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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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Earl Howe	Deputy Leader of the House of Lords
Lord Agnew of Oulton	Minister of State, Cabinet Office and Treasury
Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon	Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development
Lord Ashton of Hyde	Chief Whip
Baroness Barran	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
Baroness Berridge	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education and Department for International Trade
Lord Bethell	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health and Social Care and Whip
Baroness Bloomfield of Hinton Waldrist	Whip
Lord Callanan	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Earl of Courtown	Deputy Chief Whip
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, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development
Lord Greenhalgh	Minister of State, Home Office and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Lord Grimstone of Boscobel	Minister of State, Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Department for International Trade
Lord Keen of Elie	Advocate-General for Scotland and Ministry of Justice Spokesperson
Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay	Whip
Baroness Penn	Whip
Baroness Scott of Bybrook	Whip
Baroness Stedman-Scott	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions
Baroness Sugg	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development
Lord True	Minister of State, Cabinet Office
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	Whip

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Written Statements

Tuesday, 7 July 2020

Armed Forces Pay Review Body: Appointments

[HLWS331]

Baroness Goldie: My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for Defence People and Veterans (Johnny Mercer MP) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I am pleased to announce that the Secretary of State for Defence has appointed Miss Jenni Douglas Todd, Mr Julian Miller CB and Rear Admiral William Entwisle OBE MVO as members of the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body. Their appointment commenced on 20 May 2020 and will run until 30 April 2023. These appointments have been conducted in accordance with the Governance Code for Public Appointments.

Armed Forces: Wraparound Childcare

[HLWS334]

Baroness Goldie: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (The Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I am pleased to announce today the launch of a wrap around childcare pilot scheme for UK Armed Forces families. This announcement represents another significant step towards the Government meeting its manifesto commitment to provide free wrap around childcare for Forces families.

It is the latest in a series of measures which my Department has introduced with the aim of easing the unique burdens on Service families. Our Armed Forces have a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week commitment to their duties and meeting this manifesto pledge will not only provide them with the support they deserve, but also help to build the diverse workforce we need for a modernised UK Defence.

I am determined to make the Armed Forces a more modern, inclusive and family friendly employer, in order to improve the working environment for retention of all personnel but also to encourage more talented women to pursue long, and fulfilling careers in uniform.

This follows the introduction of Flexible Service last year, which allows – for the first time in the Armed Forces – personnel to flex their working arrangements to accommodate changes in personal circumstances.

By introducing these measures we plan to make life easier for Service Personnel and their families, who are required to be mobile and can be deployed at short notice. Wrap around childcare will help them to secure appropriate support when it is required, by covering early starts and late finishes for eligible working parents of children aged 4-11.

The first pilot sites of RAF High Wycombe and RAF Halton will see funding for before and after school care during term time from the start of the 2020 academic year. Further pilot sites at Catterick Garrison and the Plymouth Naval area will follow in January 2021.

Service personnel assigned to each of the pilot sites will be eligible to access the funding, regardless of the geographical location of their children within the UK. The few families located in Scotland but assigned to the first pilot sites will, therefore, begin in August.

The launch of this pilot comes amidst the wider return to education, following the disruption of the Coronavirus pandemic. Service personnel from all of our Armed Forces have provided critical support to their colleagues in health and social care, often deployed away from home at short notice.

Their professionalism, versatility, and commitment make them the best Armed Forces in the world, and we are committed to honouring their service by providing them the best support possible.

Arts, Culture and Heritage: Support Package

[HLWS337]

Baroness Barran: My Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture Media and Sport, Oliver Dowden MP, has made the following Statement:

I wish to set out to the House details of the £1.57 billion rescue package that the government has provided to support the arts, creative and heritage sectors to respond to the economic shock caused by coronavirus.

The coronavirus pandemic has affected the whole economy, but presents particular challenges for organisations that depend on engaging with audiences and visitors in person. It has forced thousands of cultural institutions to close their doors and, whilst some galleries and museums reopened on the 4th July, even those that have reopened face significant financial constraints on operating in a socially distanced way.

Through the establishment of the Cultural Renewal Taskforce, and the Entertainment and Events Working Group, I have been working closely with the cultural sector and medical experts to address these challenges and to try and help organisations to reopen as soon as it is safe to do so.

However, this pandemic will continue to disrupt business models in the cultural sectors and social distancing will mean that crowded venues are not possible for some time. This means that much of the UK cultural sector, including well-established organisations that had robust business models prior to the coronavirus pandemic, are not able to restore their incomes, and face significant financial risks which if not mitigated could lead to widespread insolvencies and loss of much of the UK's invaluable culture and heritage.

Government has therefore taken action to provide the necessary support that will help organisations to survive

this period and reopen when it is safe and economically viable to do so.

This funding represents the biggest ever one-off investment in UK culture, and builds on the financial assistance many cultural and heritage institutions have already received from the Government's pan-economy measures including loans, business rate holidays and participation in the coronavirus job retention scheme. More than 350,000 people in the recreation and leisure sector have been furloughed since the pandemic began.

The rescue package will support thousands of organisations across a range of sectors including the performing arts and theatres, heritage, museums, galleries, live music and independent cinema. It will cover both the largest and most famous institutions, and the lesser-known but equally-cherished cultural and heritage organisations in regions across the country - those which have been the anchors of their local communities for years.

This funding package includes:

- £1.15 billion support for cultural organisations in England delivered through a mix of grants and repayable finance.
- £100 million of targeted support for the national cultural institutions in England and the English Heritage Trust.
- £120 million capital investment to restart construction on cultural infrastructure and for heritage construction projects in England which were paused due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- This new funding will also mean an extra £188 million for the devolved administrations - with the following allocations via the Barnett formula: Northern Ireland (£33 million); Scotland (£97 million); and Wales (£59 million).

Decisions on awards will be made by DCMS Arms Length Bodies, in particular the Arts Council England, British Film Institute, Historic England, and the National Lottery Heritage Fund, working alongside expert independent figures from the sector.

The funding will predominantly be grant funding, with repayable finance available for the largest organisations. This repayable finance will be issued on generous terms tailored for cultural institutions to ensure that it is affordable.

In order to receive support, organisations will need to demonstrate that they are at risk in this financial year and have done all they can to support themselves. We will be prioritising institutions of national and international significance and those that are crucial to safeguarding access to culture and driving economic growth across the whole country.

Further details on the scope of the fund, the criteria that will determine which organisations are eligible for each element of the fund, and the timing for allocating funding, will be set out in detailed guidance. DCMS is working

intensively with its Arms Length Bodies, and will publish this guidance for applications shortly.

Coronavirus Update

[HLWS333]

Lord Bethell: My Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care (Matt Hancock) has made the following written statement:

On 26 March 2020, the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2020 came into force, imposing restrictions on people's movements and gatherings, and requiring the closure of certain retail and public premises, to protect public health in light of the coronavirus pandemic. We have kept these Regulations under continual review and have amended these regulations four times.

On 23 June 2020, the Prime Minister announced in parliament the changes being made following the fourth review of the Coronavirus Regulations. Due to the substantial changes being made at this point, I am revoking the existing Regulations and replacing them with The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 2) (England) Regulations 2020. This approach will mean that the Regulations are clearer and easier for the general public to understand.

These new regulations mean that from 4 July, a wide range of sectors have been permitted to re-open, with guidance that COVID-19 Secure measures are implemented in their re-opening. This includes the hospitality, leisure, tourism, and recreation sectors. Group prayer and collective worship, overnight stays in self-contained accommodation, including hotels, second homes, and B&Bs are also allowed. Although most businesses are now able to open, a number remain which are still considered too high risk to reopen due to the likely prolonged exposure and close contact between individuals; these businesses are listed in the Regulations as having to remain closed.

These new regulations have also removed the restriction on overnight stays. The previous gathering limits have been removed from legislation and replaced with a 30 person limit on gatherings in private dwellings, ships or boats, and public outdoor spaces. This new gathering limit will ensure that police have the powers to prevent the type of gatherings taking place which are not likely to be able to follow social distancing measures, such as house parties, boat parties or raves. These gathering limits are subject to exceptions. These Regulations have removed most of the restrictions placed on individuals by the previous set of Regulations, however the Government has provided clear guidance outlining what steps people should be taking to protect themselves or others. This outlines that gatherings should be limited to two households indoors, or two households or six people outdoors (whichever is greater). It is very important that everyone continues to follow the guidance – and continues to socially distance from those they do not live with (or have not formed a support bubble with).

As national restrictions are rightly relaxed to reflect the lower infection rates, we must ensure that we have the ability to act swiftly and effectively where risky behaviour occurs. These Regulations therefore introduce new powers for the Secretary of State to either restrict access to or close public outdoor places (for example beauty spots) by a Direction if this is judged necessary to protect public health.

As I announced to the House on 29 June, the changes coming into effect on the 4 July will not apply in Leicester. This follows a rise in cases and is based on clinical advice. In addition, non-essential retail based in Leicester has had to close. The new Regulations make this a legal requirement. In addition, they will prohibit overnight stays by Leicester residents inside and outside of Leicester, and by residents from elsewhere within Leicester. They will continue to prohibit gatherings of more than six people outdoors and mixing between households, apart from where this is allowed by the support bubble policy. The new regulations will continue to only allow places of worship to open for specific reasons, including private prayer. We are continuing to monitor the situation and we will review the whether this position can be changed by 18 July.

Publicly available Government guidance on Gov.uk is being updated to ensure it fully corresponds with the new Regulations.

Export Licences: Saudi Arabia

[HLWS336]

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel: My Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for International Trade (Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP) has today made the following statement.

I want to update the House on the steps that have been taken to comply with the judgment of the Court of Appeal of 20 June 2019 regarding licences for military exports to Saudi Arabia for possible use in the conflict in Yemen.

The legal proceedings concerned the decisions of the then Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills of 9 December 2015:

- Not to suspend extant export licences for the sale or transfer of arms and military equipment to Saudi Arabia for possible use in the conflict in Yemen; and
- To continue to grant further such licences.

The legal proceedings concerned Criterion 2c of the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria – which requires the Government to assess Saudi Arabia’s attitude towards relevant principles of international law and provides that the Government will not grant a licence if there is a *clear risk* that the items might be used in the commission of a serious violation of international humanitarian law (IHL).

The Divisional Court found in favour of the Government in its judgment of July 2017, noting that we applied a rigorous and robust, multi-layered process of analysis to making our licensing decisions. Our approach

has focused on a predictive evaluation of risk as to the attitude and future conduct of the Saudi-led coalition, recognising the inherent difficulties of seeking to reach findings on IHL for specific incidents where we do not have access to complete information. Even so, this analysis has always incorporated a detailed and careful review of past allegations of incidents of concern. This included analysis, to the extent possible, of whether there were patterns of concern, in particular arising from trends in the number of allegations of civilian casualties and of damage to key civilian infrastructure. The Court of Appeal broadly endorsed this decision-making process.

The principal issue in the Court of Appeal was whether this analysis needed to go further. In the Court’s judgment, the question of whether there was an historic pattern of breaches of IHL was a question which required to be faced. Even if it could not be answered with reasonable confidence for every incident, at least the attempt had to be made. It was because we had not reached findings on whether specific incidents constituted breaches of IHL as part of our assessment of clear risk, under Criterion 2c, that the Court of Appeal concluded that our decision-making process was irrational and therefore unlawful.

To address the Court of Appeal’s judgment, we have developed a revised methodology in respect of all allegations which it is assessed are likely to have occurred and to have been caused by fixed wing aircraft, reflecting the factual circumstances that the court proceedings concerned. Each of those allegations has been subject to detailed analysis by reference to the relevant principles of IHL and in the light of all the information and intelligence available. An evaluation has then been made, in respect of each incident, whether it is possible that it constitutes a breach of IHL or whether it is unlikely that it represents a breach. For a number of incidents, as envisaged by the Court of Appeal, there is insufficient information to make this evaluation. Where an incident is assessed as being a “possible” breach, it is regarded – for the purposes of the Criterion 2c analysis – as if it were a breach of IHL. By setting the threshold as “possible” the IHL analysis has captured the widest range of relevant potential IHL breaches, to provide a base from which to assess the prospective risk for Criterion 2c.

The IHL analysis has now been applied to all credible incidents of concern of which we are aware. Some of these incidents have been assessed as “possible” violations of IHL. These have therefore been factored into the overall Criterion 2c Analysis on the basis that they are violations of IHL.

We have sought to determine whether these “violations” are indicative of:

- (i) any patterns of non-compliance;
- (ii) a lack of commitment on the part of Saudi Arabia to comply with IHL; and/or
- (iii) a lack of capacity or systemic weaknesses which might give rise to a clear risk of IHL breaches.

We have similarly looked for patterns and trends across the incidents which have been assessed as being unlikely to be breaches of IHL and those for which there is insufficient information to make an assessment.

This analysis has not revealed any such patterns, trends or systemic weaknesses. It is noted, in particular, that the incidents which have been assessed to be possible violations of IHL occurred at different times, in different circumstances and for different reasons. The conclusion is that these are isolated incidents.

I want to emphasise that the IHL analysis is just one part of the Criterion 2c assessment. In re-taking these decisions, I have taken into account the full range of information available to the Government. In the light of all that information and analysis, I have concluded that, notwithstanding the isolated incidents which have been factored into the analysis as historic violations of IHL, Saudi Arabia has a genuine intent and the capacity to comply with IHL.

On that basis, I have assessed that there is not a clear risk that the export of arms and military equipment to Saudi Arabia might be used in the commission of a serious violation of IHL.

Having now re-taken the decisions that were the subject of judicial review on the correct legal basis, as required by the Order of the Court of Appeal of 20 June, it follows that the undertaking that my predecessor gave to the Court – that we would not grant any new licences for the export of arms or military equipment to Saudi Arabia for possible use in Yemen – falls away. The broader commitment that was given to Parliament, relating to licences for Saudi Arabia and its coalition partners, also no longer applies.

The Government will now begin the process of clearing the backlog of licence applications for Saudi Arabia and its coalition partners that has built up since 20 June last year. Each application will, of course, be carefully assessed against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria and a licence would not be granted if to do so would be a breach of the Criteria. It may take some months to clear this backlog.

Finally, as indicated in the statement made to the House on 20 June 2019, we sought permission to appeal to the Supreme Court against the Court of Appeal's judgment. Permission was granted by the Court of Appeal on 9 July 2019. In light of the revised methodology which I have just described, I will now be taking steps to withdraw this appeal.

Intellectual Property

[HLWS332]

Lord Callanan: My Honourable friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Science, Research and Innovation) (Amanda Solloway) has today made the following statement:

Our Industrial Strategy sets out the Government's vision for making the UK the most innovative country in

the world. The UK starts from a position of strength and is already ranked in the top five of the Global Innovation Index and top 10 by the World Bank as the best place to start and grow a business. But the global landscape is changing and we must continue to invest in research and development. The Industrial Strategy has set an ambition to raise total research and development to 2.4 per cent of GDP by 2027, helping businesses access the right funds and equip them to face the opportunities and challenges presented by new technologies and new ways of doing business.

Intellectual Property (IP) plays a crucial role in innovation and touches everything that makes modern life more enjoyable, easier, safer and prosperous. It provides inventors, creators and entrepreneurs with the confidence to invest knowing that they will reap the benefits of their investments. UK investment in IP rights reached almost £64 billion in 2016 and studies have shown that industries that rely on IP have accounted for over a quarter of UK employment and almost half of GDP. Our IP system matters. It creates jobs and economic growth and is helping to propel Britain to the forefront of innovation.

The Intellectual Property Office (IPO) Corporate Plan 2020-21 explains how through its stewardship of the IP system, it will help the UK to be the most innovative and creative country in the world. It will do this through delivering excellent IP services, creating a world leading IP environment and attracting and retaining the best people by making the IPO a brilliant place to work.

The UK already has one of the best IP regimes in the world, consistently ranked as one of the top regimes in indices such as those from the US Chamber of Commerce International IP Index, and during 2020-21, the IPO will continue to contribute to building a business environment that makes the UK the best place in the world to start and run a business.

As an Executive Agency and Trading Fund of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, the IPO have set targets which are agreed by Ministers and laid before Parliament. I am glad that today I can inform the House that for 2020-21 the IPO's targets are:

- Deliver excellent customer service with our average overall customer satisfaction at least 85%.
- Deliver our services efficiently through continuously improving our systems, processes and ways of working to make things better for our customers and our people, reduce costs and improve the value for money we provide. Our target is to achieve efficiencies worth at least 3.5% of our core operating costs.
- We will have created equivalent UK rights from existing EU trade marks and designs to the UK register on 31 December 2020.
- We want to ensure that the UK's IP framework incentivises the development and adoption of AI technologies, supporting the government's ambition of putting the UK at the forefront of the AI and data revolution. We will do this by developing our understanding of how AI impacts the IP framework

through launching a call for views and publishing our response so as to provide the clarity our customers need to confidently invest in AI.

It is important to note that our plan and our targets were developed prior to the outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic. At present our targets are unchanged but we will review this as the impact of the virus becomes clearer. We have the ability to adapt our finance and resource models according to emerging trends and we will do so. We will also work with BEIS and our other partner organisations to review our priorities regularly, ensuring we support wider government responses to the economic impact of the virus and seek to focus our efforts and resources where they will have the most significant impact driving the UK innovation and creative economy.

Travel Corridors

[HLWS338]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: My Right Honourable friend, the Secretary of State for Transport (Grant Shapps), has made the following Ministerial Statement.

It is vitally important that we manage the risk of a second wave of coronavirus and keep the number of cases of COVID-19 in the UK as low as possible. Health protection Regulations concerning international travel came into force in all parts of the UK on 8 June. These require people who arrive in the UK from outside the Common Travel Area to self-isolate for 14 days and to complete a passenger locator form. The Regulations have helped to reduce the risk of importing cases into the UK.

For arrivals from some countries and territories into England, where the risk of importing COVID-19 is sufficiently low, the Government considers that it can now end the self-isolation requirement. Therefore, passengers will not be required to self-isolate when they are returning from travel abroad or arriving as visitors to England from a number of exempt countries and territories. Contact information will still need to be provided on arrival except by people on a small list of exemptions.

The process to date

We have been guided by the science and worked closely with health and policy experts from across government to ensure the steps we are taking will minimise the risk of importing COVID-19 cases, while helping to open our travel and tourism sector.

The Joint Biosecurity Centre, in close consultation with Public Health England and the Chief Medical Officer, has developed an approach to assessing the public health risk associated with inbound travel from specific countries and territories. The categorisation has been informed by an estimate of the proportion of the population that is currently infectious in each country, virus incidence rates, trends in incidence and deaths, transmission status and international epidemic intelligence as well as information on a country's testing capacity and an assessment of the quality of the data available. Data has been used from

official sources in each country and modelling by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, as well as from Public Health England and the National Travel Health Network and Centre. Other data sources may be used in the future.

This categorisation has informed the Government's decisions about relaxation of border measures and has allowed us to establish travel corridors through which passengers arriving in England from certain countries and territories will be exempted from the requirement to self-isolate. Those who have visited or transited through any non-exempt country or territory within the 14 days preceding their arrival will be required to self-isolate for the remainder of the 14-day period since they last left such a country or territory. The decision on these exemptions forms part of the first review of the health protection Regulations concerning international travel which apply in England. FCO travel advice should always be consulted before booking any travel.

The Government is continuing to discuss this approach with the Devolved Administrations who will set out their own approach in time. Passengers travelling from overseas to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland from outside the Common Travel Area should ensure they follow the laws and guidance which apply there.

Countries and territories exemption list

From 10 July, unless they have visited or transited through any non-exempt country or territory in the preceding 14 days, passengers arriving from the following countries and territories will not be required to self-isolate on arrival in England:

Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Australia, Austria, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Bonaire St Eustatius and Saba, Croatia, Curaçao, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Faroe Islands, Fiji, Finland, France, French Polynesia, Germany, Greece, Greenland, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Réunion, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macau, Malta, Mauritius, Monaco, New Caledonia, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Seychelles, St Barthélemy, St Kitts & Nevis, St Lucia, St Pierre and Miquelon, San Marino, Serbia, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, Vatican City State, Vietnam.

Ireland is already exempt as part of the Common Travel Area, as are the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. In addition, we will be exempting the 14 British Overseas Territories. We will keep the conditions in these countries and territories under review. If they worsen we will not hesitate to reintroduce self-isolation requirements.

In addition, the UK Government will be making a small number of sector-specific exemptions to the border health measures as a result of the first review. From 7 July, certain transport workers who do not come into contact with passengers in the course of their journey to England will no longer be required to complete the passenger locator form. This will help pilots, seafarers, and Eurostar and Eurotunnel drivers who make regular crossings

without coming into contact with passengers. There will also be additional exemptions for certain groups, including elite sportspersons and essential support staff returning to England or participating in certain elite sports events, and individuals coming to England to work on British film and television productions.

Next steps

My Rt Hon Friend, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and First Secretary of State has announced exemptions to the global advisory against all but essential travel. Travellers should review this advice before making travel plans, and purchase travel insurance.

The Government will keep the requirements and exemptions set out in the Regulations under review. The next review of the Regulations will be by 27 July 2020. For further information, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/uk-border-control>.

I hope this announcement provides good news to the many of us who want to enjoy a holiday abroad this year, visit family and friends overseas or travel to do business and will help protect jobs in the international transport and tourism sectors. The Government continues to work closely with international partners around the world to discuss arrangements for travellers arriving from the UK and will continue this engagement ahead of the changes coming into force.

UK-EU Future Relationship Negotiations

[HLWS339]

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

The Government has made a commitment to update Parliament on the progress of our future relationship negotiations with the EU. This statement provides an update on the intensified talks process as agreed at the High Level Meeting between the Prime Minister and the three Presidents on the EU side on 15 June. The timetable for this process was published on 12 June as an addendum to the Terms of Reference on the UK-EU Future Relationship Negotiations.

Intensified talks took place in Brussels between 29 June and 2 July in a restricted format and led by the UK Chief Negotiator David Frost. The talks covered: trade in goods; trade in services and investment and other issues; fisheries; horizontal arrangements and governance; level playing field for open and fair competition; criminal law and judicial cooperation; mobility, social security, thematic cooperation; energy and transport; and participation in Union programmes.

These talks were comprehensive and useful. However, they have underlined the significant differences that still remain between us on a number of important issues. Further discussions will take place later this week in London. The UK remains committed to working hard to find an early understanding on the principles underlying

an agreement out of the intensified talks process during July, as agreed at the High Level Meeting on 15 June.

Violence and Abuse Toward Shop Staff: Call for Evidence

[HLWS335]

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

Today the Government has published its formal response to the Call for Evidence on Violence and Abuse Toward Shop Staff. The Government recognises that the violence and abuse shop workers face can have a significant impact, not only physically but mentally and emotionally.

The Government launched a Call for Evidence in April 2019 on Violence and Abuse Towards Shop Staff to understand the scale of the issue, the measures which may help prevent these crimes and the extent to which existing legislation is being used to tackle them; and to identify examples of best practice. I want to emphasise that violence and abuse of shop staff is unacceptable and must not be tolerated, and we will work towards tackling these crimes. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the retail sector who have during the coronavirus pandemic worked tirelessly to keep the nation fed while implementing social distancing measures to keep the public safe.

In light of the responses to the Call for Evidence, the Government recognises that there are issues which need to be dealt with in an evidence-based manner with the support and involvement of the sector. Therefore, I have begun work with the National Retail Crime Steering Group, which we co-chair with the British Retail Consortium, to jointly develop and deliver a programme of work to drive down abuse and violence, with three key aims:

- Deepen our understanding and address the drivers of violence and assault against shop worker;
- Send a clear message that such crimes are not tolerated and should be recorded whenever and wherever they take place;
- Provide effective support to those shop workers who are the victims of violence and abuse.

In delivering these priorities we will work with partners, including the Welsh Government, to ensure that plans are tailored and effective. The Call for Evidence generated a high level of interest and the Government would like to thank all those who took part and for the work they have contributed. The evidence and comments received has been vital in helping develop a better understanding of the issue. I wish to be clear that this is only the beginning of the process, rather than the conclusion as further work is needed to deliver an evidence – based response to these crimes.

The 'Government Response to the Call for Evidence on Violence and Abuse Toward Shop Staff' will be placed in | the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Answers

Tuesday, 7 July 2020

Administration of Justice: Equality

Asked by **Lord Bradley**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they intend to take to implement the recommendations of the report by the Equality and Human Rights Commissions Inclusive Justice: a system designed for all, published on 22 April. [HL6048]

Lord Keen of Elie: The government welcomes the Equality and Human Rights Commission's report, Inclusive Justice, the interim findings of which were published on 22 April, and the full report on 11 June 2020. The recommendations made in the report are being carefully considered.

Aviation: Coronavirus

Asked by **Lord Jones of Cheltenham**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the ability of consumers to cancel and claim refunds for flights booked before the COVID-19 pandemic because one or more of their party have developed mental health difficulties resulting from the restrictions put in place to address the pandemic. [HL6074]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Government recognises the challenges businesses and consumers are experiencing regarding refunds for cancelled holidays and flights. Airlines are working hard to answer the high call volumes and to process the very large number of applications for refunds.

The Government appreciates the frustration consumers may be experiencing. We have been clear with industry that when consumers are entitled to a refund and ask for one, refunds must be paid. The Department for Transport is in regular conversation with UK airlines and wider membership bodies, and is working closely with the sector, the regulator and consumer groups to help ensure airlines deliver on their commitments.

The safety and well-being of consumers is paramount. However, where a consumer had made the decision to cancel their flight, any refunds or rearrangement of travel would be a matter for the airline in question and its policy in relation to refunds and/or booking amendments. In addition, the consumer's travel insurance or credit card provider may also be able to provide assistance in such cases. Consumers are advised to check with their travel insurance or credit card providers as they may be able to seek redress.

Biofuels: Carbon Emissions

Asked by **Lord Vinson**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of any subsidies provided to incentivise the burning of woodchip on reducing levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. [HL6143]

Lord Callanan: The Government keeps the impact of the burning of biomass, including woodchip, on carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions under review.

The UK only supports biomass for heat and electricity generation which complies with strict sustainability criteria, and generating stations utilising biomass only receive subsidies in respect of compliant biomass. These criteria include a minimum 60% lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions saving, compared to emissions from an EU fossil fuel comparator for electricity. The calculation requires transport, growing and processing emissions to be included. The greenhouse gas savings requirement will be tightened in a trajectory to 2025.

Those plants using biomass, with a capacity greater than or equal to one megawatt, must also prepare an annual sustainability report, compiled by a third-party auditor/verifier which will provide assurance that biomass is from sustainable sources.

Recent analysis done in relation to the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme estimated lifetime carbon savings as follows:

Lifetime carbon savings (MtCO₂e) from RHI installations (for all types of solid biomass, not just woodchip).

Domestic biomass boilers	2.4
Non-domestic biomass boilers	37.5
Biomass CHP	3.9
Total	43.8

Biofuels: Subsidies

Asked by **Lord Vinson**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the total level of subsidy given to (1) private, and (2) commercial, users in 2019 to encourage the burning of woodchip; and what was the total level provided to all users from 2015 to 2019 inclusive. [HL6102]

Lord Callanan: Subsidies for burning woodchip are paid under three renewable energy schemes.

The Renewables Obligation (RO) scheme and the Contracts for Difference (CfD) scheme support the generation of renewable electricity. The RO does not pay a direct subsidy; support is through tradeable renewable electricity certificates. The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme supports renewable heat technologies.

The table below sets out the spend under each scheme relating to the use of solid biomass (information is not available relating to the burning of woodchip specifically). The RO and CFD schemes do not

distinguish between private or commercial users, although the users are mainly commercial. In the CFD scheme there were no payments made for generation from solid biomass before 2016.

The figures for GB are as follows:

Scheme	Spend (£m)	
	2019	2015-2019
RO – solid biomass[1]	991	4,338
CFD	408	1,063[2]
Renewable Heat Incentive		
Domestic biomass boiler	52	237
Non-domestic solid biomass boiler	373	1,419
Non-domestic biomass CHP	47	100
Total	471	1,757
Overall total	1,870	7,158

[1] The RO figures are based on Ofgem's certificate report as at 17 June 2020 from their Renewables and CHP Register

[2] CFD payments for generators using solid biomass are for 2016-2019 as no payments were made before 2016

Boilers: Carbon Emissions

Asked by Lord Foster of Bath

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Callanan on 16 June (HL4962), what assessment they have made, if any, of the impact on carbon dioxide emissions of fitting all (1) new social housing developments, (2) replacement boilers in social housing, (3) new houses, and (4) replacement boilers in all houses, with stored passive flue gas heat recovery technology in each year to 2025. [HL6124]

Lord Callanan: Introduced in 2018, Boiler Plus regulations raised standards for all domestic boiler installations, supporting efforts to reduce carbon emissions while making it easier and cheaper to heat homes. In addition to raising the minimum efficiency standards for boilers, the regulations required an additional energy efficiency measure to be installed alongside combination gas boilers that accounted for 78% of the market. The measures include flue gas heat recovery.

Many system boilers and most regular boilers on the market were incompatible with flue gas heat recovery systems and compensation controls when boiler plus regulations were introduced and therefore were exempt from the requirement.

The extent to which a passive flue gas heat recovery system can increase the efficiency of a dwelling and reduce natural gas consumption is dependent on many

factors including the annual space heating and domestic hot water demand of the specific building and importantly whether the system installed has built-in thermal storage. However, analysis showed that the typical household could increase boiler efficiency between 1% to 5% by adding a passive flue gas heat recovery system.

British Irish Council

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) when the next meeting of the British-Irish Council will take place; and (2) what will be the subjects for discussion. [HL6250]

Lord True: The 34th British-Irish Council Heads of Administration Summit was due to take place in June 2020 hosted by the Scottish Government. In light of the unprecedented circumstances created by the Covid-19 situation, which has affected all eight of the Council's Member Administrations, the Summit was postponed.

It is anticipated that the next summit will take place in late 2020, in keeping with the usual pattern. Discussions between the member administrations on the agenda, theme and form are ongoing. Arrangements will be informed by the latest public health advice at the time.

UK Government officials continue to remain active in progressing the work of the Council through remote working and virtual meetings across the 11 work sectors.

Broadband: Standards

Asked by Lord Stevenson of Balmacara

To ask Her Majesty's Government what involvement they have in Community Fibre Partnerships; and what assessment they have made of the impact of that scheme on the cost to consumers of better broadband connections. [HL6142]

Baroness Barran: Community-led schemes, including Community Fibre Partnerships, allow a group of premises to work together to upgrade their broadband connection through a joint funding arrangement with any broadband supplier who offers it. Community Fibre Partnerships can be successful in lowering the cost of improving broadband connections across a community, such schemes are not government run or administered. A Community Fibre Partnership is specifically only offered by Openreach and is but one example of a community-led broadband scheme. Such community-led schemes can take a variety of different forms to help suit the needs of the individual community. Further details of such schemes can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-led-broadband-schemes/introduction-to-community-led-schemes>.

There are a variety of funding sources to help communities commence a community-led scheme. The Government has set out a number of alternative schemes to help businesses and residents upgrade their broadband connection through a community partnership.

A rural component of the Scheme launched in May 2019 with funding provided through the Rural Gigabit Connectivity (RGC) programme. Up to £3,500 is available to rural SMEs and up to £1,500 for rural premises is available to support the installation of gigabit-capable broadband when part of a group scheme. These vouchers can be used in community broadband projects to offset the cost of installing gigabit-capable connectivity that communities would otherwise wholly fund themselves.

Care Homes: Coronavirus

Asked by *Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the remarks made by the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP on 12 June that "whilst the impact of such discharges meant the NHS was never short of beds or ventilators, it seems extraordinary that no one appeared to consider the clinical risk to care homes despite widespread knowledge that the virus could be carried asymptotically." [HL5739]

Lord Bethell: Throughout our coronavirus response we have kept our policies under continuous review based on the emerging international and domestic evidence and have worked tirelessly with the care sector and public health experts to reduce transmission and save lives.

On 15 April, we published COVID-19: Our Action Plan for Adult Social Care. This set out that all patients are required to be tested prior to discharge to a care home. A copy is attached.

Patients are discharged when it is clinically safe and they no longer need acute care. Wherever possible, people who are clinically ready should be supported to return to their place of residence, where assessment of longer-term needs will take place. This approach follows the 'discharge to assess' model, to support timely and appropriate discharge from hospital.

As our understanding of the virus has changes throughout the course of the pandemic, we have continued to develop our policy. Our current policy is that due to evidence of asymptomatic spread, during periods of sustained transmission we recommend that all residents being discharged from hospital or interim care facilities to the care home and new residents admitted from the community should be isolated for 14 days within their own room. For care home residents, around 70% of people living in care homes for the over 65s have dementia. It is important they return to their familiar environments when they are clinically ready, with the personalised support and daily activities in place that help them to live well with dementia. This can be better achieved in their care home, rather than the hospital.

We have made £1.3 billion funding available via the National Health Service to help patients who no longer need urgent treatment to get home from hospital safely and quickly. We have also made £3.2 billion available to local authorities so they can address pressures on local

services caused by the pandemic, including in adult social care. On 13 May we announced an additional £600 million to support care home providers through a new Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Adult Social Care Action Plan [covid-19-adult-social-care-action-plan.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-16/HL5739>

Contact Tracing: Coronavirus

Asked by *Lord Bassam of Brighton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that those contacted by the NHS COVID-19 test, track and trace scheme fully cooperate with it, following the pilot tracing scheme in Sheffield where two-thirds of COVID-19 contacts failed to comply. [HL6144]

Lord Bethell: The Government launched the NHS Test and Trace service on 28 May 2020.

Since its introduction, NHS Test and Trace have traced the contacts of thousands of positive cases, using both online services and over the phone, and we are encouraged by the progress so far and user feedback.

We are asking anyone who has been told to self-isolate to follow the advice given and we are confident that the vast majority will do so in order to play their part in reducing the spread of the virus to keep themselves, their families and communities safe and to protect the National Health Service. However, if we find that people are not complying with isolation instructions, we will not hesitate to introduce tougher measures.

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

Asked by *Lord Forsyth of Drumlean*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Agnew of Oulton on 22 June (HL5467) and given that notice payments to employees who are being made redundant are not redundancy payments, whether they will now answer the question put, namely whether it is their intention that employers are reimbursed under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme for employees who are under notice of redundancy. [HL6065]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: Pay during the redundancy notice period is based on the individual's rights under their contract of employment and the statutory right to notice pay (under section 86 and the following sections of the Employment Rights Act 1996). The rules on statutory notice pay are complex and depend on whether the employer is required to give only statutory notice, or at least a week more than statutory notice, and whether the employee has normal working hours or not. For any period of notice which exceeds the minimum statutory

requirement, the terms of the contract of employment would need to be considered.

In these very difficult times, the Government would not expect an employer to take advantage of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, which has brought benefit to employers and employees alike, to make someone redundant on less favourable terms than they would otherwise have received.

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether an employer can claim a grant under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme for those employees who were furloughed for three weeks prior to 30 June, who have since returned to work full-time, but where the employer wants them to work part-time from 1 July. [HL6073]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: From 1 July 2020, employers can bring back to work employees that have previously been furloughed, for any amount of time and any shift pattern, while still being able to claim a CJRS grant for their usual hours not worked. This includes employees who have previously returned to work full-time but where the employer wants them to work part-time from 1 July. From this date, only employees that an employer has successfully claimed a previous grant for will be eligible for more grants under the scheme. This means employees must have previously been furloughed for at least three consecutive weeks taking place any time between 1 March and 30 June 2020.

Coronavirus: Charitable Donations

Asked by Lord Ramsbotham

To ask Her Majesty's Government how the money raised for the NHS by Captain Sir Tom Moore has been allocated. [HL5615]

Lord Bethell: The money raised for the National Health Service by Captain Sir Tom Moore has been received by NHS Charities Together as part of the COVID-19 Urgent Appeal. NHS Charities Together launched the COVID-19 Urgent Appeal in March 2020 to help NHS charities support NHS staff, volunteers and patients, in meeting immediate and urgent needs and supporting the long-term recovery from the impact of the crisis.

NHS Charities Together are the chief partner to the country's NHS Charities and are best placed to make decisions on how the money raised will be distributed. They are working with their members to identify where additional support is most urgently needed by NHS staff, volunteers and patients. They are particularly focused on providing support for people who are disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 crisis, including patients and staff from the black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.

Coronavirus: Disease Control

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of having an open border with France on the COVID-19 R rate. [HL4369]

Lord Bethell: The scientific advice is that, when domestic transmission of COVID-19 is reduced, new health measures at the border are an important part of managing the risk of new cases entering the United Kingdom from abroad and contributing to a second peak of the virus. From 8 June, all passengers arriving in the UK without having travelled through another part of the Common Travel Area must provide their contact details and will be required to self-isolate for 14 days, apart from those who belong to an exempted group.

This approach aims to manage the risk of imported cases from abroad, whilst still allowing the UK to maintain essential supply chains and infrastructure and respect our international obligations.

Asked by Lord Strasburger

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to use powers conferred by the Investigatory Powers Act 2016 (1) to operate the COVID-19 track and trace system, (2) to monitor or enforce lockdown restrictions, and (3) to monitor or enforce quarantine requirements on individuals. [HL5807]

Lord Bethell: The Government are considering a range of options for managing the effect of the outbreak of COVID-19. A careful assessment of any implications for civil liberties (including the impact on human rights, equality and privacy) will be an important part of those considerations.

The national lockdown measures were eased on 4 July and whilst police have powers of enforcement, the policy relies on the four Es approach; engage, explain, encourage, enforce. Where necessary fixed penalty charge notices can be issued in certain circumstances.

The Investigatory Powers Act makes clear that the powers it provides for can only be used for specific statutory purposes, where it is necessary and proportionate to do so.

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had, and with whom, about the lack of recommendations in the report by Public Health England's Disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19, published in June, on how to tackle racial and health inequalities that have been amplified by COVID-19. [HL6022]

Baroness Berridge: The Government commissioned Public Health England to conduct an epidemiological review to analyse how different factors can impact on people's health outcomes from COVID-19. This was

published on 2 June 2020. This review is an important piece of work which sets out firm conclusions, and the Minister for Equalities is working with the Race Disparity Unit, Department for Health and Social Care and other departments to take forward work to build on PHE's review, and work across government to take appropriate steps to mitigate disparities identified.

In parallel, Professor Kevin Fenton separately engaged with a significant number of individuals and organisations within the BAME community to hear their views, concerns and ideas about the impact of COVID-19 on their communities. This separate report, 'COVID-19: understanding the impact on BAME communities', was published on GOV.UK on 16 June 2020.

The recommendations from the second report will also be taken forward through the terms of reference for Government's next steps to address the disparities identified in the PHE report, announced on 4 June.

Coronavirus: Germany

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of Germany's 'R' rate for COVID-19 reportedly increasing to 2.88. [HL6089]

Lord Bethell: As the number of new cases declines, R becomes a less helpful indicator and the amount of uncertainty around its exact value increases. This uncertainty may be due to variability in the underlying data, leading to a wider range for R and more frequent changes in the estimates.

Additionally, R is an average measure. When the number of new cases is low, R will be more volatile and sensitive to individual outbreaks. An outbreak in one local area can result in the estimate of R for the entire region being pushed above 1. We believe this could be the case in Germany.

When the number of new cases decreases to a low level it becomes more important to monitor other indicators.

Coronavirus: Mental Health

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the scale of the mental health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL6225]

Lord Bethell: There is broad consensus that there is the potential for an increase in demand and we are working with the National Health Service, Public Health England and others to gather evidence and assess the potential longer-term mental health impacts and plan for how to support mental health and wellbeing throughout the 'recovery' phase.

We have released tailored online guidance to help people deal with their mental health at GOV.UK and Every Mind Matters.

NHS mental health services have remained open for business, offering support using digital, telephone and face-to-face approaches as appropriate. We have provided £5 million of additional funding for mental health charities to support adults and children and we have announced a further £4.2 million for mental health charities as part of the Government's UK-wide £750 million package of support for the voluntary sector.

Coronavirus: Protective Clothing

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to increase access by the public to face coverings during the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL5473]

Lord Bethell: Evidence from the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) suggests that face coverings may help reduce the risk of transmission if someone is suffering from COVID-19, but not showing symptoms. Social distancing and hand hygiene remain the most important ways to guard against the virus, face coverings may help prevent individuals who have coronavirus but are not presenting symptoms from spreading it to others.

We are asking people to make their own face coverings at home, using scarves or other textile items. We have published guidance to show people how to do this which can be found online. We urge the public not to purchase medical or surgical masks as these must be reserved for health and social care workers who face the greatest risk.

Dental Services: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the number of available appointments in dental surgeries given shortages in personal protective equipment, the requirement to follow social distancing measures and reduced public confidence, and (2) the impact on dental health of reductions in dental services following the Covid-19 pandemic. [HL5597]

Lord Bethell: No data is collected centrally on the number of available National Health Service appointments in dental practices. Routine dental care has been restarted but safety of clinicians and patients is the priority. As with almost all areas of healthcare the infection prevention and control requirements of the pandemic period mean that at least initially dentists will be able to deliver fewer treatments per day. NHS England and NHS Improvement has been clear that dentists should only increase service as fast as is compatible with maximising safety.

Most high street dentists purchase personal protective equipment (PPE) via dental wholesalers which supply a range of equipment needed by dentists including PPE. During the COVID-19 pandemic the Government is working closely with industry, the National Health

Service, social care providers and the army to ensure that PPE is delivered to those who need it. Our priority is ensuring the safety of patients and all health care workers, including dentists. This includes supporting dental wholesalers to stock the equipment needed by general dental practice to safely support practices to restart face to face dental care.

NHS England and NHS Improvement took steps to minimise any impact of the suspension of routine dentistry at the peak of the pandemic by setting up urgent dental centres to deliver treatment urgently needed. Urgent dental treatment has therefore been available throughout the pandemic period through the over 600 such centres set up. These centres continue to operate through the restart period ensuring that patients who need urgent treatment can receive it.

Department for International Development: Reorganisation

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the statement by the Prime Minister on 16 June about the merger of the Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (HC Deb, cols 666–8), what assessment they have made of the impact of this merger on their support available to people living in Africa; and what steps they are taking to ensure that any future use of Overseas Development Assistance supports the most disadvantaged groups living there. [[HL6098](#)]

Baroness Sugg: We recognise the continuing importance of UK support across Africa to help the most vulnerable people. The UK is supporting African women and girls in giving them greater control to plan their lives, fulfil their potential and play a vital role in their countries' futures, as well as addressing the issues caused by Africa being identified as the continent scheduled to be worst affected by the devastating impacts of climate change. Strengthening our partnership with African nations is a key element of our Global Britain vision, building on the progress made at the UK-Africa Investment Summit.

The merger fuses the best of our development expertise and world-leading diplomacy together. All the things that have made the UK a world leader in development will not change. The work of UK aid to reduce poverty will remain central to the new department's mission.

Organisational plans for the new department are currently being shaped. The full details of the merger, including the structure of the new department, will be set out in due course.

Diabetes: Medical Equipment

*Asked by **Lord Roberts of Llandudno***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Noctura 400 Sleep Mask as a treatment for diabetic retinopathy patients. [[HL6257](#)]

Lord Bethell: The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence published a Medtech Innovation Briefing (MIB) on the Noctura 400 Sleep Mask for diabetic retinopathy and diabetic macular oedema in April 2018 [reference number MIB144]. MIBs provide information to National Health Service and care commissioners and staff who are considering using new medical devices and other medical or diagnostic technologies.

Disease Control: International Cooperation

*Asked by **Lord Hylton***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the degree and effectiveness of international scientific collaboration on pandemics such as SARS and COVID-19; and what proposals they have for enhancing collaboration in regard to causation and responses, particularly, testing and vaccines. [[HL5679](#)]

Lord Bethell: Whilst we have made no specific assessment, the Government is committed to ensure that the United Kingdom continues to be one of the best places in the world for research and innovation and is at the forefront of health and social care research internationally and specifically, global research on pandemics.

The UK has pledged £388 million in aid funding for research into vaccines, tests and treatments which is part of a larger £744 million existing commitment to help end the pandemic and support the global economy. This also includes £250 million for global Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations to develop vaccines against coronaviruses. The UK will also provide £330 million a year for the next five years to the Global Vaccine Alliance, readying it to distribute a COVID-19 vaccine in developing countries.

Doctors: Protective Clothing

*Asked by **Lord Taylor of Warwick***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of research by the Doctors' Association UK which found that that six in 10 doctors have not had access to scrubs. [[HL5723](#)]

Lord Bethell: NHS Supply Chain, the main provider of consumables and equipment into the National Health Service, report that their suppliers have sufficient supplies of scrubs for NHS customers to order.

Domestic Waste: Recycling

*Asked by **Baroness Crawley***

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they estimate the recycling rate for waste from British households will exceed the former EU target of 50 per cent; and whether, following the UK's withdrawal from the EU, they have dropped that target. [[HL6061](#)]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The Government is committed to exceeding the 50% target for recycling household waste and this target remains in legislation.

The Government has not prepared an estimate of when the UK will exceed this target. The latest UK recycling rate published in March 2020 showed that the UK recycled 45% of household waste in 2018.

The Government has also committed to recycle 65% of municipal waste in England by 2035 and set out measures to achieve this target in the Resources and Waste Strategy and the Environment Bill.

Females: Self-employment Income Support Scheme

*Asked by **Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the ending of the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme on women. [[HL6086](#)]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) continues to be one of the most generous self-employed COVID-19 support schemes in the world as the economy reopens.

The Government takes care to pay due regard to the equality impacts of its policy decisions relating to the Covid-19 outbreak, including the equality impacts of the SEISS, in line with all legal requirements and the Government's commitment to promoting equality.

HMRC have published statistics about the number and value of SEISS claims made by 31 May, including a breakdown by gender. These can be found on the Gov.uk website.

Honours

*Asked by **Lord Berkeley***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to (1) review, and (2) update, the imagery used on awards given in the honours system. [[HL6039](#)]

Lord True: We are aware of a petition on the Order of St Michael and St George. The premise of this petition is factually incorrect – the insignia for the Order of St Michael and St George was updated in 2011, and the design referred in the petition is no longer used. Any current recipient of a pre-2011 insignia is able to receive one with the updated design, on request.

Matters regarding insignia are for the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals (also known as the 'HD Committee'). The independent Officers of the Order of St Michael and St George may advise the Committee in relation to their Order. The Committee then gives advice to the Sovereign.

In light of the change in 2011, it is the view of Ministers in Her Majesty's Government that there is no need for any specific review.

House of Lords: Trimble

*Asked by **Lord Campbell-Savours***

To ask the Senior Deputy Speaker what contractual arrangements, if any, exist between the House of Lords room booking service and Trimble Manhattan Space Scheduling. [[HL6053](#)]

Lord Laming: The Senior Deputy Speaker has asked me, as Chair of the Services Committee, to respond on his behalf. Trimble Space Scheduling (TSS), formally Trimble Manhattan Space Scheduling, provide the room bookings software which is used by the House of Lords Attendants' Office to co-ordinate the bookings of committee rooms and meeting rooms. The software is provided under a contract between the Corporate Officer of the House of Lords and the Corporate Officer of the House of Commons, and Trimble Space Scheduling. The Parliamentary Digital Service has day-to-day responsibility for oversight of arrangements under the contract.

Local Government: Infrastructure and Public Transport

*Asked by **Lord Porter of Spalding***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to give councils long-term, devolved infrastructure and public transport budgets. [[HL6081](#)]

Lord Greenhalgh: The Government is committed to levelling up the country and giving communities more control over how investment is spent so that they can decide what is best for them. The forthcoming White Paper on devolution will set out the framework for future local growth funding, ensuring budgets are devolved to the right spatial level to unleash the potential of our regions and deliver on levelling up. In 2020/21, the Government is allocating over £1.7 billion for local highways maintenance and improvements to local highways authorities in England, outside London, through the Transport Infrastructure Investment Fund. We will also provide £4.2 billion from 2022-23 for five-year funding settlements for eight Mayoral Combined Authorities, building on the success of the Transforming Cities Fund, as set out in the Budget earlier this year.

Mortality Rates

*Asked by **Lord Shipley***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the data published by the Office for National Statistics which demonstrates that 19 local authorities in England have recorded excess death rates in 2020 that are more than twice the UK average excess death rates. [[HL6030](#)]

Lord Bethell: We have made no such assessment but we are learning as much as we can, as quickly as we can about this virus, who it affects and how best to keep everyone safe and protect those who may be more vulnerable than others.

We asked Public Health England (PHE) to undertake a rapid review into disparities in deaths from COVID-19 and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Equalities (Kemi Badenoch MP) has been tasked with leading the work arising from PHE's report published on 2 June. The Terms of Reference for that work were published on 4 June.

National Insurance Contributions: Coronavirus

Asked by Baroness Neville-Rolfe

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the research paper by the Taxpayers' Alliance Tax reforms to secure a recovery from coronavirus, published on 3 June, what assessment they have made of the impact of employers' national insurance contributions on the sustainability of supply chains; and what plans they have, if any, (1) to abolish the requirement for employers to contribute to national insurance, and (2) to replace those contributions with a payroll tax of 10 per cent on wages above £4,500 per annum. [HL6077]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The Government considers all aspects of its support to businesses together and has therefore made no specific assessment of the impact of employers' national insurance contributions on the sustainability of supply chains.

The Government has provided unprecedented levels of support to businesses during the Covid-19 pandemic, including the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme, tax deferrals, a business rates holiday, and other business support grants.

While the Government keeps all taxes under review, there are no current plans to abolish employer national insurance contributions and to replace them with a payroll tax.

New Businesses: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Freyberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they intend to take to increase (1) access to data controlled by the NHS, and (2) associated opportunities to innovate, for UK start-ups and SMEs (a) during, and (b) after, the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL6157]

Lord Bethell: To simplify access to data controlled by the National Health Service and encourage innovation partnerships, the Government is developing a policy framework underpinned by five guiding principles. This will offer support and guidance to NHS organisations that are considering entering into data access agreements with researchers and commercial partners.

The framework is expected to be published later this year and is being developed in consultation with patient representative groups, health and data experts, NHS bodies and industry. To support the NHS in embedding the framework in practice, the Government has set up a National Centre of Expertise in NHSX to provide commercial and legal expertise to NHS organisations on agreeing fair terms when negotiating partnerships.

The Government has also committed funding for the Digital Innovation Hubs Programme which aims to enable a United Kingdom-wide life sciences environment that provides responsible and safe access to rich, research-ready health data, technology and science, research and innovation services.

NHSX: Faculty

Asked by Lord Freyberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish a Data Protection Impact Assessment of Faculty AI's work on data dashboards and modelling for NHSX. [HL6155]

Lord Bethell: The Data Protection Impact Assessment is already published online by NHS England.

Nigeria: Military Aid

Asked by Baroness Cox

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the statement by the government of Nigeria that "in concert with our American and British allies, Nigeria's military have pushed back the terrorists" on 19 June, what is the mandate of the British Armed Forces operating in north-east Nigeria. [HL6059]

Baroness Goldie: British Armed Forces activity in North East Nigeria is covered under an Memorandum of Understanding between the UK and Nigeria that was signed in 2019, and is called Operation TURUS. The mission statement for TURUS is: Influence and train the operational capability and capacity of the Armed Forces of Nigeria and Multi-National Joint Task Force, in order to counter Violent Extremist Organisation activity in the North East of Nigeria and the Lake Chad Basin area and contribute to Her Majesty's Government's policy goals and objectives.

Nitrous Oxide: Crime

Asked by Baroness Harris of Richmond

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to make the possession of nitrous oxide for personal recreational purposes an offence. [HL6071]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: There are no plans to change the law to make the possession of Nitrous Oxide for personal use an offence. Possession with intent to supply is already unlawful and we have no plans to change that. Nitrous Oxide is a psychoactive substance and subject to the provisions in the Psychoactive

Substances Act 2016 (the 2016 Act). It is an offence under the 2016 Act to produce, supply, offer to supply, possess with intent to supply, import and export a psychoactive substance, subject to certain exemptions. It is also an offence to possess a psychoactive substance in a custodial institution, subject to certain exemptions.

Palantir: Data Protection

Asked by *Lord Freyberg*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the Data Protection Impact Assessment of Palantir's role in combining NHS data had no analysis of data analytics as contained in their G-Cloud 11 call-Off contract (version 4); and whether they intend to publish an additional report to cover this. [HL6154]

Lord Bethell: Whilst we have made no specific assessment, the Government is committed to ensure that the United Kingdom continues to be one of the best places in the world for research and innovation and is at the forefront of health and social care research internationally and specifically, global research on pandemics.

The UK has pledged £388 million in aid funding for research into vaccines, tests and treatments which is part of a larger £744 million existing commitment to help end the pandemic and support the global economy. This also includes £250 million for global Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations to develop vaccines against coronaviruses. The UK will also provide £330 million a year for the next five years to the Global Vaccine Alliance, readying it to distribute a COVID-19 vaccine in developing countries.

Parkinson's Disease: Mental Health Services

Asked by *Baroness Gale*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to ensure that mental health services will be able to meet any excess demand from people with Parkinson's disease who have not been able to access psychological services during the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL5762]

Lord Bethell: The National Health Service has issued guidance to services to support them in managing demand and capacity across inpatient and community mental health services and keeping services open for business.

There is broad consensus that there is the potential for an increase in demand and we are working with the NHS, Public Health England and other key partners to gather evidence and assess the potential longer-term mental health impacts and plan for how to support mental health and wellbeing throughout the 'recovery' phase.

Asked by *Baroness Gale*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures are in place to support the carers and family members of those people with Parkinson's disease who have

experienced distressing hallucinations during the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL5764]

Lord Bethell: As set out in the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guideline *Parkinson's disease in adults*, published in July 2017, symptoms such as hallucinations are an increased risk for people taking some Parkinson's disease medications. The guidance sets out that people with Parkinson's disease should have a comprehensive care plan agreed between themselves, their family members and carers and specialist and secondary healthcare providers. A copy of the guidance is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Parkinson's disease in adults [parkinsons-disease-in-adults-pdf-1837629189061.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-16/HL5764>

Personal Care Services: Coronavirus

Asked by *Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what criteria they have used (1) to permit hairdressers to open, and (2) to decide that the providers of other close contact businesses, including (a) massage, and (b) wellbeing and holistic, services should not open, from 4 July. [T] [HL6281]

Lord Callanan: Following my Rt. Hon. Friend the Prime Minister's announcement, from 4 July hairdressers and barbers in England will be able to reopen, to offer hairdressing services, once they are following the COVID-secure guidelines.

We are taking a phased, cautious approach to reopening our economy, and other close contact services, like massage plus wellbeing and holistic services, remain closed until further notice. There is often greater risk of transmission due to prolonged periods of face-to-face contact and close proximity between staff and customers.

We appreciate that this is difficult for businesses, and we are working with businesses, trade associations and medical experts on the safest way to reopen close contact services, such as massage plus wellbeing and holistic services, as it is safe to do so. Our approach is guided by the scientific and medical advice, and every step is weighed against the evidence.

Public Health: Coronavirus

Asked by *Lord Porter of Spalding*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to invest additional resources into public health to help public health teams meet any backlog in the demand for services which had to be stopped due to the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL6080]

Lord Bethell: The Government has provided £3.2 billion of additional funding for local government to help them respond to COVID-19 pressures across the services they deliver. Local authorities will take spending decisions based on local priorities and the Government is keeping the position under review.

Funding beyond 2020/21 will be set out at the next spending review.

Republic of Ireland: Foreign Relations

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what arrangements they have made to meet with the new Taoiseach and his ministerial team to discuss (1) Anglo-Irish relations; (2) the COVID-19 pandemic; and (3) Brexit. [HL6251]

Baroness Sugg: Ireland is a close friend and neighbour to the UK. As the Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland tweeted over the weekend of 27/28 June, we welcome the formation of a new Irish Government and we look forward to continued close working with Ireland. The Prime Minister and the new Taoiseach spoke on Tuesday 30 June, and other UK Ministers have already been in contact with their counterparts on a range of issues including: the bilateral relationship and foreign policy, especially following Ireland's election to the UN Security Council; Northern Ireland; our joint response to and recovery from Covid-19; and our future relationship with the EU.

Restoration and Renewal Programme

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask the Parliamentary Works Sponsor Body whether the Strategic Review of the Restoration and Renewal Programme will be conducted by one person, or corporately by the Sponsor Body. [HL6484]

Baroness Scott of Needham Market: The strategic review is being led by the chief executives of the Sponsor Body and Delivery Authority, Sarah Johnson and David Goldstone, with support from infrastructure and programme management experts drawn from both organisations. The chairs of the Sponsor Body and Delivery Authority, Liz Peace and Mike Brown, will also provide input.

As the review progresses input and challenge will also be sought from a challenge group including representatives from both Houses and externally.

The review is expected to conclude in the autumn and its findings will be considered by the Sponsor Body Board and the Commissions of both Houses in the first instance.

Schools: Pharmacy

Asked by Lord Clement-Jones

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to increase the number of applicants to pharmacy schools in England. [HL6056]

Baroness Berridge: Universities are autonomous bodies, independent from government, and they have control over decisions about who to admit to their courses. However, overall numbers of students studying science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) are rising. We are encouraging more students into STEM, at all stages of their education, and in 2019 there were 54,000 more entries to STEM A levels than in 2010 – a 26% increase. Data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) also shows that the share of students studying science subjects at English higher education institutions has increased from 41% in 2010/11 to 46% in 2018/19.

In 2018/19, there were 3,020 full-time undergraduate enrolments to pharmacy, up from 2,715 in 2010/11[1].

Despite rising STEM student numbers, we are far from complacent and we know that employer groups continue to point to an unmet demand for higher level STEM skills. Effective careers guidance and advice is key to supporting young people in their education and career choices to undertake learning and develop skills in the areas employers are looking for. The government's Careers Strategy sets out a long-term plan to build a world class careers system to achieve this ambition. We are increasing the information available to students to ensure they can make informed choices about what and where to study. The delivery of the Careers Strategy also ensures that STEM encounters, such as with employers and apprenticeships, are built into school career programmes.

[1] Department for Education's analysis of HESA student record

Speech and Language Therapy: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Bradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what actions they have taken to ensure that personal protection equipment is available to all speech and language therapists treating patients with swallowing difficulties as a result of COVID-19. [HL4751]

Lord Bethell: We are working around the clock to give the social care sector and wider National Health Service the equipment and support they need to tackle this outbreak.

The Government published *Coronavirus (COVID-19): Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) plan* on 10 April. It incorporates guidance on who needs PPE and when they

need it, routes to ensure those who need it can get it at the right time and sets out actions to secure enough PPE to last through the crisis. A copy of the guidance is attached.

Sourcing sufficient supplies of PPE is a challenge that many countries are facing. We are working to expand supply from overseas, improve domestic manufacturing capability and expand and improve the logistics network for delivering to the frontline.

The full weight of the Government is behind this effort and we are working closely with industry, social care providers, the NHS, and the army to ensure the right equipment continues to be delivered.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

COVID 19 PPE Plan [Coronavirus__COVID-19__-_personal_protective_equipment__PPE__plan.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-20/HL4751>

Travel: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to conducting COVID-19 checks at (1) airports, and (2) other points of entry into the UK. [HL6043]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Limiting the spread of COVID-19 at all points of international entry is of paramount importance to the Government. The Department for Transport has engaged extensively with stakeholders on measures to help prevent the spread of the virus, including the provision of advice and guidance to passengers and staff.

The Secretary of State for Transport confirmed in the House of Commons on 2 July that we are considering all options which might provide reassurance to passengers.

Universal Credit

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of Universal Credit recipients are subject to the (1) two-child benefit limit, and (2) benefit cap, broken down by ethnic group. [HL5787]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The Department cannot precisely quantify the proportion of households by ethnic group that are affected by these policies since recording of ethnicity on benefits administrative data is voluntary and, as such, not sufficiently reliable.

Veterinary Services: Antimicrobials

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the UK's progress in reducing the human consumption of veterinary antimicrobials; how this progress compares with that of other European countries; and whether the collection of data at farm level is adequate. [HL6062]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Government is committed to reducing unnecessary use of antibiotics in animals. Over the last five years (2014-18) our approach has seen a 53% decrease in antibiotic sales for farmed animals, including a drop of two thirds in those antibiotics most critically important for human health, and in 2017 the UK had the fifth lowest level of antibiotic consumption in food-producing animals of the 31 European countries reporting these data. This has been achieved through working collaboratively with vets and farmers, most notably through the Targets Task Force chaired by the Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance to implement the goals of the UK National Action Plan, recognising that good farm management, biosecurity, and animal husbandry systems are crucial to minimise the occurrence of disease and therefore the need for antibiotics.

The UK's sales and surveillance data is published in our annual [Veterinary Annual Sales and Surveillance](#) report and presents antibiotic usage data from ten sectors including the pig, poultry and fish industries. This data is collected on a voluntary basis by the livestock sectors and shared with the Veterinary Medicines Directorate; this demonstrates a strong willingness to share data openly and UK farming sectors are continuing to refine and develop new systems for collecting, and reporting on, antibiotic usage.

Data on human consumption of antimicrobials is monitored and published annually by Public Health England in its English Surveillance Programme for Antimicrobial Utilisation and Resistance[1] report.

[1] The English Surveillance Programme for Antimicrobial Utilisation and Resistance (ESPAUR), run by Public Health England, develops and maintains robust surveillance systems for monitoring and reporting trends in antimicrobial use and to develop systems to optimise antimicrobial prescribing across healthcare settings. The ESPAUR report 2018 to 2019 can be viewed here:

assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/843129/English_Surveillance_Programme_for_Antimicrobial_Utilisation_and_Resistance_2019.pdf.

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