authorised by the FCA to hold client assets. The SAR aims to reduce the impact of an investment firm insolvency, and has a statutory objective to return client assets as soon as is reasonably practicable.

The SAR rules set out that client assets may be used to pay expenses which the administrator has properly incurred in ensuring client assets are returned. Under the rules, the administrator prepares a distribution plan which sets out how client assets will be returned, and how the administrator proposes the expenses of the special administration are to be allocated between clients. This plan must be approved by the creditors' committee and then by the Court. The administrator is also required to produce progress reports on the administration. Under the SAR, relevant parties have the right to make an application to the Court if they consider that the administrator's remuneration is excessive.

Individual Savings Accounts (ISA) are tax-advantaged personal savings accounts. Where a firm managing an ISA becomes insolvent, cash or stocks and shares ISAs are treated like any other client assets held by the firm. The treatment of self-invested personal pensions (SIPPs) in insolvency depends on how the SIPPs are held at the particular firm and what services that firm provides in relation to the SIPP. If the SIPP assets are held by the investment firm as custody assets, then the costs of their distribution may also be deducted from these assets in the special administration.

In the event of insolvency, and depending on the circumstances and eligibility, compensation under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) may be available for ISA and SIPP investments up to the relevant limit. ISA rules allow for any compensation to be reinvested outside annual ISA limits in order to protect the saver's tax advantages.

Fish: Conservation

Asked by Lord Steel of Aikwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government what research they have undertaken or commissioned into the decline of stocks of wild salmon and sea trout, and the polluting effects of farmed salmon. [HL7655]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Freshwater fisheries and aquaculture policy is devolved in the UK. In England, Defra has funded numerous projects on factors that could contribute to the decline in stocks of wild salmon and sea trout. These can be found on the Defra research database at <http://randd.defra.gov.uk/>. We have not commissioned any research on the potential environmental impacts of salmon farming in recent years.

The devolved administrations also have active research programmes on migratory fish and these can be found at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/525279/Background_Salmon_Report_2015_final.pdf

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse/Freshwater/Research>

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse/Freshwater/Research/Aqint>

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/digest-statistics-salmon-and-inland-fisheries-daera-jurisdiction-2017>

Food: Sales

Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether UK manufacturers will be able to sell food and drink through to shelf-life after the UK leaves the EU. [HL7802]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Government, as in previous practice when a change in legislation takes place, has no plans to disallow sales of food and drink that has been legally placed on the market at the time the UK leaves the EU. We intend that this food will be allowed to remain on sale until stocks are exhausted or the food reaches the end of its durability date.

High Rise Flats: Fire Prevention

Asked by Lord Porter of Spalding

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of non-disclosure agreements that have been agreed between building owners and contractors relating to the correction of poorly installed cladding systems on high-rise buildings following the Grenfell Tower fire. [HL7647]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The government does not hold information on or records of non-disclosure agreements between private building owners and contractors.

Housing: Construction

Asked by Lord Ouseley

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many affordable homes and units of social housing have been built with public funds in each year since 2015; and how this compares to the targets set for each of those years. [HL7710]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Government does not publish annual targets for affordable housing.

The delivery of affordable housing in England, including those that have been built with public funds, are reported in our live tables which can be (attached) found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-affordable-housing-supply>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Table 1000 [180514PQ HL7710 - Copy of Live_Table_1000.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-09/HL7710>

Human Papillomavirus: Vaccination

Asked by **Lord Mendelsohn**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation have taken as part of their assessment of whether to vaccinate adolescent boys against HPV; and when they expect to reach a decision. [HL7634]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: In July 2017 the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) published an interim statement on extending the human papillomavirus (HPV) programme for stakeholder consultation. The statement summarised the evidence considered and the steps taken so far. The JCVI reviewed the consultation responses in October 2017 and concluded that they were not yet in a position to finalise their advice on HPV vaccination for boys because of a number of outstanding issues. A copy of the *JCVI Interim Statement on Extending HPV Vaccination to Adolescent Boys* is attached.

In February 2018 the JCVI agreed that it needed to see the results of the additional analyses before concluding its advice. The JCVI further agreed that legal advice should be obtained in response to stakeholder correspondence.

The JCVI will conclude its advice once it has considered all the necessary evidence and legal advice has been considered. This work will continue through 2018 and timeframes for the JCVI concluding its advice are dependent on completion of the analyses requested.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

JCVI Interim Statement on HPV Vaccination
[JCVI_Interim_Statement_on_Extending_HPV_Vaccination_to_Adolescent_Boys_July_2017.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-08/HL7634>

Asked by **Lord Mendelsohn**

To ask Her Majesty's Government which countries provide HPV vaccinations for adolescent boys; which countries have published plans to implement such vaccination programmes; and what assessment they have made of the impact of HPV vaccination programmes where they have been implemented. [HL7635]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Department has not undertaken an assessment of which countries provide human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination for boys, which have published plans to implement such programmes, or the impact of such programmes where they have been implemented.

The report, *Milestones in HPV Prevention: Achievements and future potential of the cervical screening and HPV immunisation programmes*, published in January 2018 by the vaccine manufacturer MSD states that, by March 2017, HPV vaccination had been introduced for boys in 11 countries. It also summarises

recommendations for gender-neutral vaccination in a number of European countries. A copy is attached.

From information in this report and local intelligence from Public Health England (PHE), the following 11 countries are thought to have introduced HPV vaccination for boys (or are planning to do so): Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada (in some provinces), Croatia, Israel, Italy (in some provinces), Liechtenstein, Serbia, Switzerland and the United States of America. It is also understood that HPV vaccination for boys is recommended in Ireland, Norway and Sweden but has not yet been introduced.

It is still relatively early to detect substantial declines in HPV in males and it may not be possible to fully separate the impact from direct protection in boys, from that produced by the indirect effect of vaccinating girls (through herd immunity).

PHE and the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation will continue to review results from studies conducted to monitor the impact of vaccination in countries who offer national HPV vaccination for females and males.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Milestones in HPV Prevention [HPV MSD Vaccines Report Final 19 January (1).pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-08/HL7635>

Instalment Credit

Asked by **Lord Mendelsohn**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of rent-to-own schemes for electrical and white goods on low-income households. [HL7633]

Lord Bates: The government is committed to protecting consumers from unfair lending practises. To this end, the government transferred regulatory responsibility for consumer credit to the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) in 2014, and gave the FCA strong powers to protect consumers.

The FCA is conducting a review of the high-cost credit market, and has noted concerns in specific areas of the market, including rent-to-own. The FCA will publish an update later this month, and the government will continue to work closely with the FCA to ensure that all customers are treated fairly.

Insurance Companies

Asked by **Lord Myners**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review the capital requirements of insurance companies and review governance arrangements to

ensure that they can compete on an equal footing with pensions superfunds. [HL7704]

Lord Bates: Her Majesty's Government announced in the Department for Work & Pension's recent White Paper ("*Protecting Defined Benefit Pension Schemes*") that it will consult later this year on an authorisation regime for "superfunds". Her Majesty's Government is in regular discussions with the relevant regulators and with industry, and will of course consider any potential impacts from possible changes carefully.

Insurance Premium Tax

Asked by Lord Beecham

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much revenue they have raised (1) annually, and (2) in total, as a result of the increase in Insurance Premium Tax at (a) the standard rate from 5 per cent in 2011 to 12 per cent in 2017, and (b) at the higher rate from 17 per cent in 2011 to 20 per cent in 2017; and what estimate they have made of the impact of the Civil Liability Bill on the future annual yield at each rate. [HL7675]

Lord Bates: Insurance Premium Tax (IPT) is a tax paid by insurers on all general insurance premiums. Any price changes following IPT increases are pricing decisions made by the insurers.

We cannot identify additional revenue that has directly resulted from an increase in Insurance Premium Tax (IPT) because increased revenue could also come from external factors increasing underlying prices and demand in the insurance market.

We have estimated the impact of both the rate rises and the Civil Liability Bill at previous fiscal events.

Increase standard rate to 6% and higher rate to 20% (Budget 2010)

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Exchequer impact (£m)	+115	+455	+445	+455	+455

Increase standard rate to 9.5% (Summer Budget 2015)

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Exchequer impact (£m)	+530	+1,460	+1,510	+1,530	+1,550	+1,580

Reform to motor insurance claims rules (announced at Autumn Statement 2015 - recosted for Autumn Budget 2017)

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Exchequer impact (£m)	0	-10	-35	-45	-55	-55

Increase standard rate to 10% (Budget 2016)

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Exchequer impact (£m)	+80	+200	+205	+205	+210

Increase standard rate to 12% (Autumn Statement 2016)

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Exchequer impact (£m)	0	+680	+840	+840	+845	+855

A time series of IPT receipts is available in the published Tax and NIC Receipts Statistics Table ^[1]. IPT receipts have increased from £2,941m in 2011/12 to £5,669m in 2017/18 (2017/18 figures are provisional and may be revised).

We are not able to break down receipts by the higher ^[2] and standard rates as this information is not recorded on the IPT cash receipts record (i.e. the taxpayer would pay HMRC in a lump sum). However, we do publish a breakdown by liability declared on the traders' returns ^[3]. This information is published biannually, with the latest release dating to December 2017.

The IPT liabilities between January 2011 and December 2017 are as follows:

Total IPT liabilities: £25.4 billion

Of which accounted towards the standard rate of IPT: £23.6 billion

Of which accounted towards the higher rate of IPT: £1.8 billion

[1] <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hmrc-tax-and-nics-receipts-for-the-uk>

[2] The higher rate of IPT is an anti-avoidance measure that applies in specific circumstances. Further information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/hmrc-internal-manuals/insurance-premium-tax/ipt04905>

[3] Information declared on IPT taxpayers' returns (the liability) is inconsistent with the timing of the money paid (the cash receipts). Further information can be found here: [https://www.uktradeinfo.com/Statistics/Tax and Duty Bulletins/ipt1217.xls](https://www.uktradeinfo.com/Statistics/Tax%20and%20Duty/Bulletins/ipt1217.xls)

Marine Conservation Zones

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of Marine Conservation Zones in the waters around England. [HL7850]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The third tranche of marine protected areas, including Marine Conservation Zones will be consulted on this summer and designated next year.

Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) are putting in place Monitoring Control Plans that measure

the effectiveness of management measures in furthering the conservation objectives of MPAs.

There will be a report to Parliament later this year analysing the effectiveness of our management and monitoring strategies delivered under the Marine and Coastal Access Act and the progress we have made in protecting our marine environment.

For protected sites in the 12-200nm zone the Government is currently in negotiations with other Member States to introduce management measures through the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), which will be enforced by MMO. Taking back control of our waters and maintaining our protected areas when we leave the EU are key priorities for the UK. We are currently analysing all fisheries legislation including CFP to determine what changes we might need to introduce.

Ministry of Justice: Internet

Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many cloud services contracts that were previously delivered by British cloud services providers for the Ministry of Justice are now delivered by multinational cloud service providers; what is the value of those contracts; and what are the names of the previous providers. [[HL7611](#)]

Lord Keen of Elie: Only a small number of services were previously hosted with a British cloud service provider (UK Cloud, formerly SkyScape, £241,000, 1 year, 3 services) and have now been moved onto a wider multinational public cloud service provider (Amazon Web Services, £2.5million, 2 years, ~50 services).

Nigeria: Christianity

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the attacks (1) targeted at Christian communities in Nigeria, and (2) that have occurred in the north east state of Adamawa; and what assessment they have made of reports that the Nigerian airforce were responsible for one attack and that there was military collusion in others. [[HL7580](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Recent violence between farmers and pastoralists across multiple states in Nigeria has had a devastating impact. Our assessment is that the root causes of violence between farmers and pastoralists are disputes over land, farming rights, grazing routes and access to water, rather than religious motives alone. It is clear that retaliation attacks by both herdsmen and farmers risk escalating the violence. We welcome President Buhari's engagement on this issue. It is imperative that the Nigerian government works with the affected populations to develop a solution that meets the needs of all the communities affected.

We are aware of allegations that the Nigerian Air Force launched airstrikes against farming villages in Adamawa

State last December. The formal investigation by the Nigerian Authorities concluded that the strikes were intended to prevent herdsmen from attacking farming villages. We have seen no evidence of collusion by the Nigerian Armed Forces in attacks against farming communities in Adamawa State. It is essential that all action taken by the Nigerian Armed Forces and security services are in accordance with International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, and all incidents are fully investigated.

Northern Ireland Office: Internet

Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many cloud services contracts that were previously delivered by British cloud services providers for the Northern Ireland Office are now delivered by multinational cloud service providers; what is the value of those contracts; and what are the names of the previous providers. [[HL7678](#)]

Lord Duncan of Springbank: None of the cloud services contracts held by the Northern Ireland Office have been transferred from British providers.

Personal Injury: Compensation

Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to ensure that the insurance industry will pass on to customers the majority of the £1.3 billion the impact assessment for the Civil Liability Bill estimates that industry will save. [[HL7674](#)]

Lord Bates: Her Majesty's Government will monitor the reaction of the sector to the reforms in the Civil Liability Bill and will regularly engage with them on how they are meeting their commitment.

Renewable Fuels

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to increase the amount of fuel made from used cooking oil and other waste products. [[HL7557](#)]

Baroness Sugg: Building on the success of Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) in supporting a market for fuels made from waste, the Government set out a fifteen-year strategy for renewable transport fuels last September in "[The Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations Order: Government Response to consultations on amendments](#)" (Cm 9494), which is available in the Libraries of both Houses. The strategy includes increased targets for the supply of renewable fuels, and measures to promote advanced development fuels derived from waste.

These legislative changes were made in March. Biodiesel made from Used Cooking Oil will remain

eligible for double certificates, which can be used in meeting the increased targets.

S4C: Finance

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will guarantee an adequate level of funding for the S4C TV channel. [[HL7718](#)]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: As part of our commitment to supporting the future of Welsh language broadcasting, the government announced in March 2018 that we will maintain S4C's Exchequer funding at the current level of £6.762 million for 2018/19 and 2019/20. This is in addition to S4C's funding from the licence fee which is guaranteed at £74.5 million until 2021/22.

Select Committees: Membership

Asked by Lord Balfie

To ask the Leader of the House whether she will present proposals to the Procedure Committee to amend the rules on rotation and membership of select committees to allow for the election by the House of members of committees for the lifetime of a Parliament. [[HL7964](#)]

Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: The rotation rule was last considered by the Procedure Committee in March 2014 (5th Report, Session 2013-14, HL Paper 167). Its proposal to reduce the length of membership from four successive sessions to three, in order to secure a regular turnover of membership and therefore broaden participation in the work of the House's committees by members, was agreed to by the House (HL Deb 13 May 2014, cols 1771-1775).

I have no plans to present further proposals to change the rotation rule to the Procedure Committee. However, other members are welcome to submit their own proposals to the Procedure Committee for its consideration.

Sobriety Orders

Asked by Baroness Finlay of Llandaff

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to expand the reach of the Alcohol Abstinence Monitoring Requirement. [[HL7601](#)]

Lord Keen of Elie: Currently, the Alcohol Abstinence Monitoring Requirement (AAMR) is only available in the

areas where it is being piloted in London and Humberside, Lincolnshire and North Yorkshire. The evaluations of these pilots will inform the decision around whether to introduce the AAMR to all courts in England and Wales as a sentencing option.

Syria: Armed Conflict

Asked by Baroness Cox

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Earl Howe on 24 April (HL6880), which armed opposition groups they are supporting in Syria. [[HL7881](#)]

Earl Howe: The overwhelming effort in the fight against Daesh in Syria has been undertaken by the Syrian Democratic Forces.

Treasury: Internet

Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many cloud services contracts that were previously delivered by British cloud services providers for the HM Treasury are now delivered by multinational cloud service providers; what is the value of those contracts; and what are the names of the previous providers. [[HL7607](#)]

Lord Bates: The information requested is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Zimbabwe: Elections

Asked by Lord Steel of Aikwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Zimbabwe to ensure that the electoral commission is genuinely independent prior to the forthcoming elections. [[HL7723](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Foreign Secretary met Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Sibusiso Moyo on 20 April and our Ambassador met President Mnangagwa on 5 May to discuss Zimbabwe's upcoming elections. At these meetings, we were clear that the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) must be neutral and enjoy the confidence of all parties contesting the elections. While we welcome the appointment of a new ZEC Chair, the organisation must be scrupulously impartial and ensure it deals with all stakeholders equally.

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