

Session 2017-19
No. 121



Monday
11 June 2018

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

Written Statements 1

Written Answers.....7

[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/>

Members who want a printed copy of Written Answers and Written Statements should notify the Printed Paper Office.

This printed edition is a reproduction of the original text of Answers and Statements, which can be found on the internet at <http://www.parliament.uk/writtenanswers/>.

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

© Parliamentary Copyright House of Lords 2018

This publication may be reproduced under the terms of the Open Parliament licence,
which is published at www.parliament.uk/site-information/copyright/

Written Statements

Monday, 11 June 2018

Bosnia and Herzegovina EU-led Mission: Call-out Order

[HLWS724]

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

A new order has been made under section 56(1B) of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 to enable Reservists to be called into permanent service in support of the United Kingdom's contribution to the EU-led mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At the request of DSACEUR, the Operational Commander, the UK has agreed to generate an Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Task Force to enhance his situational awareness in Bosnia and Herzegovina over the period of the general election in October 2018. This capability will operate in parallel with and within the existing EUFOR framework to provide command and control for UK forces.

The planned uplift is consistent with Her Majesty's Government's objective of having a greater ambition for engagement with the Western Balkans and sends the clear message of UK commitment to European security despite Brexit.

Some of the specialist skills needed to meet this requirement are held within the Army Reserve. UK forces will deploy for a period of six months with a planned deployment in mid-August 2018. The number of reservists anticipated to deploy as specialists or in support of regular units is estimated at up to eight personnel.

The order took effect from the beginning of 30 May 2018 and shall cease to have effect at the end of 29 May 2019.

Competitiveness Council: May 2018

[HLWS727]

Lord Henley: The Competitiveness Council (Internal Market and Industry) took place on 28 May in Brussels. I represented the UK.

The standing 'competitiveness check-up' debate focused on the linkages between internal market integration and competitiveness in the EU. The Commission argued that its analysis showed that the Single Market generates significant economic benefits across a range of sectors. The UK underlined its continuing interest in the success of the Single Market, calling for continued progress, particularly on services, and for the EU to be a force for open international trade. Other Member States picked up similar themes as well as other issues including access to finance.

The Council agreed a General Approach on the revision of the Mutual Recognition Regulation, which aims to

improve the functioning of the mutual recognition principle for non-harmonised products in the Single Market. Member States were unanimous in their support for the Presidency's compromise text and praised the balance struck between the need to support businesses trading across the EU while allowing Member States to protect their legitimate public interests.

The Commission presented its new proposal on platform to business relations, which it believed was a balanced attempt to improve transparency and predictability for users without creating undue burdens on platforms or stifling innovation. The UK responded positively but emphasised the benefits of platforms to businesses, particularly SMEs, and underlined the need to consult businesses. Other Member States generally welcomed the Commission's approach, but the debate displayed the tension between those that have legislated in this area and those who want to avoid fragmentation in the Single Market as a result of differing national legislation. Some hinted at their preference for further regulatory measures.

The Presidency provided an update on progress in negotiations on the copyright package. Member States also responded to the UK's ratification of the Agreement on a Unified Patent Court.

The Commission presented its latest package of Digital Single Market proposals, which focus on the improved use of data at EU level as a tool to drive innovation.

Ministers discussed the opportunities and challenges of Artificial Intelligence, including the role of public and private investment, the impact on labour markets, and ethical and legal questions.

The Commission provided information on its 'New Deal for Consumers' proposal, confirming its ambitious timetable for adoption by May 2019. Some Member States raised the dual quality of products as a key concern.

The Commission also presented its Company Law package and a proposal amending the Supplementary Protection Certificates Regulation for the export of medicinal products.

The Presidency also provided updates on work in the area of tourism and within the SOLVIT network; the Austrian delegation presented its priorities as incoming Presidency.

The Competitiveness Council continued on 29 May covering research, innovation and space. Sam Gyimah MP (Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation) represented the UK.

The Council held a policy debate on the future of European space policy. The UK emphasised the global nature of the space sector and the long heritage of technical excellence and research within the European Space Agency. The UK also outlined the case for continued full involvement in EU space programmes such as Galileo and Copernicus.

The Council continued with a discussion on the Progress Report on the Regulation on establishing the

European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking. The UK assured the EU of our commitment to continuing collaboration in science and innovation and highlighted the importance of a continued focus of wider programmes on excellence. Following the discussion, the Council held a plenary session providing an update on the progress of the regulation.

The following sessions adopted two Council Conclusions: the first on accelerating knowledge circulation in the European Union and the second on the European Open Science Cloud.

The Council then agreed a General Approach on the Regulation on the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2019-2020) complementing the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. Ministers agreed to the approach set out by the Commission.

The Council held a policy debate on research and innovation within the context of the next Multiannual Financial Framework. The UK noted the value to the EU of the UK's strength in research and innovation both in terms of results and of expertise in supporting research and innovation as well as emphasising the UK's continuing desire to engage in European collaborative research and innovation programmes.

The Commission provided information on the outcome of the Presidency event dedicated to space (Sofia, 17-19 April 2018). The Council concluded with Austria's presentation of its incoming Presidency work programme.

Contingent Liability: Notification

[HLWS731]

Baroness Sugg: My Right Honourable friend, the Secretary of State for Transport (Chris Grayling), has made the following Ministerial Statement.

I have today laid before Parliament a Departmental Minute describing three contingent liabilities relating to a tripartite deal between Heathrow Airport Limited (HAL), First Greater Western Limited (FGW) and the Department for Transport.

Unfortunately, due to the urgent need to finalise the deal and the confidential commercial nature of the negotiations it was not possible to notify Parliament of the particulars of the liability and allow the required 14 days' notice prior to the liabilities going live. A delay would have resulted in higher HS2 costs and an increased scheduling risk impacting on the December 2026 opening date for Phase 1.

The main element of the deal is a service agreement between FGW, HAL and Heathrow Airport Operating Company (HEOC) for the continuation of non-stop rail services between Paddington and Heathrow Airport. Under this agreement FGW will assume operation of Heathrow Express services. Although this is an agreement between private sector companies, there are significant benefits to the Department, in particular, savings generated from not building a replacement depot for

Heathrow Express rolling stock at Langley (the land on which the current depot is situated at Old Oak Common is needed by HS2 for the construction of the high speed railway).

In order to conclude the deal, and secure departmental/HS2 benefits, the Department needed to offer indemnities in relation to three risks that the parties were unwilling or unable to assume or manage. The financial exposure is not high – a conservative estimate is c£12m. But they are unusual and outside the Department's normal course of business.

The three contingent liabilities are: first, indemnifying FGW against the cost of any delay to delivery of new rolling stock required to operate Heathrow Express services. The department's exposure is estimated to be £2.25m; second, indemnifying FGW against the cost of any redundancies following the transfer of staff, mainly drivers, from HAL to FGW. The cost is estimated to be c£3.2m; third, an indemnity against contagion from a wider industrial relations dispute – nationwide or franchise wide. The exposure is estimated to be £6.8m.

The Treasury approved these liabilities before they were activated. However, if any Member of Parliament has concerns, he/she may write to me within the next 14 parliamentary sitting days. I will be happy to examine their concerns and provide a response.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Contingent Liability [180611 Hexagon Contingent Liabilities Departmental Note.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2018-06-11/HLWS731/>

Death Certification England and Wales: Reforms

[HLWS725]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: Between March and June 2016 the Government consulted on a package of reforms to the death certification process and the introduction of medical examiners. The reforms aim to improve engagement with the bereaved in the process of death certification and offer them an opportunity to raise any concerns, as well as improving the quality and accuracy of Medical Certificates of Cause of Death. Safeguards will be enhanced in the process to enable medical examiners to report matters of a clinical governance nature to support local learning and changes to practice and procedures.

As part of the drive to further improve patient safety, I have today published the Government's response to consultation on the introduction of medical examiners and the reforms of death certification in England and Wales and a copy is attached. This sets out the Government's intention to introduce a system of medical examiners in England. The Welsh Government consulted separately in Wales.

Medical examiners are a key element of the death certification reforms, which, once in place, will deliver a

more comprehensive system of assurances for all non-coronial deaths regardless of whether the deceased is buried or cremated. Medical examiners will be employed in the NHS system, ensuring lines of accountability are separate from NHS acute trusts but allowing for access to information in the sensitive and urgent timescales to register a death.

The response to the consultation demonstrates that there is widespread support for the aims of the reforms and for the introduction of medical examiners, but there were concerns about some aspects of the proposals. In particular concerns were raised about how the proposed model, based in local authorities, would work in practice and about the timeframes for implementing the system. Feedback on a proposed funding model was also received.

Since the Government consulted on the package of Death Certification Reforms, events have moved on. New information about how a medical examiner system could be introduced has been generated by the Department of Health and Social Care's (DHSC) medical examiner pilot sites, early adopters of the medical examiner system, as well as from the Learning from Deaths initiative.

There will be two stages to funding the ME system to enable its introduction while legislation is in progress. Initially, medical examiners will be funded through the existing fee for completing medical cremation forms, in combination with central government funding for medical examiner work not covered by those fees. Following this interim period and when Parliamentary time allows for the system to move to a statutory footing, the funding of the system will need to be revisited. The existing medical cremation forms and fees payable associated with those forms will continue to apply for the interim period.

The Government has proposed that all child deaths (up to age 18) be exempt from the cost associated with the Medical Examiner system. This aligns with the broader purpose of the Government's recent announcement about steps to ensure that no bereaved family will have to pay for the essential costs of burying or cremating their child.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Response to consultation [180611 Govt response to ME and death certification consultation.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2018-06-11/HLWS725/>

ECOFIN: 25 May 2018

[HLWS728]

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

A meeting of The Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN) was held in Brussels on 25 May 2018. EU Finance Ministers discussed the following:

Early Morning Session

The Eurogroup President briefed the Council on the outcomes of the 24 May meeting of the Eurogroup, and the European Commission provided an update on the current economic situation in the EU.

Banking Package

The Council agreed a General Approach to the Banking Risk Reduction Package including proposals for legislative amendments to the Capital Requirements Regulation (CRR) and Directive (CRD), Single Resolution Mechanism Regulation (SRMR), and the Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive (BRRD).

Strengthening Administrative Cooperation

The Council discussed measures to strengthen administrative cooperation in the area of VAT, but were unable to reach agreement on a General Approach.

General Reverse Charge Mechanism

The Council discussed proposals to allow Member States to apply a temporary VAT General Reverse Charge Mechanism, but were unable to reach agreement on a General Approach.

E-Publications

The Council discussed proposals to allow Member States to apply reduced rates of VAT on e-publications, but were unable to reach agreement on a General Approach.

Current Financial Services Legislative Proposals

The Bulgarian Presidency provided an update on current legislative proposals in the field of financial services.

European Semester

The Council adopted Council conclusions on the In-Depth Reviews of macroeconomic imbalances in Member States as part of the Macroeconomic Imbalances Procedure, and the implementation of 2017 Country-Specific Recommendations as assessed in the Commission's Country Reports, published on 07 March.

2018 Ageing Report

The Council adopted Council conclusions on the 2018 Ageing Report on age-related spending and the sustainability of public finances.

Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council

[HLWS730]

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 took place in Brussels on 22 and 23 May 2018. Lord Ashton of Hyde represented the UK at the Youth session of this Council on 22 May. The UK's Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU, Katrina Williams, represented the UK on 23 May for the meetings on Culture & Audiovisual and Sport.

Youth

This session of the Council began with the adoption of Council conclusions on the role of young people in building a secure, cohesive and harmonious society in Europe. The Council adopted Council conclusions on the role of youth in addressing the demographic challenges within the European Union.

A policy debate was then held on the future priorities for EU Youth policy.

In addition, there was 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 began with the adoption of Council conclusions on the need to bring cultural heritage to the fore across policies in the EU.

There was 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 was a public deliberation of current legislative proposals. For this, the Council first welcomed 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, information was provided by the French delegation on the regulation on the import of cultural goods. No legislative decisions were made in these debates, so there are no implications for the parliamentary scrutiny reservation.

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

Sport

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

The EU Member States represented in the World Anti-Doping Agency Foundation Board presented information on the Foundation Board meeting held on 16-17 May. The French delegation presented information on the informal meeting of the EU Minister for Sport (held in Paris on 31 May 2018), where there was the signing of a declaration for a Europe of Sport looking to the horizon of the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Other

The Austrian delegation set out their work programmes as the incoming Presidency, for the second half of 2018. They highlighted a number of priorities for their Presidency. These priorities included a focus on the work plan for culture 2018+, the successor programme to the Creative Europe programme and enhancing the principle of subsidiarity.

Energy Council: 11 June

[HLWS723]

Lord Henley: My Rt hon friend the Minister of State for Energy and Clean Growth (Claire Perry) has today made the following statement:

The Energy Council will take place on 11 June in Luxembourg.

The Council will discuss the Regulation on the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) with the Presidency hoping to reach a general approach.

Under AOB, the Presidency will provide an update on the current state of play in the negotiation of the Regulation on Governance of the Energy Union, the Directive on Renewable Energy and the Directive on Energy Efficiency. The Commission will then provide information on recent developments in the field of external energy relations. Finally, the Austrian delegation will provide information on the work programme for their forthcoming Presidency.

EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement

[HLWS726]

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

I am pleased to announce that my Department will today publish an impact assessment for the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). I have separately written to the Scrutiny Committees in both Houses of Parliament such that they can consider this evidence as part of their important scrutiny of this Agreement. A copy of this impact assessment will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The European Union and Japan concluded negotiations on this Agreement in December 2017, and have announced their intention to sign this Agreement at an EU-Japan Summit in July, subject to approval by EU Member States in the Council of the European Union.

This Agreement will promote bilateral trade and economic growth between the EU and Japan by eliminating most tariffs and reducing non-tariff measures that businesses face when trading goods and services and investing.

The Government remains committed to supporting the EU's ambitious trade agenda including the free trade agreements it is putting in place and to date has strongly supported the EU-Japan EPA negotiations.

The Prime Minister and the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe agreed in August 2017 to 'work quickly to establish a new economic partnership between Japan and the UK based on the final terms of the EPA' as the UK leaves the EU. The UK-Japan Trade and Investment Working Group, established last year by the Japan-UK Joint Declaration on Prosperity Cooperation, is tasked to

deliver on this commitment and met for the second time in May.

Finance (No.3) Bill: Draft

[HLWS732]

Lord Bates: My right honourable friend the Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mel Stride) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The government will introduce Finance (No.3) Bill following the Budget in the autumn.

In line with the approach to tax policy making set out in the government's documents 'Tax Policy Making: a new approach', published in 2010, and 'The new Budget timetable and the tax policy making process', published in 2017, the government is committed, where possible, to publishing most tax legislation in draft for technical consultation before the legislation is laid before Parliament.

The government will publish draft clauses for Finance (No.3) Bill on Friday 6 July 2018, along with accompanying explanatory notes, tax information and impact notes, responses to consultations and other supporting documents. All publications will be available on the gov.uk website.

Gross Negligence Manslaughter in Healthcare: Review

[HLWS733]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: My Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has made the following written statement:

On 6 February 2018 I informed the House that I had asked Professor Sir Norman Williams to carry out a rapid policy review of gross negligence manslaughter in healthcare settings. This review was prompted by concerns among healthcare professionals that errors could result in prosecution for gross negligence manslaughter, even in the face of broader organisation and system failings. In particular, there was concern that this fear had had a negative impact on reflection and learning by healthcare professionals, which is vital to improving patient care.

My Department is today publishing the report of Sir Norman's rapid policy review and a copy is attached.

Any investigation of a healthcare professional for suspected gross negligence manslaughter begins with the death of a patient. A life needlessly cut short and a family grieving. Sir Norman and his Panel have heard from such families. Their experiences were vital in informing this review and I would particularly like to thank them for their courage in providing evidence to the review.

The report finds that prosecutions and convictions of healthcare professionals for gross negligence manslaughter are rare. It also finds that the legal test for the offence is set at an appropriately high level. This should reassure healthcare professionals that only where

conduct is 'truly, exceptionally bad' and in consideration of 'all the circumstances' will the bar for gross negligence manslaughter be met.

However in order to provide greater consistency the report makes recommendations to improve the investigation of allegations of gross negligence manslaughter involving healthcare professionals. These include:

- developing an agreed understanding of gross negligence manslaughter that reflects the most recent case law;
- improvements to the way that healthcare professionals provide expert advice and evidence; and
- improvements to local investigations into unexpected deaths in healthcare to provide a full understanding of the cause of death, ensuring improvements are made to reduce the likelihood of similar incidents.

The report also considers the impact of criminal and regulatory investigations on the willingness of healthcare professionals to reflect on their practice. It finds that reflective material is rarely sought in such investigations. Nonetheless, in order to provide clear assurance to professionals, the report recommends that those regulators that have a power to require information from registrants when investigating their fitness to practise should have this power removed in respect of reflective material.

Finally the report looks at the regulation of healthcare professionals. It makes a number of recommendations for further work to understand inconsistencies in the way that different regulators carry out their fitness to practise functions. It also finds that the General Medical Council's right to appeal decisions of the Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service has resulted in a lack of confidence in their regulator as well as having an unanticipated impact on the willingness of doctors, especially trainees, to reflect fully on their practice. Since the PSA has a near identical right of appeal to Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service decisions, it is clear that there would be no gap in the law where regulatory action is being taken as a result of a serious criminal conviction, and the report recommends that the GMC's right of appeal should be removed.

These recommendations aim to support a just and learning culture in healthcare, where professionals are able to raise concerns and reflect openly on their mistakes but where those who are responsible for providing unacceptable standards of care are held to account. This will support improvements in patient safety.

I thank Sir Norman and his panel for their work in delivering this important report. I accept the recommendations in full.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Professor Sir Norman Williams' review [180611 Williams Report FINAL.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2018-06-11/HLWS733/>

Rough Sleeping

[HLWS729]

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

I am today announcing the allocation of a targeted £30m Rough Sleeping Initiative fund to support those sleeping rough and those at risk of sleeping rough in 83 local authorities with the highest numbers of rough sleepers.

On 30 March 2018 we announced a new, cross-Whitehall, multidisciplinary Rough Sleeping Initiative. A £30m fund, targeted at areas with the highest levels of rough sleeping, was part of that package to support the work of the Rough Sleeping Initiative team.

Over the last few months our team of expert practitioners have worked closely with local authorities and the Greater London Authority (GLA) to identify service gaps and create tailored packages to tackle rough sleeping in their area this year. Together they have coproduced bespoke plans to tackle rough sleeping based on local government and the third sector knowledge of what works.

This represents a first significant step in our plans to reduce rough sleeping. It will be followed by a cross-Government strategy, published in July, which will set out how we intend to meet the manifesto commitment of halving rough sleeping by 2022 and eliminating it altogether by 2027.

This funding will provide for over 500 new staff focused on rough sleeping. This will include more outreach workers to engage with people on the streets,

specialist mental health and substance misuse workers and dedicated co-ordinators to drive efforts to reduce rough sleeping in their areas. It will also provide for over 1700 new bedspaces including both emergency and settled accommodation.

The new Rough Sleeping Initiative team will work closely with local areas to implement the plans and to monitor their progress.

In recognition of the expertise needed to deliver reductions in rough sleeping immediately, Jeremy Swain, currently Chief Executive of the homelessness charity Thames Reach, has been brought in to lead the Rough Sleeping Initiative. Jeremy is an outstanding candidate for this position, and he brings with him 30 years of invaluable front-line experience. He will be in post by early July.

A full list of the individual amounts allocated to the 83 local authorities and the GLA has been published on GOV.UK. Further funding for 2019-20 will be announced shortly.

I am confident this package will achieve substantial results in these areas of high need. It will also build upon the work we have already undertaken in order to meet our manifesto commitment. This work includes, piloting the internationally proven Housing First approach in three major regions of England, allocating over £1.2 billion in order to prevent homelessness and rough sleeping, including more upfront funding so local authorities can proactively tackle homelessness pressures in their areas, and also the recent changes made under the Homelessness Reduction Act which means that more people will get the help they need and at an earlier stage - preventing a homelessness crisis from occurring in the first place.

Written Answers

Monday, 11 June 2018

Agriculture: Subsidies

Asked by **The Duke of Montrose**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Vere of Norbiton on 22 May (HL Deb, col 973), whether the three devolved administrations have agreed how the UK's £3 billion of agricultural support will be divided up; and if not, what plans they have to reach an agreement. [HL8226]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: We have made a commitment that the amount we allocate to farming support - in cash terms - will be protected until the end of this Parliament. Allocations from the current Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) budget were set by the government in 2014.

No decisions have yet been taken on allocations once we have left the EU.

Badgers

Asked by **The Marquess of Lothian**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to ensure the crime of badger baiting is ended. [HL8223]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Badgers and their setts are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, which makes it illegal to kill, injure or take badgers or to interfere with a badger sett. Interference with a sett includes blocking tunnels or damaging the sett in any way.

Badger persecution (including badger baiting) is one of the UK's six wildlife crime priorities. Each UK wildlife crime priority has a delivery group responsible for taking forward actions to gather and share intelligence to inform enforcement activities.

Empty Property

Asked by **Lord Bird**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking, or planning to take, to address the concentration of empty homes in low-value housing markets, with specific regard to the housing markets in (1) northern England, and (2) coastal communities. [HL8250]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: We continue to support local authorities to encourage efficient use of our existing stock, making best use of homes that have been empty long term. Local authorities have powers and incentives to tackle empty homes. Through the New Homes Bonus,

they earn the same financial reward for bringing an empty home back into use as building a new one. The Ratings (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Bill will permit a charge of up to 200 per cent of normal council tax on properties that have been empty for two years or more, instead of the current limit of 150 per cent. Great progress has been made in recent years and the number of empty homes stands at its lowest since records began. At May 2010, over 300,000 homes in England had been standing empty for longer than 6 months. As of October 2017, the number of long term empty properties had fallen to 205,293.

Female Genital Mutilation Protection Orders

Asked by **Baroness Smith of Basildon**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Female Genital Mutilation Orders have been (1) sought, and (2) issued, since they were introduced under the Serious Crime Act 2015. [HL8198]

Asked by **Baroness Smith of Basildon**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any Female Genital Mutilation Protection Orders have been breached in each year since 2015; and, in each case, whether they were dealt with (1) by criminal prosecution, or (2) in the Family Court. [HL8199]

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.

Heathrow Airport

Asked by **Lord Berkeley**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what property compensation estimate has been prepared for the proposed Heathrow third runway extension; and what is its scope and total value. [HL8341]

Baroness Sugg: Residential property costs for Heathrow Airport Ltd's publicly committed property compensation scheme for those affected by expansion have been estimated at £550m, to be financed by

Heathrow and not the taxpayer. This estimate covers both the compulsory purchase zone and the wider property zone and for eligible properties this includes a 25% home loss payment, as well as the Stamp Duty Land Tax, moving costs and legal fees associated with buying a new home.

Historical Enquiries Team

Asked by Lord Hain

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with authorities in Northern Ireland about the number of people who have been prosecuted and convicted as a result of the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Historical Enquiries Team. [HL8213]

Lord Duncan of Springbank: The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and officials meet and discuss regularly with the Police Service of Northern Ireland on a variety of issues of mutual concern and interest.

Operational matters relating to the Historical Enquiries Team are the responsibility of the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

Hong Kong: Politics and Government

Asked by Lord Ashdown of Norton-sub-Hamdon

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the number of the pro-democracy protesters and activists prosecuted under Hong Kong's public order ordinance since 2014, and (2) the compliance of the public order ordinance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. [HL8205]

Asked by Lord Ashdown of Norton-sub-Hamdon

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the conviction of Edward Leung on charges of rioting. [HL8206]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: In the most recent Six Monthly Report to Parliament, published on 15 March, the Foreign Secretary said "The rule of law and independence of the judiciary is the foundation on which Hong Kong's success and prosperity is built. This reporting period has seen a large number of cases related to the political system come before Hong Kong's courts... The judiciary in Hong Kong remains in high esteem. It will be vital that the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government is seen to use the system of justice fairly in all cases."

I note that Hong Kong's current International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) review is expected to report in late summer, and that the previous review recommended that Hong Kong "should ensure that the implementation of the Public Order Ordinance is in conformity with the Covenant".

Individual cases regarding pro-democracy activists are a matter for the Hong Kong courts. However, the British Government has highlighted its hope that recent criminal proceedings do not discourage lawful protest, or discourage young people engaging in politics in the future. Hong Kong citizens are guaranteed the right to freedom of assembly and demonstration under the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law. As I set out to this House on 24 January, the British Government takes its commitment under the Joint Declaration very seriously.

Immigrants: Detainees

Asked by Baroness Cox

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people died in UK immigration detention centres from suicide or self-inflicted wounds between 1 March 2017 and 1 March 2018. [HL8349]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Any death in immigration detention is subject to investigation by the police, the coroner (or Procurator Fiscal in Scotland) and the independent Prisons and Probation Ombudsman.

In the period 1 March 2017 to 1 March 2018 there have been 8 deaths of individuals while detained in an immigration removal centre under immigration powers or shortly after release. Of these deaths none has yet been determined by a coroner to be a self-inflicted death.

Staff at all immigration removal centres are trained to identify those at risk of self harm so that action can be taken to minimise the risk. All incidents of self harm are treated very seriously and every step is taken to prevent incidents of this nature. Formal risk assessments on initial detention and systems for raising concerns at any subsequent point feed into established self harm procedures in every IRC, which are in turn underpinned by the Home Office Operating Standard on the prevention of self-harm and Detention Services Order 06/2008 Assessment Care in Detention Teamwork (ACDT).

Asked by Baroness Cox

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of people held in UK immigration detention centres for over one year have been subsequently removed from the UK since May 2017. [HL8352]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Information on the number of people leaving detention, by length of detention and reason is available in table dt_06_q (see below) of the detention tables in the latest release of 'Immigration Statistics, year ending March 2018', available from the GOV.uk website at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/709326/detention-mar-2018-tables.ods

Table dt_06_q: People leaving detention by reason, sex, and length of detention

Quarter	Length of detention	Total Detainees	Returned from the UK	Granted leave to enter / remain	Bailed (Secretary of State)	Bailed (Immigration Judge)	Other
2010 Q1	*Total	6,675	4,209	47	1,952	395	72
2010 Q2	*Total	6,100	3,940	34	1,683	374	69
2010 Q3	*Total	6,684	4,326	35	1,819	420	84
2010 Q4	*Total	6,500	4,102	25	1,891	407	75
2011 Q1	*Total	6,888	4,326	48	2,027	415	72
2011 Q2	*Total	6,339	3,854	49	1,915	455	66
2011 Q3	*Total	6,596	4,085	38	1,949	462	62
2011 Q4	*Total	7,358	4,571	40	2,197	488	62
2012 Q1	*Total	6,904	4,275	44	2,029	500	56
2012 Q2	*Total	7,029	4,277	29	2,187	486	50
2012 Q3	*Total	7,188	4,278	43	2,352	460	55
2012 Q4	*Total	7,454	4,416	36	2,423	498	81
2013 Q1	*Total	7,102	4,169	31	2,458	383	61
2013 Q2	*Total	7,613	4,421	27	2,666	423	76
2013 Q3	*Total	7,933	4,131	73	3,215	450	64
2013 Q4	*Total	7,382	4,212	83	2,592	451	44
2014 Q1	*Total	6,864	3,985	95	2,282	450	52
2014 Q2	*Total	6,876	3,855	93	2,413	452	63
2014 Q3	*Total	8,039	3,957	80	3,425	524	53
2014 Q4	*Total	7,895	3,876	86	3,155	685	93
2015 Q1	*Total	7,523	3,762	71	2,817	787	86
2015 Q2	*Total	8,192	3,973	64	3,274	793	88
2015 Q3	*Total	8,899	3,568	27	4,324	866	114
2015 Q4	*Total	8,612	3,803	18	3,915	764	112
2016 Q1	*Total	6,944	3,314	10	2,876	660	84
2016 Q2	*Total	7,612	3,528	24	3,189	782	89
2016 Q3	*Total	7,042	3,205	18	3,038	673	108
2016 Q4	*Total	7,079	3,426	7	2,831	722	93
2017 Q1	*Total	7,173	3,587	21	2,772	721	72
2017 Q2	*Total	6,568	3,154	15	2,594	738	67
2017 Q3	*Total	6,989	3,198	81	2,396	1,221	93
2017 Q4	*Total	7,514	3,234	52	2,801	1,300	127
2018 Q1	*Total	6,358	3,067	10	2,113	1,073	95

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Table dt_06_q [Table_dt_06_q.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-06-05/HL8352>

Immigration: Personal Records

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government from which countries citizens are required to complete landing cards on arrival in the UK. [HL8284]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Nationals of all non-EEA countries are required to fill out a landing card on arrival to the UK.

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what data are collected through landing cards; and how such data are used. [HL8285]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Passengers are required to complete fourteen pieces of data on landing cards. These are first name(s); date of birth; sex; nationality; town and country of birth; occupation; contact address in the UK; passport number; place of issue; length of stay in the UK; port of last departure; arrival flight/train number/ship name; and signature.

Landing cards are predominantly used to produce National Statistics on purpose of journey by category and nationality.

India: Religious Freedom

Asked by Lord Ahmed

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the concerns expressed by Archbishop of Delhi regarding minorities in India and the rise of extremist Hindutva supporters. [HL8160]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The British Government remains committed to promoting and defending freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) for individuals of all faiths or beliefs, in India and elsewhere. We shall continue to engage with Indian contacts on a range of human rights issues, including minority representatives on religious freedoms.

The British High Commission in New Delhi and our network of Deputy High Commissions maintain an assessment of the human rights situation across India and run projects promoting minority rights, as well as working with Union and State Government to build capacity and share expertise.

Israel: Palestinians

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they support the referral under article 14 of the Rome Statute, submitted by the government of the State of Palestine to the International Criminal Court, to move from a preliminary investigation to a full investigation regarding the situation in Palestine since 13 June 2014. [HL8221]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We respect the independence of the International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor, who will continue her preliminary Examination into the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory in order to determine whether the criteria is met to open a full investigation. Genuine and thorough investigations, whether conducted domestically or by the ICC, are important to help deliver justice for victims of atrocity crimes.

Nabeel Rajab

Asked by Lord Scriven

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether there has been any breach of international human rights standards on fair trials and due process in the five-year sentence handed to Bahraini human rights defender Nabeel Rajab for his Twitter activity. [HL8231]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have raised the case of Nabeel Rajab at senior levels with the Government of Bahrain. In his statement on 21 February the Minister for the Middle East and North Africa made clear his concerns at the five-year sentence handed to Mr Rajab, in addition to the two-year sentence he received in 2017. I understand that Mr Rajab has a right of appeal in this case and we will continue to monitor proceedings closely. It would not be proper to comment further whilst the case is still in progress.

We continue to encourage the Government of Bahrain to deliver on its international and domestic human rights commitments.

Najah Ahmed Yousif

Asked by Lord Scriven

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the torture allegations presented by Bahraini political activist Najah Ahmed Yousif; and whether representatives from the British Embassy in Manama will attend Ms Yousif's final sentencing. [HL8232]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We encourage those with concerns about treatment in detention to report these to the appropriate oversight body. We also encourage these oversight bodies to carry out swift and thorough investigations into any such claim.

Officials from the British Embassy in Bahrain have been present at court hearings for Najah Ahmed Yousif. We will continue to monitor this case closely.

Overseas Aid

Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress the Department for International Development is making for the current financial year in meeting its target of spending 50 per cent of its budget in fragile and conflict-affected states. [HL8265]

Lord Bates: DFID fully expects to spend at least 50% of its budget in fragile states and regions in the current financial year, as we have done every year since the commitment was made in 2015.

Palestinians: Self-determination of States

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the Balfour Declaration and of the League of Nations Mandate for Palestine, what assessment they have made of their responsibility to ensure that the Palestinian nation is able to exercise its right to self-determination. [HL8216]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK supports the Palestinian people in realising self-determination through an independent, sovereign, and unified Palestinian state, in the West Bank and Gaza. To this end, we are long-standing supporters of the Palestinian Authority in its state-building efforts, and we remain committed to making progress towards a two-state solution. We believe that negotiations will only succeed when they are conducted between Israelis and Palestinians, supported by the international community.

Syria: Military Intervention

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reply by Baroness Goldie on 23 May (HL Deb, cols 1028–30), what are the practical consequences of our "close dialogue with Turkey" for military operations and civil administration in northern Syria, including Idlib province; and whether Turkey's "commitment to respect international law" includes compliance with all United Nations mandated ceasefires. [HL8214]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: During their meeting in the UK in May, President Erdogan and the Prime Minister reaffirmed their commitment to a political settlement to end the war and provide stability for all of Syria, Turkey and the wider region. The Prime Minister emphasised the need to ensure humanitarian access to Syria and compliance with International Humanitarian Law and the protection of civilians. We will continue to pursue these points actively in discussion with the Turkish

Government. The UK fully supports UN Security Council Resolution 2401 and has convened emergency briefings of the UN Security Council to press for implementation of the ceasefire. While recognising Turkey's legitimate security concerns, we have, in line with the resolution, urged de-escalation in Afrin, the protection of civilians and the provision of humanitarian aid.

Visas: Russia

Asked by Lord Balfe

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the ability of Russian citizens who have been denied visas to enter the UK to circumvent this restriction by taking citizenship of another EU country. [HL8240]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Citizens of EEA countries may enter or remain in the UK by virtue of the provisions of the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2016, which sets out the right of admission for EEA nationals. This right is not absolute and in certain cases admission can be refused or the individual can be excluded.

Asked by Lord Balfe

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the ability of Russian citizens who have been denied visas to enter the UK to circumvent this restriction by taking citizenship of Israel. [HL8340]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: As a non-visa national, citizens of Israel do not require a visa prior to arrival in the UK, if the purpose of travel is to visit for a duration not exceeding six months.

However, a non-visa national would still require leave to enter the UK, which would be assessed against the Immigration Rules at the border by a Border Force Officer. Where a person has previously been refused a visa, this would be identified and considered as part of the assessment on whether to refuse or grant leave to enter.

Index to Statements and Answers

Written Statements.....1

Bosnia and Herzegovina EU-led Mission: Call-out Order.....	1
Competitiveness Council: May 2018	1
Contingent Liability: Notification	2
Death Certification England and Wales: Reforms	2
ECOFIN: 25 May 2018	3
Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council	3
Energy Council: 11 June	4
EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement	4
Finance (No.3) Bill: Draft	5
Gross Negligence Manslaughter in Healthcare: Review	5
Rough Sleeping	6

Written Answers.....7

Agriculture: Subsidies	7
Badgers	7
Empty Property.....	7
Female Genital Mutilation Protection Orders	7
Heathrow Airport.....	7
Historical Enquiries Team.....	8
Hong Kong: Politics and Government.....	8
Immigrants: Detainees.....	8
Immigration: Personal Records	9
India: Religious Freedom	10
Israel: Palestinians	10
Nabeel Rajab	10
Najah Ahmed Yousif.....	10
Overseas Aid	10
Palestinians: Self-determination of States	11
Syria: Military Intervention	11
Visas: Russia	11