

Session 2017-19
No. 120



Thursday
7 June 2018

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

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

<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

Thursday, 7 June 2018

East Midlands Invitation to Tender

[HLWS721]

Baroness Sugg: My Honourable Friend, the Minister of State for Transport (Jo Johnson) has made the following Ministerial Statement:

I am pleased to inform the House that this morning the Department for Transport published the Invitation to Tender (ITT) for the East Midlands rail franchise and the consultation document for the Cross Country franchise signalling the start of a 12 week public consultation.

East Midlands Rail Franchise

The ITT for the East Midlands franchise sets out an exciting future that will deliver a brand-new fleet of trains, more seats for passengers, reduced peak journey times between Nottingham, Sheffield and London and a dedicated, high quality, express service between Corby and London. These improvements will mean more comfortable journeys for both long distance and commuting passengers at the busiest times of the day.

We have listened to what improvements passengers want to see and will be requiring the next operator to deliver a wide range of improvements across the network including improved compensation for delays, smart ticketing, high quality Wi-Fi connection, more frequent and increased capacity on local services and services that start earlier and finish later.

As the Secretary of State set out in the Government's Strategic Vision for Rail in November 2017, we are now fixing the operational divide between track and train so that both Network Rail and train companies share one imperative: putting the passenger first. Better performance and reliability on the East Midlands franchise will be delivered through a new collaborative partnership between the next operator and Network Rail.

Cross Country Rail Franchise

The current Cross Country franchise, operated by Arriva Cross Country is due to end late 2019 (though it can be extended by up to a year). I am therefore pleased to launch today a public consultation which will run for 12 weeks and will help to inform and develop the franchise specification for inclusion in the ITT. We will encourage responses to the consultation through: meetings around the network with formal stakeholders; promoting it directly to passengers on Cross Country trains; and one or more webinars to reach out to people across this extensive franchise.

EU Foreign Affairs Council (Trade): 22 May 2018

[HLWS717]

Baroness Fairhead: My Rt hon Friend the Minister of State for Trade Policy (Greg Hands) has today made the following statement:

The EU Foreign Affairs Informal Council (Trade) took place in Brussels on 22nd May 2018. I represented the UK at the meeting. A summary of the discussions follows:

Commissioner Malmström provided an update on her latest contact with Wilbur Ross on US tariffs on steel imports. A further temporary exemption was not expected. I supported the outcome of the Leaders' discussion the previous week and emphasised active UK engagement with the US in support of the EU position.

Ministers adopted the conclusions on the negotiation and conclusion of EU trade agreements. These follow the CJEU decision on competence boundaries in May 2017. They note the Commission's proposal to pursue EU-only trade agreements, with the option of separate mixed investment protection agreements, and assert the role of the Council in deciding on a case by case basis whether to open negotiations in this manner (or to split existing agreements which are yet to be signed). The Conclusions make clear that investment protection agreements and Association Agreements containing provisions of shared competence will remain mixed agreements and will continue to require ratification at the national level. Amongst other things, the Council Conclusions also state that Member State parliaments, civil society and other interested stakeholders should be kept duly informed from the beginning of the trade agreement negotiation process, and that Member States should continue to involve their parliaments in-line with their respective national procedures.

Ministers thanked the Commission for its work on the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement along with the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement and the EU-Singapore Investment Protection Agreement (IPA). Commissioner Malmström confirmed the IPA would not be provisionally applied, coming into force only when all Member States had ratified.

Ministers adopted mandates for negotiations with Australia and New Zealand, which would be launched during Commissioner Malmström's visit to the region in June.

Commissioner Malmström debriefed Ministers on her recent engagement in the World Trade Organization (WTO). Ministers agreed that the EU should continue engaging with the US and discussed the extent to which significant WTO reforms should be considered. I cautioned against portraying the WTO as being in "crisis" and urged maximising the opportunities including the "Joint Statement Initiative" on e-commerce and encouraged further consideration of WTO reform.

Northern Ireland

[HLWS722]

Lord Young of Cookham: The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Today we are publishing a document produced by the UK negotiating team for discussion with the EU.

This covers:

Temporary customs arrangement between the UK and the EU

These will be available on GOV.UK today and copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Security Industry Authority

[HLWS718]

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

I am pleased to announce that the Review of the Security Industry Authority is today being published on www.gov.uk. This is part of a programme of regular reviews of public bodies to provide assurance and challenge for good governance and efficiency. A copy of the Review will also be placed in the House Library.

I welcome publication of the Review of the Security Industry Authority. The Government is committed to ensuring the integrity of the private security industry. I am pleased the Review concludes that regulation of the industry remains relevant and that the Security Industry Authority has performed its role to a satisfactory standard.

The Review makes a number of recommendations about the future of the regulatory regime. These require further consideration and analysis, in particular of the balance between improving public protection and the need to support and not overburden the private security industry, including the smaller organisations.

The Home Office will support the Security Industry Authority as it works to continue to improve its performance and risk based approach and to realise efficiencies, with the aim of achieving regulatory best practice and showing leadership in taking the industry forward.

Transport, Telecoms and Energy Council

[HLWS719]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: My Honourable Friend the Minister of State, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (Margot James) has made the following Statement: The Transport, Telecoms and Energy Council (TTE) will take place in Luxembourg. Lord Ashton of Hyde will represent the UK at the Telecoms session of the Council on 8 June.

This Council will begin with a progress report/policy debate on the proposed regulation concerning ePrivacy.

This meeting of the Council will then ask Member States to vote on a General Approach (GA) on the Cybersecurity Act Regulation. DCMS has deposited clearance/waiver requests with the European Scrutiny Committee (ESC) & European Union Committee (EUC) and will hope to support this GA at Council.

This session of the Council will also hold a policy debate on the directive on the re-use of Public Sector Information (PSI).

Also tabled for this session is information from the Presidency on the directive on the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC) [Recast], and the regulation on the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC).

In addition, information will be provided from the Commission on the state of play of the Digital Single Market (DSM).

To conclude this session of the Council, there will be information from the Austrian delegation, setting out their work programme as the incoming Presidency for the second half of 2018.

Universal Credit

[HLWS720]

Baroness Buscombe: My Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (The Rt. Hon. Esther McVey MP) has made the following Written Statement.

Today we publish a summary of the Universal Credit Full Business Case, signed off by HM Treasury, which shows that when fully rolled out, Universal Credit is forecast to incentivise 200,000 more people to take employment than would have under the previous system and deliver £8bn of benefits to the UK economy per year.

Universal Credit is the biggest change of the welfare system since it was created. It is a modern, flexible, personalised benefit reflecting the rapidly changing world of work.

It has brought together the six main benefits, including tax credits, providing support in and out of work and assisting career progression. The Government has used a 'test and learn' approach as it rolls out across the country.

The Government has already made a commitment that anyone who is moved to Universal Credit without a change of circumstance will not lose out in cash terms. Transitional protection will be provided to eligible claimants to safeguard their existing benefit entitlement until their circumstances change.

Today I am announcing four additions to these rules to ensure that Universal Credit supports people into work, protects vulnerable claimants and is targeted at those who need it.

In order to support the transition for those individuals who live alone with substantial care needs and receive the

Severe Disability Premium, we are changing the system so that these claimants will not be moved to Universal Credit until they qualify for transitional protection. In addition, we will provide both an on-going payment to claimants who have already lost this Premium as a consequence of moving to Universal Credit and an additional payment to cover the period since they moved.

Second, we will increase the incentives for parents to take short-term or temporary work and increase their earnings by ensuring that the award of, or increase in, support for childcare costs will not erode transitional protection.

Third, we propose to re-award claimants' transitional protection that has ceased owing to short-term increases in earnings within an assessment period, if they make a new claim to UC within three months of when they received the additional payment.

Finally, individuals with capital in excess of £16,000 are not eligible for Universal Credit. However, for Tax Credit claimants in this situation, we will now disregard

any capital in excess of £16,000 for 12 months from the point at which they are moved to Universal Credit. Normal benefit rules apply after this time in order to strike the right balance between keeping incentives for saving and asking people to support themselves.

The process of migrating claimants on legacy benefits will begin in July 2019 as previously announced. In order to make the changes to the system it will be necessary to extend the completion of UC to March 2023. As throughout UC roll out, we will keep the exact timetable under review to do what is sensible from a delivery and fiscal perspective.

These changes will form part of the Universal Credit Managed Migration and Transitional Protection Regulations which we intend to bring forward in the Autumn.

This Government is committed to delivering a welfare system that supports claimants and is fair to taxpayers.

Written Answers

Thursday, 7 June 2018

Air Space

Asked by **Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what powers the Civil Aviation Authority has to manage lower airspace in the UK. [HL8218]

Baroness Sugg: Sections 66, 68 and 104 of the Transport Act 2000 provide the Secretary of State with powers to issue directions to the Civil Aviation Authority on how it should manage the UK's airspace. These powers are set out in The Civil Aviation Authority (Air Navigation) Directions, the latest version of which came into force on 1 January 2018.

A copy of these directions can be found in the Air Navigation Guidance 2017 which the department published on 24 October 2017.

Aircraft: Cultural Heritage

Asked by **Baroness Garden of Frognal**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support is available for the preservation of historic aircraft in the UK. [HL8210]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The Heritage Lottery Fund has given nearly £60million in support of heritage aviation projects, including £3.5million to the preservation of individual historic aircraft. Following a grant of over £5m from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Brooklands Museum in Weybridge recently won the Permanent Exhibition Award at the 2018 Museums and Heritage Awards for its new Aircraft Factory and Flight Shed.

The Government also directly sponsors the IWM Duxford, the RAF Museum and the Science Museum Group, all of which feature historic aircraft as part of their collections. The Royal Air Force Battle of Britain Memorial Flight maintains aircraft of our national heritage in airworthy condition, operated by RAF personnel.

Arms Trade: Israel

Asked by **Baroness Uddin**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will review their policy on arms sales to Israel, given the recent violence in Gaza. [HL8203]

Baroness Fairhead: Sales of military items to other countries by UK companies require export licences. Export licence applications are rigorously assessed on a case-by-case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria, taking account of all prevailing circumstances at the time of the

application. The Government will not issue a licence if to do so would be inconsistent with these Criteria.

The Government is monitoring the situation in Israel and Gaza very closely and will revoke extant export licences if they are assessed to be no longer consistent with licensing criteria.

The policy framework for assessing exports of military items was announced to Parliament by the former Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Rt. Hon Member for Twickenham, Sir Vince Cable, as a Written Ministerial Statement on 25 March 2014.

Aviation

Asked by **Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how the needs of general aviation pilots will be addressed under any future airspace strategy. [HL8217]

Baroness Sugg: General aviation is a key stakeholder in the successful delivery of airspace modernisation and the creation of a future airspace which is efficient and meets the reasonable requirements of all airspace users. The specific needs of general aviation pilots will be considered by the independent airspace regulator, the Civil Aviation Authority, when determining proposals to amend the UK airspace design or with any other measure that may affect them.

Last year, the Secretary of State commissioned NATS to produce a feasibility assessment of the potential future demands for airspace of airports in the South of the UK. This work was the first step in the co-ordination of airspace modernisation, examining its feasibility and potential implementation. It was a design requirement of the NATS modelling that the total volume of controlled airspace does not increase and that where possible, controlled airspace would be released to other airspace users, including general aviation. The Government expects to publish the high level findings of this later in 2018.

Aviation: Training

Asked by **Baroness Garden of Frognal**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the value of the UK flight training sector. [HL8211]

Baroness Sugg: In March 2015 the Government published research that the Department for Transport commissioned from York Aviation entitled "The Economic Value of General Aviation in the UK". That research contained an estimate of the value of the UK flight training sector being £42m in 2013.

We have commissioned research on what a strategic network of general aviation airfields might look like and this research may review that calculation.

Bahrain: Political Prisoners

Asked by Lord Scriven

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the Bahraini Ombudsman is conducting swift and thorough investigations into allegations that female political prisoners Hajer Mansoor Hassan and Medina Ali are being denied access to medical treatment in Isa Town Prison. [HL8233]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the British Embassy in Bahrain are aware of these cases and continue to monitor events. 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 these cases and is monitoring the situation, and that the Ombudsman of the Ministry of Interior is also investigating the claims.

Bahrain: Protest

Asked by Lord Scriven

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 31 July 2017 (HL930), what representations they have made to the government of Bahrain regarding the investigation into the killing of five protesters in Duraz on 23 May 2017. [HL8193]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We understand the investigation into the deaths of protesters during the security operation to clear an illegal gathering in Diraz is ongoing. We will continue to monitor events in Bahrain closely. Should we have concerns we will raise them at an appropriately senior level with the Government of Bahrain.

Carbon Monoxide: Poisoning

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will commission research into the impact of exposure to chronic levels of carbon monoxide through exposure to flueless gaseous appliances such as cookers, grills, hobs and gas fires on levels of dementia in the population. [HL8176]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Department funds research on health and social care through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The usual practice of NIHR is not to ring-fence funds for expenditure on particular topics such as dementia or the effects of exposure to indoor air pollutants such as carbon monoxide. Research proposals in all areas compete for the funding available. The NIHR welcomes funding applications for research into any aspect of human health. Applications are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with

awards made on the basis of the importance of the topic to patients and health and care services, value for money and scientific quality. In all disease areas, the amount of NIHR funding depends on the volume and quality of scientific activity.

The Department has asked the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) to develop guidance on indoor air pollution in homes. NICE has worked with Public Health England to develop this scope. The focus will be on interventions related to the structure of, ventilation of, and materials used in, new/existing or retrofitted homes as well as on people's knowledge, attitude and behaviour in relation to indoor air pollution. The guideline is to be published in September 2019.

Crimes of Violence: Urban Areas

Asked by Lord Hunt of Chesterton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what control measures they are considering to monitor and curtail the movements and violent behaviour of some young men in large UK cities; and whether these measures include the introduction of identity cards. [HL8171]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: On 9 April 2018, the Government published a new Serious Violence Strategy to take action to address serious violence and in particular the recent increases in knife crime, gun crime and homicide. The strategy outlines an ambitious programme of over 60 commitments and actions to tackle this issue. It establishes a new balance between prevention and the rigorous law enforcement activity. The strategy will shift our approach towards steering young people away from crime in the first place and put in place measures to tackle the root causes.

In 2010 the then Government decided to scrap the identity card scheme and the associated National Identity Register because it was expensive and represented a substantial erosion of civil liberties. This Government has no plans to revisit that decision.

Customs

Asked by Lord Macpherson of Earl's Court

To ask Her Majesty's Government what analysis supports the view of the Chief Executive of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs that the proposed maximum facilitation customs arrangement after the UK leaves the EU could cost businesses between £17 billion and £20 billion per year. [HL8225]

Lord Bates: Analysis to support the numbers used by the Chief Executive of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs was outlined in a letter to the Chair of the Treasury Select Committee sent on 4 June 2018 ^[1]. The letter is also attached.

[1] <https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/treasury/Correspondence/2017-19/hmrc-customs-costs-040618.pdf>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HMRC letter [hmrc-customs-costs-040618.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-24/HL8225>

Female Genital Mutilation: Prosecutions

Asked by Baroness Smith of Basildon

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many prosecutions there have been under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 in each year since 2015; and how many have been successful. [HL8197]

Lord Keen of Elie: In the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2017, there was one prosecution (in 2016) under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003, and that did not result in a conviction. This data relates only to those proceedings where the principal offence prosecuted was under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003.

Where a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, data would only record the offence for which the heaviest penalty was imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected would be the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty was the most severe.

Data for 2018 will be published in May 2019.

Gaming Machines

Asked by Lord Porter of Spalding

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Statement by Lord Ashton of Hyde on 17 May (HL Deb, cols 772–84) on gaming machines, when the reduction in the maximum stake on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals will come into force. [HL8227]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The Government published its response to the consultation on changes to gaming machines and social responsibility measures on 17 May. The Government will engage with the gambling industry to ensure they are given sufficient time to implement and complete the technological changes for the reduction in maximum stake for Fixed-Odds Betting Terminals. The Government will deliver the reduction in stake through secondary legislation in due course.

Immigration: Married People

Asked by Baroness Afshar

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure the safe and timely return of passports submitted to the Home Office by spouses of British citizens wishing to come to the UK. [HL8157]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Passports submitted by the spouses of British Citizens who are applying to come to the UK are usually held at an UKVI Decision Making Centre pending a decision being made.

The passports are stored securely and returned to customers directly by courier or via a Visa Application

Centre at various locations overseas once the consideration process is completed. The transfer and transit of passports between Decision Making Centres and the Visa Applications Centres is closely monitored and records of each shipment move are kept.

There is also the opportunity where UKVI can assess applications from digital images of passports. However, the physical passport is required for UKVI to affix a vignette when a decision is made.

In most locations there is an option for customers to keep their passport until a decision has been made on their application with payment of an additional fee.

Licensing Laws: Airports

Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to revoke the orders which prevent the Licensing Act 2003 from applying to airport bars airside. [HL8183]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government's Response to the House of Lords Select Committee on the Licensing Act 2003 made a commitment to issue a call for evidence on the Committee's recommendation to revoke these orders.

The call for evidence will be issued shortly.

Local Government: South West

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what cost-benefit analyses were done before the Somerset and Dorset local government re-organisations were agreed; and whether safeguards exist to prevent savings and value-for-money being absorbed by increase in salaries and other administrative costs. [HL8177]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: In both cases the councils' proposals included well developed business cases, providing clear evidence of estimated costs and savings. The former Secretary of State considered these when concluding that these proposals fully met the criteria for implementing mergers and unitarisation as set out in my statements to the House on 26 February and 22 March. How savings are used and value for money achieved most effectively will be matters for the new councils, which are accountable to their local electorates.

Mass Media: Violence

Asked by Lord Hunt of Chesterton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what research they have conducted on the influence of violent media material on the behaviours of young men in large UK cities; and what steps they are taking to monitor and address it. [HL8170]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: In the Serious Violence Strategy, published on 9 April 2018, the Government sets out our analysis of the trends and drivers

in serious violence and this includes the role that social media plays. That analysis shows that social media has created an opportunity for rivals to antagonise each other, and for those taunts to be viewed by a much larger audience for a much longer time period. This may lead to cycles of tit-for-tat violence.

We are working with social media companies and law enforcement agencies to take preventative action to address the availability of such violent gang related material available via social media.

Portuguese Timor: Armed Conflict

Asked by Lord Foster of Bath

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 15 May (HL7391), what assessment they have made of the conclusion of the New South Wales' Coroner that the Balibo five were shot or deliberately stabbed; and what action, if any, they intend to take in response to this verdict. [HL8165]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Following the findings of the Coroner's verdict in 2007 we were in contact with both the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and the families involved throughout the AFP's investigation. We respect the AFP's 2014 decision not to pursue the case following their conclusion that there was insufficient evidence to prove an offence. We are monitoring the ongoing Administrative Appeals Tribunal in Australia.

Prison Officers: Recruitment

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many more prison officers are currently needed in the UK; how they plan to recruit the necessary prison officers; and what success the Unlocked programme has had in contributing to increasing recruitment. [HL8219]

Lord Keen of Elie: Following their introduction in July 2015, there have been 222 applications and 205 orders

made for Female Genital Mutilation Protection Orders, up to 31 December 2017.

In this period no breaches of an FGM Protection order have been dealt with in the criminal courts. In the Family Courts, proceedings for breach would be dealt with as a contempt of court matter and are not recorded separately. The information could therefore only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Statistics on FGM Protection Orders are publicly available as part of the Family Courts Statistics Quarterly series at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/family-court-statistics-quarterly>. The next publication of Family Court Statistics Quarterly is due on 28 June 2018. This will provide data up to the end of March 2018.

Yemen: Politics and Government

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the political situation in Yemen; and whether they support autonomy or separation for south Yemen. [HL8222]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: A political settlement is the only way to bring long-term stability to Yemen and to address the worsening humanitarian crisis. The Yemeni parties must engage constructively and in good faith to overcome obstacles and find a political solution to end the conflict.

The issue of governance arrangements for southern Yemen is ultimately a question for the Yemeni people. The UK position - and that of the UN Security Council - is to support the unity, sovereignty and independence of Yemen. It is likely however that a greater degree of autonomy for all Yemen's regions, including the south, will be required to promote stability, as agreed in the National Dialogue outcomes. We urge all Yemeni groups to pursue political aspirations through peaceful dialogue and to refrain from violence.

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