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Thursday
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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

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<i>Minister</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
Baroness Evans of Bowes Park	Leader of the House of Lords and Lord Privy Seal
Earl Howe	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	Chief Whip
Baroness Barran	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
Baroness Berridge	Whip
Lord Bethell	Whip
Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health and Social Care
Baroness Bloomfield of Hinton Waldrist	Whip
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, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Northern Ireland Office
Lord Gardiner of Kimble	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Baroness Goldie	Minister of State, Ministry of Defence
Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park	Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Department for International Development
Lord Keen of Elie	Advocate-General for Scotland and Ministry of Justice Spokesperson
Baroness Morgan of Cotes	The Secretary of State, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
Baroness Sater	Whip
Baroness Stedman-Scott	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions
Baroness Sugg	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for International Development
Baroness Vere of Norbiton	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Transport
Baroness Williams of Trafford	Minister of State, Home Office
Viscount Younger of Leckie	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

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Written Statements

Thursday, 23 January 2020

College of Policing: Annual Report and Accounts

[HLWS50]

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

I am today publishing the 2018-19 annual report and accounts for the College of Policing Limited (HC 48). This will be laid before the House and published on www.gov.uk. The report will also be available in the Vote Office.

Dartford-Thurrock and Severn Crossings: Accounts

[HLWS49]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Under Section 3 (1) (d) of the Trunk Road Charging Schemes (Bridges and Tunnels) (Keeping of Accounts) (England) Regulations 2003, annual accounts for the Dartford – Thurrock Crossing Charging Scheme and the Severn River Crossing Charging Scheme are published today.

In addition, annual accounts for the now-abolished Severn River Crossing toll are released today under Section 28 of the Severn Bridges Act 1992. Since there are no longer tolls or charges on the Severn River Crossings these accounts will not be produced in the future.

The accounts relate to financial year 2018-19 or 2018 and will be placed in the House Library.

EU (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill

[HLWS55]

Earl Howe: My Rt Hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Michael Gove) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

This Government was elected with a clear mandate to deliver the result of the 2016 Referendum, and to ensure that the UK ratifies the deal reached by the Prime Minister, before the UK leaves the European Union on the 31 January.

The Government has sought, in line with the Sewel Convention, legislative consent from the devolved legislatures of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland for the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill.

It is important to note that despite the argument of some, the devolved legislatures have not been asked to consent to Brexit overall. In line with the devolution settlements, they have been asked to consent to the specific parts of the Bill that fall within devolved

competence, or otherwise engage the legislative consent process.

It is therefore disappointing that the three devolved legislatures have refused to agree a legislative consent motion (LCM) for the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill.

We recognise that taking the Bill to Royal Assent without the consent of the devolved legislatures is a significant decision and it is one that we have not taken lightly. However, it is in line with the Sewel Convention. It is also necessary in order to ensure that all parts of the UK have the powers required to meet our obligations in the Withdrawal Agreement. These include important protections for EU and UK citizens' rights as we leave the EU.

The Sewel Convention - to which the Government remains committed - states that the UK Parliament 'will not normally legislate with regard to devolved matters without the consent' of the relevant devolved legislatures. The circumstances of our departure from the EU, following the 2016 referendum, are not normal – they are unique.

At every stage of the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill, the UK Government has demonstrated its enduring commitment and respect for the Sewel Convention and the principles that underpin our constitutional arrangements.

The practices and procedures that have developed to deliver the Sewel Convention encourage the UK Government to consult with the devolved administrations on legislation at an early stage to ensure their views are taken into account.

Through extensive consultation and engagement it has respected the spirit and the letter of the devolution settlement. Changes have been made to recognise the valid concerns of our partners in the Scottish and Welsh Governments. We have also, during the absence of the Executive, worked closely with the Northern Ireland Civil Service.

Despite the Government's efforts, it is unfortunate that common ground could not be found on all elements.

We will continue to respect and uphold the Sewel Convention and the devolution settlements going forward.

We will also continue to engage with the Scottish and Welsh Governments, as well as the newly formed Northern Ireland Executive, as we negotiate our future relationship with the EU.

Government Transparency and Accountability

[HLWS54]

Earl Howe: My Hon. Friend the Minister for the Constitution (Chloe Smith) made the following statement:

Since 2010, the Government has been at the forefront of opening up data to allow Parliament, the public and the media to hold public bodies to account. Such online

transparency is crucial to delivering value for money, cutting waste and inefficiency, and to ensuring every pound of taxpayers' money is spent in the best possible way.

The Government is today publishing a number of documents as part of its ongoing commitment to transparency and accountability.

The following subject areas include documents and data that the Government is due to publish, or which have recently been made available.

Ministerial transparency

Departments are publishing the routine quarterly Ministerial data on external meetings, gifts, hospitality and overseas travel.

The Government is also making available the agenda and the meeting notes of the July 2019 Coordination Committee meeting between the Government and the DUP.

Further transparency documents relating to Ministers were published on 20 December 2019.

Transparency in the Civil Service

Departments are publishing reports on the median gender pay gap. Across the Civil Service, this encouragingly states that the median gender pay gap has narrowed to 11.1%. This demonstrates progress to date, but shows there is still further to go.

Departments are also publishing routine spend and prompt payment data, demonstrating our continued commitment to supporting businesses by ensuring they are paid on time.

Transparency of senior officials and special advisers

Alongside quarterly data on the travel, expenses and meetings of senior officials, the Government is also publishing the annual list of salary details for senior public officials in departments and arms' length bodies earning £150,000 and above, reflecting the enhanced scrutiny we have put in place for these most senior posts. Though the Government recognises the need to attract the brightest and the best to deliver on the peoples' priorities and save taxpayers' money, very high salaries must be justified and publishing this data allows them to be scrutinised.

Departments are also publishing routine returns from special advisers.

Departments are also publishing routine quarterly data summarising decisions made by departments about outside appointments or employment taken up by former members of the Civil Service at SCS1 and SCS2 level and equivalents (including special advisers of equivalent standing).

These documents will be published on GOV.UK.

Offshore Wind Projects

[HLWS52]

Lord Duncan of Springbank: My Rt. honourable Friend, the Minister for Business, Energy and Clean

Growth in the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, made the following Statement today:

This Statement concerns applications made by Orsted Hornsea Project Three (UK) Limited, Norfolk Vanguard Limited and Vattenfall Wind Power Limited for development consent for the installation, operation and maintenance of offshore wind farms, their related offshore infrastructure off the coast of Norfolk and Kent and their related onshore electrical connections within those counties.

Under section 107(1) of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State must make a decision on an application within three months of the receipt of the Examining Authority's report unless exercising the power under section 107(3) of the Act to set a new deadline. Where a new deadline is set, the Secretary of State must make a Statement to Parliament to announce it. The statutory decision deadline for Hornsea Project Three was re-set by Written Ministerial Statement on 8 October 2019. However, following a request from the Applicant, Orsted Hornsea Project Three (UK) Limited on 12 December 2019 for an extension of the period of six weeks by which to provide additional information to the Secretary of State, to 14 February 2020, the Secretary of State has decided to re-set the decision deadline for a second time to 1 June 2020.

The deadline for the decision on the Norfolk Vanguard offshore wind farm was 10 December 2019 and the deadline for the Thanet Extension offshore wind farm was 11 December 2019. The Secretary of State has decided to set a new deadline of 1 June 2020 for deciding these two applications to allow further information to be provided.

The decision to set the new deadlines for these three applications is without prejudice to the decisions on whether to grant or refuse development consents for them.

Police Funding 2020-21

[HLWS56]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: This statement replaces the statement I made on 22 January 2020 (HLWS47):

My hon Friend the Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service (Kit Malthouse) has today (22 January 2020) made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

My rt hon Friend the Home Secretary has today laid before the House the Police Grant Report (England and Wales) 2020/21 (HC 51) for the approval of the House. The Report sets out my rt hon Friend the Home Secretary's determination for 2020/21 of the aggregate amount of grants that she proposes to pay under section 46(2) of the Police Act 1996. Copies of the report will be available in the Vote Office.

Today this Government has laid the police funding settlement in Parliament which sets out the biggest increase in funding to forces since 2010. This includes £700m for the recruitment of 6,000 additional officers by the end of March 2021, which represents an almost 10%

increase on the core grant provided to forces last year. Assuming full take up of council tax precept flexibility, overall funding to Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) will increase by £915 million to £13.1 billion next year. This would represent a total funding increase of up to 7.5%.

This people's Government is determined to strengthen our police service and tackle the unacceptable levels of crime, particularly violent crime, across our country. This Government will deliver on its commitment to recruit 20,000 additional officers over the next three years to protect the public and keep our families, communities and our country safe. We have already invested in this uplift programme, providing £45 million of additional funding in 2019/20 to ensure the programme gets off the ground. The 2020/21 funding settlement gives the police the investment they need to deliver on that promise. Taking all funding from the Government and PCCs' precept raising power into account, up to an extra £1.1 billion will be available for investment in the policing system in 2020/21. This would represent an increase of 8% funding on top of 2019/20 levels and is the single biggest increase in Government investment in policing for some time.

The Chancellor confirmed in his September 2019 statement to the House on the 2020/21 Spending Round that Government funding to policing will increase by £750 million next year. £700 million of this money will go directly to PCCs in England and Wales in order to support the recruitment of the first wave of up to 6,000 additional officers by the end of March 2021. These extra officers will be in addition to those leaving the service annually, and represents the biggest recruitment drive in decades. Over 75% (£532 million) of this funding will be paid to PCCs directly through core grant funding. To manage the uplift, and to ensure best possible use of this unprecedented investment, the Government is creating a ringfenced grant for the remainder of the funding (£168 million). Forces will be allocated a portion of this £168 million in line with their funding formula allocation, and will be able to access this as they progress against their recruitment targets.

This settlement also contains details of other areas of Government funding, including Legacy Council Tax Grants, National and International Capital City Grants, Welsh Top-Up Grant and Precept Grant.

We also propose enabling PCCs to raise further funding through precept flexibility, subject to confirmation at the final Local Government Finance Settlement. We propose to empower PCCs to increase their Band D precept by up to £10 in 2020/21 without the need to call for a local referendum, the equivalent of less than twenty pence per week. If all PCCs decide to maximise their flexibility, this would result in up to an additional £248 million of funding for local policing next year. It is for locally accountable PCCs to take decisions on local precept and explain to their electorate how this additional investment will help deliver a better police service.

In this settlement the Government will also allocate £153 million to cover additional pension costs. This

amount is held flat compared to 2019/20 figures and will be reconsidered at the next Spending Review. This will ensure that the additional funding forces are receiving will be spent on recruiting additional officers, rather than covering existing costs.

As announced earlier this week, funding for counter-terrorism policing will total £906 million in 2020/21. This is a significant additional investment in the vital work of counter-terrorism police officers across the country. PCCs will be notified separately of force-level allocations, which will not be made public for security reasons.

National priorities

This Government will also continue to support PCCs and forces through investment in national policing priorities. This settlement will increase spending on national (resource) policing priorities by £91.7 million (staying flat as a percentage of overall police funding), which will benefit all forces across England and Wales. This increase is in line with the total increase in the overall settlement and includes £50 million to ensure delivery of the Police Uplift Programme.

From this increased funding for national policing priorities the Government has prioritised £150 million of funding for serious and organised crime in 2020/21, for new capabilities to tackle illicit finance, keeping the public safe and protecting vulnerable people. Organised criminals have been quick to adapt and make use of emerging technology, exploiting the vulnerable and threatening the fabric of our society by fuelling crime and violence.

We will tackle this threat by ensuring law enforcement have the resources they need. We will strengthen the National Crime Agency (NCA) through funding investigative tools needed to keep pace with the rate of technological change and globalisation of criminal networks. We will invest in tackling county lines drug dealing, fraud and cyber-crime and continue our investment in bearing down on online child sexual exploitation and abuse. To achieve this, funding will be allocated to local police forces, as well as the NCA and Regional Organised Crime Units to drive transformational change in our law enforcement response.

In 2020/21, £119 million will be spent on reducing serious violent crime. This includes dedicated funds to target county lines and funding for Violence Reduction Units which form a key component of our action to tackle the root causes of violence. This targeted money, combined with the overall increase to police force funding, represents a significant investment in the police's capabilities to drive down violent crime.

The Government is also committed to tackling neighbourhood crime. We will allocate £10 million, alongside a £15 million contribution from the Chancellor, to bring the Safer Streets Fund to the £25 million total pledged last year. The fund will support areas in England and Wales that are persistently and disproportionately affected by acquisitive crimes such as burglary and theft

to invest in well evidenced prevention initiatives such as home security and street lighting.

This Government will continue to support the completion of national transformation programmes delivering enhanced capabilities across policing. We will bring the Police Transformation Fund to a close and invest £60 million of funding next year for a programme of work to support the Government's priorities of increased digitisation in policing. This will include: further development of a National Data Analytics capability to support preventative policing interventions; delivery to forces of the Single Online Home policing website to provide more effective engagement with the public; providing productivity tools supporting collaboration and cyber-security to protect forces; support improvements to how fingerprint and digital forensics are used, helping forces to deliver a fully accredited, more integrated and sustainable service; and an uplift to forensics, including digital forensics, to build capability across policing and for new officers.

We will support the police to make use of the latest technologies, such as biometrics and analytics. This needs to be on the basis of good evidence and the best understanding of science. For that reason I am pleased to announce that there will be funding made available for a Police Chief Scientific Adviser and dedicated funding for investment in Science, Technology and Research. We will work closely with the National Police Chiefs Council to develop this role.

I will also establish and chair an ambitious Strategic Change and Investment Board (SCIB), which will form part of the sub-governance of the National Policing Board. The Board will replace the Police Reform and Transformation Board and will coordinate, prioritise and drive investment across the policing system and have greater sight on a range of allocations to meet Government priorities around crime prevention and reduction. The SCIB will also oversee the investment in major technology programmes upgrading critical infrastructure, such as replacing the Airwave communications system with the 4G Emergency Services Network. Funding will also be allocated for the development of the Law Enforcement Data Service, which will deliver an integrated service to provide intelligence to law enforcement and its partners and replace the existing Police National Computer and Police National Database.

Capital funding

Furthermore, this settlement will see funding for capital grant expenditure rebalanced, with £63.7 million to be spent on national priorities and infrastructure. This will allow the Government to provide further support, for example, to police technology programmes, the College of Policing and Serious Organised Crime programmes. PCCs will continue to receive a capital grant worth £12.3 million in 2020/21. With the increase in other grants to PCCs, which can be utilised to cover both capital and non-capital spend, PCCs will see more funding overall with greater flexibility over how they use it.

Outcomes, efficiency and reform

I have set out how an additional £1.1 billion will be invested in our policing system next year. It is only right that in return the Government holds the police to account on delivering for the public. We will expect the police to achieve measurable improvements across a range of outcomes with the National Policing Board, chaired by the Home Secretary, holding the sector to account for delivering these improvements

This Government is also clear that the police, and all other public services, must continue to focus on improving efficiency and productivity to demonstrate to the taxpaying public they serve that they are getting the most out of this increased funding, and delivering the planned uplift in officer numbers. There are a number of expectations set out as part of this settlement.

1) The Government has committed £750 million to enable the recruitment of 6,000 additional officers. To manage the delivery of this uplift, we are ringfencing £168 million which will be paid to forces in line with their progress in recruiting the 6,000 additional officers by March 2021, and making the relevant infrastructure improvements needed to recruit the 20,000 additional officers by March 2023. Funding will be released quarterly and in arrears subject to evidence on their progress.

2) On behalf of the taxpayer, the Government will expect to see continued efficiency savings in 2020/21. Policing are on track to deliver £30 million of cashable savings from procurement in 2019/20, on top of the £40 million delivered in 2018/19. Through continued collaborative procurement policing will deliver another £30 million of cashable savings in 2020/21. Having delivered last year's condition to continue developing a new model for police procurement, policing have agreed the business case for BlueLight Commercial, a new national model for police procurement and commercial functions. BlueLight Commercial will embed and enhance future collaborative procurement, making best use of policing's buying power, increasing standardisation and improving value for money. BlueLight Commercial will apply strategic procurement approaches to areas such as vehicles, estates and equipment including uniform, to deliver annual savings of £20 million in commercial efficiencies once it has been fully established, which can be reinvested in the frontline. It will also develop an approach to reduce cost variation in back-office services such as payroll. The Home Office will work with HM Treasury to develop a plan for further efficiency savings in future years.

3) Forces must continue to drive productivity through digital, data and technology solutions, including mobile working. Forces should make best use of the products developed by the national police-led Frontline National Mobility Programme in 2019/20. This will ensure the benefits of mobile working are maximised including through a new benefits tracking tool, increased use of guidelines, sharing of best practice and innovation and

collaborative procurement. This means that all forces will be able to fully exploit mobile technology and that benefits can be rigorously tracked and driven, to improve the tools police officers have to be able to tackle crime wherever they are. Forces like Avon & Somerset are driving a digitally enabled culture, driving up usage of mobile digital working by withdrawing paper-based forms. South Yorkshire are using mobile devices to capture and access data in real time, allowing them to check the identity of potential suspects more quickly and capturing evidence to help secure convictions.

4) We also expect forces to work with us to develop an approach to drive best value from the millions of pounds spent on police technology, by building on existing engagement with regard to both sector-led and Home Office programmes such as the APCC and NPCC's Digital, Data and Technology Strategy (launched earlier this week), of which the Home Office will continue to support delivery and drive forward. The strategy's emphasis on convergence, stripping out duplication, consolidating applications, decommissioning non-essential infrastructure and moving to more interoperable solutions is crucial to achieve the best value for the taxpayer from technology investment. The Home Office will work with the police service to develop a detailed implementation plan and support early activities during 2020/21. Existing police-led programmes are already increasing effectiveness and improving service delivery through, for example, supporting forces to adopt cloud based productivity tools, the use of data analytics to support crime fighting and driving efficiency savings in the replacement of legacy IT systems, and building the Single Online Platform that already provides a digital policing front counter to 56 per cent of the population in England and Wales. Investment in these systems will be driven and managed by a Ministerial chaired Strategic Change and Investment Board, which will monitor the development of new capabilities by law enforcement and ensure they are built in the most efficient and effective way possible.

We will be engaging police leaders to discuss how these improvements will be delivered and continue working together on our ambitious longer-term plans for the next Spending Review period.

This people's Government has clearly set out its commitment to backing our police service, putting 20,000 extra police officers on the streets, and putting violent criminals behind bars for longer. We continue to pay tribute to our police forces and police staff around the country for their exceptional bravery, dedication and hard work. We are determined to give the service the resources it needs to crack down on crime, deal robustly with the criminals exploiting the vulnerable and to improve outcomes for the victims of crime.

I have set out in a separate document, attached, the tables illustrating how we propose to allocate the police funding settlement between the different funding streams

and between Police & Crime Commissioners for 2020/21. These documents are intended to be read together.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Police Funding written statement tables [Police Funding 2020-21 (Written Statement) TABLES .pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2020-01-23/HLWS56/>

Royal Navy Historic Flight Aircraft

[HLWS51]

Baroness Goldie: My hon. Friend the Minister for Defence Procurement (James Heapey MP) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I have today laid before Parliament a Departmental Minute describing a gift which the Ministry of Defence (MOD) intends to make to the Fly Navy Heritage Trust Limited.

Since 1960, the Royal Navy has operated a collection of MOD-owned historically important naval heritage aircraft with the Royal Navy Historic Flight (RNHF). Five military-registered aircraft formed part of the Royal Navy Historic Flight, all of which have been maintained at some expense on the military register by the MOD. In January 2018 it was determined that, to allow greater freedoms in operation at reduced cost to MOD, the Royal Navy Historic Flight should be disbanded, with its aircraft transferred to a civilian owner operator.

The gift comprises four of the former Royal Navy Historic Flight aircraft:

- 1) a Swordfish (W5856) torpedo bomber aircraft, famous for Taranto and operations throughout World War II.
- 2) a Sea Fury (VR930), famous for operations in Korea and the only propeller aircraft to have shot down a jet.
- 3) a Sea Hawk (WV908), a pioneering carrier jet aircraft and the first Hawker aircraft company jet.
- 4) a Chipmunk (WK608) is required to transfer with the heritage aircraft on the basis that it provides pilot continuity and generates income.
- 5) their associated spares and support equipment.

The total value of this gift is in the region of £1,810,000.

The future of a fifth aircraft, Swordfish (LS326), is currently under consideration.

The RNHF has been supported in its activity by the Fly Navy Heritage Trust, a charity operating under the umbrella of 'Navy Wings', that has promoted the culture and heritage conservation of the Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm since its formation in the early Nineties. The Trust has provided significant financial support to the renovation, repair and maintenance of the MOD-owned heritage aircraft, whilst also operating their own naval heritage aircraft in direct support of Naval Service engagement aims alongside the Royal Navy Historic

Flight aircraft or when Royal Navy aircraft are unavailable.

The gifting of four of the former Royal Navy Historic Flight aircraft to the Fly Navy Heritage Trust will allow these historically important aircraft to continue to be used in support of commemorative and educational aims in support of the Royal Navy and Fleet Air Arm for many years to come.

The transfer of ownership is expected to be undertaken over the coming weeks, subject to completion of the Departmental Minute process.

Schools: Vocational Guidance

[HLWS53]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families (Michelle Donelan) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Information supplied by the Careers and Basic Skills Division of the Department for Education has been identified as containing incorrect information in the response provided by Kemi Badenoch MP to the Parliamentary Question from the Honourable Member for Newcastle Upon Tyne North concerning the number of careers advisers employed by schools (PQ286227).

In response to PQ286227, the correct answer is that information on roles of staff employed in schools is collected via the School Workforce Census. Information on the role(s) a staff member is employed to carry out is collected for all staff who have a contract lasting 28 days or more. As at November 2018 (the latest data available), there are 264 schools where a member of staff has been recorded with the role of careers adviser. There may be other staff in schools who fulfil this role but have not been recorded as such; they may have a contract of 28 days or less or, because schools may record up to three roles per member of staff, the school may have allocated them to other roles.

Written Answers

Thursday, 23 January 2020

Asylum: Appeals

Asked by **Lord Hylton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of asylum cases were reversed on appeal in the last year for which figures are available. [HL261]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office publishes data on asylum appeals determined in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

Data on the number of asylum appeals lodged and determined (allowed or dismissed) are published in tables Asy_D06 and Asy_D07 of the 'asylum appeals lodged and determined datasets'.

Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to the year ending September 2019. Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the 'summary tables'. The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on asylum and resettlement.

Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the 'Research and statistics calendar'. https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?keywords=immigration&content_store_document_type=upcoming_statistics&organisations%5B%5D=home-office&order=relevance

A summary of the data on appeals, taken from the summary tables, can be found in Annex A.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Annex A - Summary Tables [Annex A- HL261.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-09/HL261>

Beavers: Devon

Asked by **Lord Greaves**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they intend to assess the results of the five-year River Otter Beaver Trial, led by the Devon Wildlife Trust. [HL255]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: We continue to discuss the ongoing trial with the Devon Wildlife Trust and their partners, with Natural England (NE) and the Environment Agency represented on its Steering and Working Groups. Defra and NE will assess the trial using the reports and recommendations that will be submitted to us by the Trust upon the trial's conclusion. We will then use these findings to inform decisions on the future of the trial and the beavers on the River Otter.

British Nationals Abroad: EU Countries

Asked by **Lord Mawson**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what provisions have been made, if any, for UK citizens to stay for longer than 90 days in any 180 day period in the Schengen area after Brexit. [HL460]

Asked by **Lord Mawson**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had, if any, with the European Council about extending the period of time that UK citizens will be granted visa free travel in the Schengen area after Brexit. [HL461]

Asked by **Lord Mawson**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of UK citizens who will be affected by the 90 day in any 180 day limit on visa free travel in the Schengen area after Brexit; and, in particular, what assessment they have made of the impact on UK citizens who own property in the Schengen area. [HL462]

Lord Callanan: The Government recognises the importance of mobility for economic, social and cultural cooperation. This includes the value of visa-free travel arrangements for UK nationals and EU citizens traveling to each other's territories for short-term visits. ONS figures show that in 2018, UK residents made c.54 million visits to the EU of which c.87% lasted for a period of 13 nights or fewer.

The EU has already legislated such that UK nationals will not need a visa when travelling to the Schengen area for short stays of up to 90 days in every 180-day period. This will apply once free movement ends and after the end of the implementation period.

The Political Declaration sets out the aspects of mobility that the UK and the EU have committed to discuss in the negotiations on the future relationship. This includes providing for visa-free travel for short-term visits. Any provisions agreed in the negotiations would benefit all UK nationals, including those who own property in the EU. The detail of future mobility arrangements with the EU will be subject to negotiation.

Broadmoor Hospital

Asked by **Lord Trefgarne**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, for the now-closed hospital at Broadmoor; and where the former patients are now held. [HL362]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: Broadmoor Hospital is owned by West London NHS Trust. In December 2019, the Broadmoor Hospital moved from the predominantly Victorian buildings, which were no longer compatible with modern clinical standards, into a state-of-the-art facility. This provides purpose built accommodation to ensure a safe, therapeutic environment

for the care, treatment and rehabilitation of patients who need high-secure psychiatric care. All the former patients have been moved this new facility on the same site.

The Department encourages the National Health Service to sell land when it is not in use and the NHS locally deem it no longer needed for clinical purposes. Broadmoor Hospital was declared surplus in April 2012 and is recorded in the NHS Surplus Land annual collection. The surplus land area is 16.86 hectares containing listed buildings and is expected to be disposed of in April 2022.

The Trust is looking to dispose the former hospital in a sensitive way that accounts for the complex planning and environmental aspects of the site, in line with official NHS guidance.

Care Homes

Asked by Lord Warner

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) nursing homes, and (2) nursing home beds, were registered with the Care Quality Commission at the end of September in the financial years from 2015/16 to 2019/20. [HL490]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford:

The following table shows the number of nursing homes registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) along with the number of nursing home beds, between 2015 and 2019.

<i>Active at</i>	<i>Number of nursing homes</i>	<i>Number of beds</i>
30 September 2015	4,515	219,733
30 September 2016	4,446	218,972
30 September 2017	4,436	220,317
30 September 2018	4,440	222,216
30 September 2019 ¹	4,379	221,283

Source: CQC database as at 16 January 2020.

Notes:

¹ The data is as at 16 January 2020.

All other data is as at 1 April 2019.

'Nursing homes' are defined as locations with the service type of 'care home service with nursing'.

Care Homes: Finance

Asked by Lord Warner

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to allocate funds over the next four financial years for the increase of "step down care" nursing home beds to relieve pressure on acute care hospitals and adult social care services. [HL491]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: The Care Act 2014 placed a duty on councils to offer a meaningful

choice of services, so that people have a range of high quality, appropriate care options to choose from and that they get the services that best meet their needs. Decisions on how to allocate funding to comply with this duty are for councils.

We are also providing councils with an additional £1 billion of grant funding for adults and children's social care, on top of maintaining £2.5 billion of existing social care grants next year. In addition, the Government has proposed a 2% precept that will enable councils to access a further £500 million for adult social care.

Extinction Rebellion: Demonstrations

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the property seized before, and during, the Extinction Rebellion demonstrations in London in October 2019 has been returned to its owners; and if not, what will happen to that property. [HL254]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The treatment of property seized or confiscated during the course of Extinction Rebellion's October demonstrations in London is an operational matter for the Metropolitan Police Service.

Holiday Accommodation

Asked by Baroness Gardner of Parkes

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the impact of the Deregulation Act 2015 on short-term lettings, and (2) the proposal by the Mayor of London in April 2019 for the introduction of a registration system for those renting property for less than 90 days in a calendar year in London; and what plans they have, if any, to introduce such a system. [HL251]

Viscount Younger of Leckie: The Deregulation Act 2015 limits short-term lettings in London to 90 days per property per calendar year. We have not made any specific assessment of its impact on short-term lettings. As to the proposal by the Mayor of London, the Government has no current plans to introduce such a register. However, we are aware of the work by the Short-Term Accommodation Association as well as platforms such as Airbnb, HomeAway and TripAdvisor to put in place their own procedures to avoid breach of the 90-day limit which we note with interest.

Hospitals: Overcrowding

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to find a short-term solution to overcrowding in hospitals, following reports that hospitals are redeploying nurses from wards to look after patients in corridors. [HL351]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: NHS England and NHS Improvement have monitoring in place 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This is to ensure that where pressures are the most acute, actions in line with local escalation policies are instigated with the view to providing an immediate decant of an accident and emergency department to prevent care from having to be provided in corridors. Plans include provision of additional capacity and actions that are designed to de-escalate the situation at times of operational pressure.

House of Lords Composition

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent assessment they have made of the all-party consensus, reached in 1999 when the House of Lords Act was passed, that no single political party would in future have a majority of the politically declared membership of the House of Lords. [HL257]

Earl Howe: The House of Lords has a key role in scrutinising the executive and being a revising chamber. It is important that the way it is constituted reflects that role and the primacy of the House of Commons. The Conservative manifesto committed to looking at the role of the House of Lords and reviewing the relationship between the Government, Parliament and the courts.

The House of Lords Appointments Commission recommends individuals for appointment as non-party-political life peers. In line with established convention, the number of nominations to be offered to individual political parties is a matter for the Prime Minister. All appointments are vetted by the House of Lords Appointments Commission to ensure the highest standards of propriety.

Iraq: Genocide

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the risk of genocide against minorities in Northern Iraq and Kurdistan; and whether NATO military personnel will continue to remain in areas administered by the Kurdish Regional Government. [HL245]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We do not currently assess there to be a significant risk of genocide in northern Iraq, including the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. The UK is firmly committed to supporting the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government to counter the ongoing threat from Daesh through the Global Coalition, and to providing security to and supporting the rights of all minority communities in Iraq, including the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. The NATO Mission in Iraq does not have troops in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. We continue to support the UN Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Daesh (UNITAD) in Iraq.

Leasehold: Reform

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to reform the leasehold sector. [HL233]

Viscount Younger of Leckie: The Government is taking forward a comprehensive programme of reform to end unfair practices in the leasehold market.

We are moving towards legislation to ban the sale of new leasehold houses, restrict ground rents to zero for future leases, give freehold home owners equivalent rights to challenge unfair charges, and close loopholes to prevent unfair evictions. We are also working with the Law Commission to make buying a freehold or extending a lease easier, quicker and more cost effective – and to reinvigorate Commonhold and Right to Manage. The Law Commission published its report on options for valuation on 9 January, and we are now considering next steps.

In October 2018 we established an independent working group, chaired by Lord Best, to raise standards across the property sector, which also considered how fees such as service charges should be presented to consumers in the leasehold sector. The working group published its final report to Government on 18 July 2019. We are considering the report's recommendations and will announce next steps in due course.

In 2017, the Law Commission also published a report of their review of event fees in the leasehold retirement sector on behalf of this Department. The Government responded to the Law Commission in March 2019, agreeing to implement the majority of the recommendations. We are currently further considering two recommendations, on succession rights and a database of leasehold retirement properties with event fees.

Mental Health Act 1983

Asked by Baroness Penn

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to publish a White Paper on reform of the Mental Health Act 1983, following the announcement in June 2019 that such a White Paper would be published before the end of 2019. [HL464]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: We will publish our White Paper in the next few months, which will set out the Government's response to Sir Simon Wessely's Independent Review of the Mental Health Act.

Our intention is that this White Paper will pave the way for reform to the Mental Health Act 1983, and tackle issues addressed by the Review. We will ensure that people subject to the Act receive better care and have a much greater say in that care.

We will consult publicly on our proposals and we will bring forward a Bill to amend the Act when parliamentary time allows.

Mental Health Services: Young People

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to address the 'treatment gap' for young people who are referred to mental health services but rejected for not meeting eligibility criteria. [HL352]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: Under the NHS Long Term Plan, mental health services will continue to receive a growing share of the National Health Service budget, with funding to grow by at least £2.3 billion a year in real terms by 2023/24. Spending for children and young people's mental health services will grow faster than the overall spend on mental health, which will itself be growing faster than the overall NHS budget.

The new investment announced in the Long Term Plan will mean that by 2023/24, an extra 345,000 children and young people aged 0-25 will receive mental health support via NHS-funded mental health services and school or college-based mental health support teams.

Mental Illness: Children

Asked by Lord Bradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children with mental illness presented to Accident and Emergency departments in each of the last five years. [HL387]

Asked by Lord Bradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children with mental illness were admitted into hospital following attendance at Accident and Emergency departments in each of the last five years. [HL388]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: The data is not held in the format requested.

Asked by Lord Bradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children with mental illness who presented at an accident and emergency department were admitted into hospital within (1) three miles, (2) five miles, (3) 10 miles, (4) 20 miles, and (5) more than 20 miles, from their homes, in each of the last five years. [HL451]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: The data is not held in the format requested.

Parliament: Correspondence

Asked by Lord Norton of Louth

To ask the Senior Deputy Speaker how many items of correspondence were received in the Palace of Westminster in 2019; and of those, how many were received in the House of Lords. [HL408]

Lord Laming: The Senior Deputy Speaker has asked me, as Chair of the Services Committee, to respond on his behalf. In total, 1,254,748 items of mail were received on the Parliamentary Estate in 2019. The destination of mail is not recorded but it is estimated that approximately 15 per cent of these items were destined for the House of Lords. These figures do not include parcels, courier items or internal mail.

Please note that this figure refers to the whole Parliamentary Estate, not just the Palace of Westminster.

Prescriptions: Universal Credit

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford on 18 February 2019 (HL13524), when they plan to publish the revised version of the F10 prescription form, featuring a tick box for Universal Credit claimants who meet the criteria for free NHS prescriptions. [HL403]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: The new FP10 National Health Service prescription form, which includes a tick box for Universal Credit claimants who meet the criteria for free prescriptions, is now being printed. Once the contractor has built sufficient stock to meet orders from the NHS, the form will be distributed.

Sunbeds

Asked by Lord Clark of Windermere

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford on 25 April 2019 (HL15227), what progress they have made in considering whether current legislation and associated guidance are effective for protecting sunbed users. [HL389]

Asked by Lord Clark of Windermere

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford on 25 April 2019 (HL15227), what timetable they have set for reviewing sunbed legislation and associated guidance. [HL390]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: The Department, with expert advisers, is continuing to consider whether the current legislation and associated guidance produced by the Department, Public Health England and the Health and Safety Executive to support the enforcement of the regulations by local authorities and the safe use of sunbeds, are effective for protecting sunbed users.

Public Health England (PHE) is updating the guidance to sunbed users on the gov.uk website, with an expected publication date of spring 2020.

PHE is also developing an information poster for sunbed users. This is expected to be ready for publication before summer 2020.

Tree Planting: Urban Areas

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 7 January (HL64), how many trees they intend to plant in towns and cities between 2020 and 2025. [HL529]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: This Government recognises the vital role trees play in delivering social, environmental and economic benefits in and around our towns and cities. They help clean and cool the air, prevent flood risk, and support our physical and mental health.

The Government is committed to increasing tree planting across the UK throughout this parliament to 30,000 hectares per year by 2025. We have not set a specific target for the number of urban trees which will be planted, but have announced a Nature for Climate Fund which will support planting in rural and urban areas.

We are currently planting through the Urban Tree Challenge Fund, which supports planting of at least 20,000 large trees and 110,000 small trees in urban areas in England. We are also introducing a new duty on local authorities to consult local communities when considering felling street trees.

Whirlpool Corporation: Washing Machines

Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) had with Whirlpool in advance of the company issuing a product recall of its Hotpoint and Indesit washing machines in December 2019; and whether Whirlpool issued the product recall at the request of the OPSS. [HL307]

Lord Duncan of Springbank: The Government is committed to protecting consumers from unsafe products. Legislation is in place to require that manufacturers only place safe products on the market and take action where they identify a safety issue with products already on the market.

Whirlpool informed OPSS in October 2019 that it was investigating a potential issue with door locks on some models of washing machine. OPSS required the company to provide detailed data on this issue in order to have clarity on the nature and scale of the problem and to identify the appropriate response to protect public safety. Following assessment of the issue, it was agreed that a full recall should be instigated and the recall programme was announced on 17 December 2019.

OPSS is now monitoring the recall closely and will hold the company to account if it does not an effective recall.

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