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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
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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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<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

Tuesday, 12 June 2018

Contingent Liabilities

[HLWS735]

Earl Howe: My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and Minister for Defence Procurement (Guto Bebb) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I am today laying a Departmental Minute to advise that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) is retrospectively notifying Parliament about contingent liabilities not previously disclosed, due to procedural errors. HMT recognise the urgency for these contingent liabilities to be laid before Parliament and have approved them in principle. Final approval is expected pending the outcome of a wider Departmental review, as part of the Balance Sheet Review, being conducted by Her Majesty's Treasury.

The Minute describes the contingent liabilities that the MOD holds against three Air Command contracts, two Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) and one Navy Command contract. It is usual to allow a period of 14 Sitting Days prior to accepting a contingent liability, to provide hon. Members an opportunity to raise any objections. Regrettably, this was not done ahead of contract award in these cases and I sincerely apologise for our failure to do so. The purpose of the Minute is to regularise the position with Parliament. The contracts remain fully enforceable and the associated contingent liabilities will be reported in the 2017-18 MOD Annual Report and Accounts.

Failure to notify these contingent liabilities prior to the award of the associated contracts has been reported to the Public Accounts Committee. The Department has noted the Committee's concerns about this situation and fully accepts the need to follow the correct approvals and reporting procedures. Air Command, DIO and Navy Command have put in place a series of measures to address this issue including staff briefing, mandated training, improving the clarity of internal guidance and procedures and additional controls in the approvals process, to ensure compliance.

If the liability is called, provision for any payment will be sought through the normal Supply procedure.

If, following the laying of the Departmental Minute, a Member signifies an objection by writing to me, I undertake to examine the objection and respond to the member concerned.

Justice and Home Affairs Post-Council Statement

[HLWS736]

Lord Keen of Elie: My right honourable friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (David Gauke) has made the following Written Statement.

"The Justice and Home Affairs Council took place in Luxembourg on 4 and 5 June 2018. The UK was represented by a senior official from the Ministry of Justice on Justice Day (4 June). The Home Secretary represented the UK on Interior Day (5 June).

Justice Day began with a discussion on the Contract Law- Sales of Goods Directive. The UK supported the Presidency's approach of a single set of rules in this measure for all goods (including those with embedded digital content), and on guarantee periods, but expressed concern on the potential for full harmonisation of remedies. A more general concern was expressed around the room, including by the UK, about the impact of the remedies provisions on consumer protections set out in national laws. Work will continue at technical level in line with the Digital Content Directive, taking this concern into account.

The Presidency secured a partial general approach on the Insolvency Directive provisions covering the discharge of debts for honest entrepreneurs, training for judges and practitioners and data collection, in line with UK views.

There was a discussion around certain policy questions on Brussels IIa, with broad support for circulation of provisional measures in relation to child abduction cases, as well as the need for consent in relation to the placement of children in foster or institutional care in another Member State. On the recognition and enforcement of judgments, Member States were divided on whether (and how) to treat cases involving children differently, with the Presidency concluding that further work would be required at technical level.

There was a report on the preparatory steps needed to be taken to ensure that the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) becomes operational in 2020. The UK will not participate in the EPPO.

Member States discussed the misuse of user data and the protection of democracy in relation to Facebook. The UK provided an update on the ICO's (Information Commissioner's Office's) investigation. The Commission noted the importance of fully implementing the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and welcomed the cooperation between the UK and Ireland on the Cambridge Analytica case.

Judicial training and the role of the European Judicial Training Network was discussed over lunch. There was broad support for more money for the network in the next Multi-Annual Financial Framework.

The incoming Austrian Presidency provided an update on their programme. They will aim to achieve a general approach in a number of dossiers: insolvency, e-evidence, sale of goods, service of documents and taking of evidence; political consensus on Brussels IIa; and the adoption of the confiscation, Eurojust and ECRIS TCN (European Criminal Records Information System – Third Country Nationals) measures. The July Informal JHA Council will also include a discussion on mutual trust and mutual recognition, and developing ECJ jurisprudence (in particular the Irish references on UK and Polish European Arrest Warrants (EAWs)).

In a joint session of Justice and Home Affairs Ministers there was a policy debate on the draft EU legislation on improving cross-border access to electronic evidence. Ministers agreed on the need to explore further whether to include live intercept and direct access in the scope of the legislation. The Council also reaffirmed widespread support among Member States for a common EU approach towards the negotiation of an executive agreement with international partners, and concluded that the Commission should submit recommendations for negotiating mandates before the summer. The UK has a JHA opt-in decision to take on this Regulation by 22 August.

Ministers adopted Council Conclusions on support for victims of terrorism. A new Coordination Centre for Victims of Terrorism will bring together expertise and facilitate coordination.

Interior Day began with a discussion on progress made on negotiations on the reform of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). Of the measures that make up CEAS, the UK has only opted in to the recast of the Eurodac Regulation. Member States remained split on the inclusion of a mandatory redistribution mechanism in the recast Dublin Regulation. The June European Council will aim to reach agreement as a priority.

There was a policy debate on the Regulation amending the Schengen Visa Code. The UK does not participate in the border and immigration aspects of the Schengen Acquis so this legislation has no impact upon the UK.

Over lunch, Ministers exchanged views on the current developments on the migration situation at the Eastern, Central and Western Mediterranean migration routes. The UK reinforced our commitment to the EU-Turkey Statement and called for focus on breaking the people smugglers' business model and encouraged more action on strategic communications. The Council agreed the immediate and short-term measures proposed by the Presidency.

Ministers then exchanged views on enhancing cooperation between counterterrorism authorities. The Council endorsed the importance of the Counter Terrorism Group's work and endorsed the call for heightened cooperation between intelligence and law enforcement communities.

On internal security, the Council signalled continued support for the multidisciplinary approach of the EU Policy Cycle to counter organised and serious international crime.

Finally, there was a discussion on co-operation between Common Security and Defence Policy operations and EU JHA agencies. The Council was updated on the establishment of the new 'Crime Information Cell' in the EUNAVFORMED Operation Sophia."

Multi-agency Flood Plan Review Report

[HLWS734]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: My Right Hon Friend the Secretary of State (Michael Gove) has today made the following statement.

On 3 November 2017 I announced that Defra and the Environment Agency would be undertaking a review of multi-agency flood plans produced by local resilience forums (LRFs) in England, as part of the government's ongoing work to address flood risk ([Written Statement - HCWS221](#)). The remit of the review was to look at the effectiveness and consistency of current flood plans, to identify good practice and provide advice on how it can be spread, to help make sure we have the best plans in place across the country. The review was led and overseen by Major General (ret'd) Tim Cross, as an independent external reviewer.

I am very pleased today to be publishing General Cross' review. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to General Cross for conducting such careful, insightful analysis and so quickly. The review report includes twelve recommendations which General Cross developed in light of his discussions and evidence gathering with LRFs and specialists across the country and he has brought to the fore important issues that need to be addressed.

I will now consider the report's recommendations in detail, in consultation with other Departments, and will publish a Government response later in the year.

I have arranged for a copy of the report to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Written Answers

Tuesday, 12 June 2018

Aircraft Carriers

Asked by **Lord West of Spithead**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any further consideration has been given to ensure Royal Navy and Royal Air Force air crews and maintenance crews embarked on the new aircraft carriers will work to the same Harmony Guidelines. [HL8465]

Earl Howe: When necessary to deliver the Carrier Strike capability, embarked jointly manned F-35B squadrons will operate to the same harmony guidelines.

Armed Conflict: Interpreters

Asked by **Baroness Coussins**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to table a resolution at the UN Security Council during the UK's presidency in August on the subject of the protection of interpreters and translators working in conflict zones. [HL8264]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Her Majesty's Government has no plans to table a resolution on this subject.

Care Homes

Asked by **Lord Naseby**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many residential care homes there were in England in (1) 1997, (2) 2007, and (3) 2017. [HL8369]

Asked by **Lord Naseby**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many residential care home beds there were in England in (1) 1997, (2) 2007, and (3) 2017. [HL8370]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The number of residential care home beds and care homes data in 1997 is not held centrally. Available data shows that between 2007 and 2017 the total number of beds in care homes remains broadly static whilst over the same period the number of care homes has gone down. However, high quality care also includes domiciliary care which increased by 57% since 2010 for those people aged 65 and over who are cared for through local authority support in their own home.

The following tables show residential care home beds and care homes numbers in England for 2007 and 2017.

England	31 March 2007	3 April 2017
Beds in Residential Homes	265,539	238,684

England	31 March 2007	3 April 2017
Beds in Nursing Homes	182,920	221,110
Beds in Non-Medical Care Homes	298	N/A
Total care home beds	448,757	459,794
England	31 March 2007	3 April 2017
Residential Homes	14,572	11,890
Nursing Homes	4,119	4,502
Non-Medical Care Homes	18	N/A
Total care homes	18,709	16,392

Sources: Commission for Social Care Inspection (2007), Care Quality Commission Care Directory With Filters.

Note: Care homes that offer beds with nursing and beds without nursing are classified as nursing homes.

Clyde Naval Base

Asked by **Lord Carlile of Berriew**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the introduction, operation and effectiveness of the Future Accommodation Model for the accommodation of Royal Navy personnel and their families working and based at Her Majesty's Naval Base Clyde, Faslane. [HL8261]

Earl Howe: Accommodation for our Service personnel is essential to the delivery of military capability. Ministry of Defence officials are preparing to test the Future Accommodation Model (FAM) through a pilot which we expect to launch at the end of the year. The pilot will allow us to test and refine the FAM, ensuring we have the right accommodation policy in place for the needs of Service personnel.

Empty Property

Asked by **Lord Patten**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to publish regularly the numbers of unoccupied homes in each English local authority area. [HL8373]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: Statistics on vacant dwellings in England and in each local authority district are published in the Ministry's live table 615 (attached) which is available at the following link. This table shows the annual total numbers of empty homes and those vacant longer than six months and also vacants in the local authority, housing association and other public sector tenures.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-dwelling-stock-including-vacants>

The number of long-term vacant dwellings across England remains lower than when records began.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Table 615 [180607 Live table 615 HL8373.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-06-05/HL8373>

Immigrants: Compensation

Asked by Lord Ouseley

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the compensation scheme for the Windrush generation and others erroneously deemed to be illegally in the UK has been set up; when they expect it to be operational; and, if already operational, how many people have been compensated. [HL8299]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The compensation scheme for those of the Windrush generation that might have been affected is in the process of being established. The Government has launched a Call for Evidence to hear about the experiences of those that might have been affected, which closes on 8 June.

The information gathered through the Call for Evidence will be used to inform the decisions on the design of the scheme, and Martin Forde QC has been appointed as an Independent Person to oversee that design.

The Government will open the scheme as soon as possible once the design of the scheme has been

completed and consulted on, and in the meanwhile will continue to work with affected individuals through the operation of the Windrush Taskforce to help establish their immigration status.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Voyager tanker aircraft are required to support the deployment of four F-35B fighter aircraft from the United States to the UK. [HL8468]

Earl Howe: Three Voyager aircraft were utilised to provide maximum operational flexibility and assurance.

Leukaemia: Ibrutinib

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate NHS England has made of the number of people with relapsed or refractory chronic lymphocytic leukaemia who will not receive ibrutinib as a result of the treatment's Blueteq Approval Criteria published on the National Cancer Drugs Fund List. [HL8294]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: An estimate of the number of patients with chronic lymphocytic leukaemia who will not receive treatment is not available. NHS England has advised that 828 patients with chronic lymphocytic leukaemia were registered to receive ibrutinib in 2017/18.

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