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

<i>Minister</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
<b>Baroness Evans of Bowes Park</b>	Leader of the House of Lords and Lord Privy Seal
<b>Earl Howe</b>	Deputy Leader of the House of Lords
<b>Lord Agnew of Oulton</b>	Minister of State, Cabinet Office and Treasury
<b>Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon</b>	Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development
<b>Lord Ashton of Hyde</b>	Chief Whip
<b>Baroness Barran</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
<b>Baroness Berridge</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education and Department for International Trade
<b>Lord Bethell</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health and Social Care and Whip
<b>Baroness Bloomfield of Hinton Waldrist</b>	Whip
<b>Lord Callanan</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
<b>Earl of Courtown</b>	Deputy Chief Whip
<b>Lord Gardiner of Kimble</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
<b>Baroness Goldie</b>	Minister of State, Ministry of Defence
<b>Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park</b>	Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development
<b>Lord Greenhalgh</b>	Minister of State, Home Office and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
<b>Lord Grimstone of Boscobel</b>	Minister of State, Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Department for International Trade
<b>Lord Keen of Elie</b>	Advocate-General for Scotland and Ministry of Justice Spokesperson
<b>Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay</b>	Whip
<b>Baroness Penn</b>	Whip
<b>Baroness Scott of Bybrook</b>	Whip
<b>Baroness Stedman-Scott</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions
<b>Baroness Sugg</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development
<b>Lord True</b>	Minister of State, Cabinet Office
<b>Baroness Vere of Norbiton</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Transport
<b>Baroness Williams of Trafford</b>	Minister of State, Home Office
<b>Viscount Younger of Leckie</b>	Whip

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# Written Statements

Thursday, 16 July 2020

## “A303 Stonehenge” Application: Update

[HLWS378]

**Baroness Vere of Norbiton:** My Honourable Friend, the Minister of State for Transport (Andrew Stephenson), has made the following Ministerial Statement.

I have been asked by my Right Honourable Friend, the Secretary of State, to make this Written Ministerial Statement. This statement concerns the application made under the Planning Act 2008 for the proposed construction by Highways England of a new two-lane dual carriageway for the A303 between Amesbury and Berwick Down in Wiltshire (also known as the “A303 Stonehenge” application).

Under sub-section 107(1) of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State must make his decision within 3 months of receipt of the Examining Authority’s report unless exercising the power under sub-section 107(3) to extend the deadline and make a Statement to the House of Parliament announcing the new deadline. The Secretary of State received the Examining Authority’s report on the A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down Development Consent Order application on 2 January 2020 and the deadline for a decision was previously extended from 2 April 2020 to 17 July 2020 to allow for further work to be carried out.

Following notification of a recent archaeological find within the World Heritage Site, the deadline for the decision is to be further extended to 13 November 2020 (an extension of 4 months) to enable further consultation on and consideration of this matter before determination of the application by the Secretary of State.

The decision to set a new deadline is without prejudice to the decision on whether to give development consent.

## Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities

[HLWS377]

**Baroness Evans of Bowes Park:** My Rt Hon Friend the Prime Minister has made the following statement:

Today I am establishing an independent Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities. This cross- government Commission will review inequality in the UK, across the whole population.

The Commission’s work will touch upon many areas of public policy. It will make recommendations for action across Government, public bodies and the private sector, and will inform a national conversation about race, led by the evidence. I have assembled a group of ten talented and ethnically diverse commissioners.

They bring a wealth of experience from across a range of important sectors. In order to understand why disparities exist, what works and what does not, they will consider detailed quantitative data and qualitative

evidence. They will also commission new research and invite submissions where necessary.

The Commission will set out a new, positive agenda for change - balancing the needs of individuals, communities and society, maximising opportunities and ensuring fairness for all.

I have placed the list of commissioners and the Commission’s ambitious Terms of Reference, in the library of both Houses. Commissioners will be supported by a secretariat in the Cabinet Office Race Disparities Unit and will submit their report by the end of the year.

## COVID-19 Higher Education Restructuring Regime

[HLWS375]

**Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay:** My right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Education (Gavin Williamson) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The establishment of the Higher Education Restructuring Regime in response to COVID-19 has been announced today.

On 4 May, I put forward a higher education (HE) stabilisation package which reprofiled public funding and introduced measures to stabilise admissions with a view to mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on HE providers’ finances. This package, along with the government-backed business support schemes, provided substantial support to the HE sector. On 27 June, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy announced further support to preserve research capacity and capability in the Research Stabilisation Package.

Many providers may continue to be affected by income losses across teaching, research, commercial and other activities resulting from COVID-19. There remains significant uncertainty around the extent of financial challenge providers will face and the full picture of this will not become clear until the autumn term.

I recognised at the time of my announcement in May that there may be a case for government intervention to support an otherwise sustainable provider’s efforts to restructure its business and overcome ongoing financial threats caused by COVID-19.

That is why I am announcing today the establishment of the Higher Education Restructuring Regime to support, in the right circumstances, individual HE providers in England at risk of market exit as a result of COVID-19 and to intervene where there is a case to do so.

Providers in scope for consideration for support through this regime are those on the Office for Students register in the approved (fee cap) category.

Government’s intention is not to provide a blanket bail-out to the sector. It is not a guarantee that no organisation will fail. Instead, the Government will consider supporting restructuring of providers as a last resort and provided there is an economic case to do so. Restructuring plans will need to combine financial rigour and business

efficiency with a strong focus on emerging from the challenges of COVID-19 to deliver higher quality provision to meet the needs of our economy and society.

The regime will take into account the following overarching policy objectives which will guide my department's assessment of cases:

- i) Protecting the welfare of current students
- ii) Preserving the sector's internationally outstanding science base
- iii) Supporting the role that HE providers play in regional and local economies through the provision of high-quality courses aligned with economic and societal needs.

Providers facing financial difficulties should continue to engage with the Office for Students as the regulator for HE in England. They may choose to approach the new DfE Restructuring Unit to begin discussion about potentially becoming engaged in the HE Restructuring Regime.

I will receive advice to support my decision on whether the government should intervene in the case of an individual provider and the nature of the intervention from an independent Restructuring Regime Board. This board will include experts on restructuring and the HE sector. Any financial support will be in the form of a repayable loan with clear conditions that support government objectives. An assessment of the individual provider's business model and restructuring plan will determine the precise terms and conditions to be attached to any public funding.

I have deposited a copy of the announcement document in the Libraries of both Houses.

## **Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme Review**

[HLWS374]

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

Today I have laid before parliament a public consultation on proposals following a review of the statutory Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme (the Scheme).

No amount of compensation can ever make up for the harm and suffering caused to victims and families by violent crime. However, compensation, alongside victims' services and other practical and emotional support, can help victims of violent crime to start to rebuild their lives.

In 2018, in the first-ever cross-government Victims Strategy, we made two commitments; to abolish the pre-1979 "same roof rule" which denied compensation for some victims who lived with their attacker prior to 1979, and to undertake a comprehensive review of the Scheme, the last having been undertaken in 2012.

We met the first commitment in June 2019 when an amended 2012 Scheme came into force. Victims who

have never applied for compensation, perhaps because of the existence of the rule, can now do so. And we have also made provision for victims whose applications had previously been refused under this rule to reapply. I am pleased to announce today that over £10m has been made available to hundreds of victims who applied under the amended Scheme in the period to 5 April 2020. Under the amended Scheme, victims can continue to apply up to 13 June 2021.

The review of the Scheme has been thorough. We have looked at how the Scheme takes account of trends in violent crime and attitudes within society, and have examined the impact of the Scheme's rules on particular victim groups who might apply for compensation. We have considered carefully the scope of the Scheme, eligibility rules, requirements in relation to decision-making, the value and composition of awards, and the affordability and financial sustainability of the Scheme.

The review has taken into account recommendations from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, and the Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales, and examined topical issues. We have listened to concerns and feedback, and tested criticisms and perceptions. Analysis of a three-year period of caseload data has given us a detailed picture of the operation of the Scheme and the impacts of different rules on victims. We have found that for the vast majority of applicants the Scheme is working well and as intended, but we recognise there are areas where it may not be serving victims as effectively as it might.

Underlying the proposals in this consultation are key principles that have been woven into the fabric of the Scheme and which I believe must be retained: that it is a universal scheme that exists to support all eligible victims of violent crime who have suffered the most serious injuries, and that compensation is an important and public recognition of their suffering.

I want to make it easier for victims to understand and engage with the Scheme. We have identified changes that I believe will improve the experience of victims applying to the Scheme, by making it simpler and easier to navigate, and more transparent. We are asking for views on proposals including on:

- Ways to simplify the tariff of injuries and to update provisions for disabling mental injury;
- Reducing burdens in cases where a loved one is lost, by moving to a single bereavement payment for all qualifying relatives and to a flat rate funeral payment; and
- Removing the remaining "same roof rule" that has applied since 1979.

We are also consulting on the merits of a separate scheme for victims of terrorism, both domestic and international, and for views on legislating to make provision for families bereaved by homicide that occurs outside Great Britain.

The consultation is available in full at:

<https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/criminal-injuries-compensation-scheme-review-2020>.

## Cyber Security: Foreign Interference

[HLWS376]

**Baroness Sugg:** My Right Honourable Friend, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Dominic Raab), has made the following written Ministerial statement:

I am today updating Parliament on the ongoing investigations into the leak of the UK-US Free Trade Agreement documents ahead of the General Election in 2019. The Chair of the Intelligence and Security Committee has been briefed on the details of this incident.

The Government has robust systems in place to protect the UK against foreign malign influence. These bring together government, civil society and private sector organisations to monitor and respond to interference, to ensure our democracy stays open, transparent and resilient. During the 2019 General Election a cross-Government election security cell was stood up to coordinate responses to threats and hazards relating to the election.

On the basis of extensive analysis, the Government has concluded that it is almost certain that Russian actors sought to interfere in the 2019 General Election through the online amplification of illicitly acquired and leaked Government documents.

Sensitive Government documents relating to the UK-US Free Trade Agreement were illicitly acquired before the 2019 General Election and disseminated online via the social media platform Reddit. When these gained no traction, further attempts were made to promote the illicitly acquired material online in the run up to the General Election.

Whilst there is no evidence of a broad spectrum Russian campaign against the General Election, any attempt to interfere in our democratic processes is completely unacceptable. It is, and will always be, an absolute priority to protect our democracy and elections.

There is an ongoing criminal investigation and it would be inappropriate for us to say anything further at this point.

The Government reserves the right to respond with appropriate measures in the future.

The UK will continue to call out and respond to malign activity, including any attempts to interfere in our democratic processes, alongside our international partners. We fully support the recent action taken by our German partners who exposed Russian responsibility for the hack of their Parliament in 2015 as well as their intention to act against those responsible under the cyber sanctions regime. The UK Government laid the statutory instrument for our own cyber sanctions regime on 17 June.

## Human Rights and Democracy Annual Report 2019

[HLWS370]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** My Right Honourable Friend, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Dominic Raab), has made the following written Ministerial statement:

I have today laid before Parliament a copy of the 2019 Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Report on Human Rights and Democracy (CP number 273).

The report analyses human rights developments overseas in 2019 and illustrates how the government works to promote and defend human rights globally.

The report assesses the situation in 30 countries, which the FCO has designated as its Human Rights Priority Countries. These are Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Burma, Burundi, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Iran, Iraq, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Libya, Maldives, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Yemen, and Zimbabwe.

Almost 75 years ago, the UN Charter established the three pillars of the UN's work: maintaining international peace and security; promoting and protecting human rights; and fostering development. As we mark the UN's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the UK's commitment to these three pillars remains steadfast. This report details the UK's partnerships with human rights defenders, our leadership on promoting media freedom and gender equality, our work to eradicate modern slavery, and our commitment to deliver change for those who are abused, targeted, or killed for their religion or beliefs.

## Judicial Pensions and Mandatory Retirement Age

[HLWS379]

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

"I am today launching three government consultations on proposals for judicial pensions and the judicial mandatory retirement age.

The independent judiciary is a pillar of our democracy and plays a unique role in ensuring our freedoms and prosperity. Every day, judges take decisions on critically important issues that directly impact on people's lives.

The importance and influence of our judiciary also reaches beyond our shores. Its reputation for integrity and impartiality helps attract international business to the UK, contributing to a legal services industry worth around £25 billion a year to our economy.

As Lord Chancellor, I have a duty to ensure that we have enough judges and that we continue to attract the

very best legal practitioners to the bench. In its Major Review of the Judicial Salary Structure, presented to this House on 26 October 2018, the Senior Salaries Review Body identified clear evidence of growing recruitment and retention issues at all tiers of the judiciary and pointed to pension-related changes as the main cause. The Government response to the Major Review, published on 5 June 2019, included a commitment to provide a long-term solution to these problems by making changes to judicial pensions.

#### *Proposals for reforming the judicial pension scheme*

The first consultation being published today sets out our proposals for reforming the judicial pension scheme to address the significant problems of recruitment and retention that we continue to experience. If we fail to tackle this issue, we put at risk the effective functioning of our justice system and its reputation. Without enough judges, cases will take longer, seriously affecting all jurisdictions. It will also undermine our ability to compete internationally for legal services, which are of such importance to the UK economy.

The proposed approach to pension reform offers a remuneration package which is both fair to the taxpayer and attractive to potential candidates for judicial office. I am confident that it will enable us to attract and retain high-calibre judges, ensuring the proper functioning of our justice system and supporting the UK's wider prosperity. The aim is that the reformed scheme will come into operation from April 2022.

This consultation document is available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-a-reformed-judicial-pension-scheme>.

#### *Proposals for responding to the McCloud litigation*

Alongside the consultation on future reform of the judicial pension scheme, we are consulting on proposals for addressing the unlawful age discrimination identified in the case of *McCloud* in respect of the 2015 reforms of the judicial pension scheme.

The consultation proposes that the Ministry of Justice will run a single options exercise, which will give judges in scope of the *McCloud* judgment the choice of whether to have retrospectively accrued benefits in the 2015 pension scheme or the legacy scheme from 1 April 2015. Membership of the chosen scheme would continue until 31 March 2022, following which the reformed pension scheme is scheduled to come into operation.

Owing to the unique characteristics of the judicial pension schemes, the Ministry of Justice proposals are distinct from the approach being taken to most other public service pension schemes, as set out in HM Treasury's *McCloud* consultation which was also published today.

The consultation document relating to the judicial scheme is available online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-the-proposed-response-to-mccloud>.

#### *Proposals for increasing the judicial mandatory retirement age*

Finally, we are also publishing a consultation on proposals for changing the mandatory retirement age for judges. The make-up of our judiciary has changed significantly in recent years and so have the resourcing needs of our courts and tribunals. We have responded to this change by increasing our recruitment programmes, but challenges remain. At the same time, life expectancy has increased. We are therefore consulting on whether to raise the mandatory retirement age for judicial office holders.

The proposals in this consultation would allow judges, coroners and magistrates to sit for longer and continue to contribute to the justice system. These proposals only relate to those judicial offices for which the UK Parliament has sole competence to legislate. The Ministry of Justice will continue to engage the Devolved Administrations of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales on approaches to the mandatory retirement age for judicial office holders across the UK.

This consultation document is available online at: <https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/judicial-mandatory-retirement-age>.

The consultations close on 16 October 2020 and the Government will publish its response to each in early 2021.

The three consultation documents have been placed in the Library of the House."

### **Learning Disabilities Mortality Review: Fourth Annual Report**

[HLWS373]

**Lord Bethell:** My Hon Friend the Minister of State (Minister for Care) (Helen Whately) has made the following written statement:

I am announcing today the publication of the fourth annual report of the Learning Disabilities Mortality Review Programme (LeDeR). A copy will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

Addressing the persistent health inequalities faced by people with learning disabilities is a priority for this government and this report is an important contribution towards that.

The LeDeR programme was established in June 2015 to help reduce early deaths and health inequalities for people with a learning disability by supporting local areas in England to review the deaths of people with a learning disability and to ensure that the learning from these reviews lead to improved health and care services. The programme is led by the University of Bristol and commissioned by NHS England and NHS Improvement.

As in previous years, the report makes a number of recommendations for Government and its system partners to improve the care of people with a learning disability which does not always meet the high standard we would expect for each and every individual. We must carefully

consider these recommendations to better support those who need care and take the right action as soon as possible.

Earlier this year, we provided an update on action being taken in response to the third LeDeR report and any ongoing actions highlighted in previous years' reports. This week, NHS England has also published its Action from Learning Report alongside the fourth LeDeR report, which sets out a range of work taking place to improve the safety and quality of care to reduce early deaths and health inequalities.

The fourth annual LeDeR report covers the period 1 July 2016 up to the 31st December 2019, with a particular focus on deaths in 2019. This means the report will not include reference to deaths from Covid-19, as the reviews it includes, and the analysis of them, were completed before the pandemic. From 1st July 2016 – 31st December 2019, 7145 deaths were notified to the LeDeR programme. 3450 of these were notified in 2019. In 122 of the cases reviewed, people received care that fell so far short of expected good practice that it significantly impacted on their well-being or directly contributed to their cause of death.

Based on the evidence from completed LeDeR reviews, the Report makes ten recommendations for the health and care system, as follows:

- i) A continued focus on the deaths of adults and children from BAME groups is required.
- ii) For the Department of Health and Social Care to work with the Chief Coroner to identify the proportion of deaths of people with learning disabilities referred to a coroner in England and Wales.
- iii) The standards against which the Care Quality Commission inspects should explicitly incorporate compliance with the Mental Capacity Act as a core requirement.
- iv) Establish and agree a programme of work to implement the from the 'Best practice in care coordination for people with a learning disability and long term conditions' (March 2019) report and liaise with the National Institute for Health Research regarding the importance of commissioning a programme of work that develops, pilots and evaluates different models of care coordination for adults and children with learning disabilities.
- v) Adapt (and then adopt) the National Early Warning Score 2 regionally to ensure it captures baseline and soft signs of acute deterioration in physical health for people with learning disabilities.
- vi) Consider developing, piloting and introducing: Specialist physicians for people with learning disabilities who would work within the specialist multi-disciplinary teams; a Diploma in Learning Disabilities Medicine; and making 'learning disabilities' a physician speciality of the Royal College of Physicians.
- vii) Consider the need for timely, NICE evidence-based guidance that is inclusive of prevention, diagnosis and management of aspiration pneumonia.

viii) Right Care to provide a toolkit to support systems to improve outcomes for adults and children at risk of aspiration pneumonia.

ix) Safety of people with epilepsy to be prioritised. The forthcoming revision of the NICE Guideline 'Epilepsies in children, young people and adults' to include guidance on the safety of people with epilepsy, and safety measures to be verified in Care Quality Commission inspections.

x) For a national clinical audit of adults and children admitted to hospital for a condition related to chronic constipation.

The inappropriate use of Do Not Attempt Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (DNACPR) decisions is highlighted in this fourth report, as it has been previously. DNACPRs should never be used in a blanket way and this has been reiterated during the Covid-19 crisis through letters from the NHSE, including the NHSE Medical Director on 7 April 2020, and by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on 15 April 2020.

I am clear that we must tackle the issues raised in the LeDeR report to ensure the care that each individual deserves is provided. We will consider the report and its recommendations in more detail in the coming weeks, in order to determine the action that must be taken.

## Liberty Protection Safeguards

[HLWS372]

**Lord Bethell:** My Hon Friend the Minister of State (Minister for Care) (Helen Whately) has made the following written statement:

This statement provides an update on the implementation of Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS). The Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act 2019, which received Royal Assent in May 2019, introduced LPS to replace Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS).

LPS will authorise deprivation of liberty in order to provide care or treatment to an individual who lacks capacity to consent to their arrangements, in England and Wales. It will replace a system that many agree is overly bureaucratic and complicated.

It is paramount that implementation of LPS is successful so that the new system provides the safeguards needed. The intention to date, subject to the Department for Health and Social Care's work with stakeholders and delivery partners, was for LPS to come into force on 1 October 2020.

It is now clear that successful implementation is not possible by this October. We now aim for full implementation of LPS by April 2022. Some provisions, covering new roles and training, will come into force ahead of that date. I will continue to update the sector and stakeholders on timings.

The Government will undertake a public consultation on the draft regulations and Code of Practice for LPS. That will run for 12 weeks, allowing sufficient time for

those that are affected, including those with learning disabilities, to engage properly.

The sector will need time following the publication of the final Code to prepare for implementation. We will give the sector sufficient time to prepare for the new system to ensure successful implementation. I am considering a period of approximately six months for this.

After we have considered responses to the consultation, the updated Code and regulations will need to be laid in Parliament to allow for proper scrutiny. This needs to happen well in advance of the target implementation date, first to allow for that scrutiny and second because some of the regulations need to come into force earlier.

Health and social care has been at the frontline of the nation's response to COVID-19, with social care providers looking after many of the most vulnerable in society. We have received representations from public and private bodies from across the sector over the last few months, outlining the pressures they face if they were to implement by October 2020.

My overall objective remains to ensure implementation of an effective system in particular for those whose lives will be most affected by this legislation.

The forthcoming draft Code of Practice and regulations will also offer more detailed information about how LPS will operate in practice. I will provide a further update on the progress of implementation in due course. I hope that the additional time announced today provides reassurance to the sector.

### **Patient Safety Incidents and Deaths: Liverpool Community Health NHS Trust**

[HLWS371]

**Lord Bethell:** My Hon Friend the Minister of State (Minister for Patient Safety, Suicide Prevention and Mental Health) (Nadine Dorries) has made the following written statement:

Following questions raised about the management of the Liverpool Community Health NHS Trust an Independent Review chaired by Dr Bill Kirkup CBE was established. The Review Report, published on 8 February 2018, found that there were significant failings in the Trust from November 2010 to December 2014.

It is important that these failings are investigated, and lessons learnt to improve services. In response to these serious patient safety incidents described in the Report the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care commissioned Dr Bill Kirkup to conduct an Independent Investigation into patient safety incidents at the Trust.

These Terms of Reference cover patient safety incidents that occurred in the same period as the initial Independent Review addressed, namely November 2010 to December 2014.

This Independent Investigation is being conducted over three stages. Stage 1 which identified individual serious patient safety incidents that had not been reported or

adequately investigated by the Trust and Stage 2 an examination of a series of historic mortality reviews.

We are now entering Stage 3 which will fully investigate those individual serious patient safety incidents identified from the previous stages to determine the scale of deaths and patient harm and identify local and national learning.

The work of the Independent Investigation Panel is expected to complete by the end of 2021 and arrangements will be made for publication of its Report to Parliament.

A copy of the Terms of Reference will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

### **Regulating Consumer Smart Product Security: Call for Views**

[HLWS369]

**Baroness Barran:** My Honourable Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Digital Infrastructure, Matt Warman MP, has made the following Statement:

This government has ambitious plans to ensure the UK's smart technology, products and services are more secure by having cyber security designed into them by default.

From January 2017 to February 2018, my department conducted a review, in collaboration with the National Cyber Security Centre, to identify proposals for improving the cyber security of consumer smart products and associated services. This led to the creation of our Code of Practice for Consumer Internet of Things (IoT) Security, which was published on 14 October 2018.

The Government initially encouraged industry to adopt the guidelines in the Code of Practice for Consumer IoT Security voluntarily. However, in many cases, poor security practices remain commonplace.

In a consultation held in 2019, we found widespread support for the introduction of a mandatory cyber security baseline for consumer smart products sold in the UK. As part of the Government response to the 2019 consultation, in January 2020 I announced the Government's intention to implement regulation to ensure that stronger security is built into consumer smart products, aligned with the top three security requirements of the Code of Practice for Consumer IoT Security.

Since then, my officials have been working with the National Cyber Security Centre, industry leaders and cyber security experts to develop world-leading legislation in this space. Today I am pleased to inform members that we are launching a public Call for Views on the Government's proposed regulatory approach to consumer smart products on the 16th of July. This will run until 6 September 2020, and represents an important opportunity for us to test our proposed approach, and for industry to input and build a regulatory framework that is world-leading, promotes innovation, and protects consumers.

Our proposed regulation will set a cyber security baseline for consumer smart products sold in the UK. The Call for Views will detail the scope of products the legislation would apply to, security requirements that we are proposing to mandate, obligations on producers and distributors, and a proposed enforcement approach. Following the conclusion of this call for views, we will develop our regulation approach further, before introducing legislation as soon as parliamentary time allows.

As a reserved matter, these proposed amendments will apply across the UK. The safety of consumer smart products is a priority across the whole of the UK, and my officials will continue to work closely with the Devolved Administrations on this policy.

### **Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures: 1 March 2020 to 31 May 2020**

[HLWS368]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Priti Patel) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

Section 19(1) of the Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures Act 2011 (the Act) requires the Secretary of State to report to Parliament as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of every relevant

three-month period on the exercise of her TPIM powers under the Act during that period.

The level of information provided will always be subject to slight variations based on operational advice.

TPIM notices in force (as of 31 May 2020)	6
Number of new TPIM notices served (during this period)	0
TPIM notices in respect of British citizens (as of 31 May 2020)	6
TPIM notices extended (during the reporting period)	1
TPIM notices revoked (during the reporting period)	0
TPIM notices revived (during the reporting period)	1
Variations made to measures specified in TPIM notices (during the reporting period)	0
Applications to vary measures specified in TPIM notices refused (during the reporting period)	2
The number of subjects relocated under TPIM legislation (during this the reporting period)	3

The TPIM Review Group (TRG) keeps every TPIM notice under regular and formal review. Second quarter TRG meetings took place on 31 May 2020.

One individual has been charged with two counts of breaching their TPIM notice. The criminal trial has been listed to be heard in January 2021.

# Written Answers

Thursday, 16 July 2020

## Animal Welfare: Sentencing

Asked by **Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to increase the penalties for animal welfare offences. [HL6576]

**Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park:** The Government is supporting the Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Bill as it makes its way through Parliament. The Bill will increase the maximum custodial penalty for animal cruelty from six months' imprisonment to five years' imprisonment.

The new maximum penalty of five years is in line with campaigns by key stakeholders such as Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, Dogs Trust and the RSPCA. This is a positive step forward in improving animal welfare and will act as a serious deterrent against cruelty and neglect. Northern Ireland has already set the maximum penalty for animal cruelty offences at five years' imprisonment, and the Scottish Government introduced the Animals and Wildlife (Penalties, Protections and Powers) (Scotland) Bill on 30 September 2019. The Welsh Government has confirmed that the new maximum penalty being proposed should apply in Wales.

The increase to five years' imprisonment will provide one of the toughest sanctions in Europe, strengthening the UK's position as a global leader on animal welfare. This builds on recent positive action the Government has taken to improve animal welfare standards, such as a requirement for CCTV in all slaughterhouses and implementing one of the world's toughest ivory bans. For companion animals, we have introduced new updated minimum welfare standards for pet selling, dog breeding, riding schools, animal boarding and exhibiting animals, as well as a ban on the commercial third-party sale of puppies and kittens.

## Armed Forces: Domestic Abuse

Asked by **Lord Tunnicliffe**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many reports of domestic abuse (1) the Royal Military Police, (2) the Royal Air Force Police, and (3) the Royal Navy Police, dealt with in (a) 2015, (b) 2016, (c) 2017, (d) 2018, (e) 2019, and (f) 2020 to date. [HL6648]

**Baroness Goldie:** There is no statutory offence of 'domestic abuse' and actions amounting to it could be recorded under a number of offences such as Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH), Actual Bodily Harm (ABH), Common Assault or sexual offences. Furthermore, within military police crime-recording systems, the categorisation of whether an incident involves 'domestic violence' or not, is not a mandatory field, meaning that the figures provided are indicative only.

The first document provided gives figures for the number of reported offences for each Service for the years 2015-2020 to date where the incident has been categorised as involving domestic violence. The second document provided gives figures for each Service for the years 2015-2020 to date, for the number of GBH, ABH, and Common Assault offences. The noble Lord should note that in both of the documents, the figures given are for reported offences – that is, to say an allegation has been made. These figures do not relate to charges brought or court convictions.

An average time cannot be given regarding the Chain of Command (CoC) reporting such incidents to the Service Police. Every case would require examination to determine when it was reported to the Service Police and not every investigation file may contain the date when an incident was originally reported to the CoC. Therefore, we would not be able to provide a complete answer and what we could provide could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However where reported to the CoC, any incident of domestic abuse must be reported to the Service Police no later than 24 hours after the incident has occurred. Further to this, a referral to the Welfare Service must be made in any situation involving domestic abuse or similar allegations.

Whilst there are no houses on the defence estate dedicated specifically for survivors of domestic abuse, support is provided through a suite of policies which seek to provide housing options for families in times of estrangement.

Short term accommodation for welfare or compassionate reasons is administered by Service welfare associations. Tri-Service accommodation policy requires the provision of welfare houses at each designated establishment, scaled to reflect density of Service population. Unit welfare staff, in conjunction with civilian police and local authorities assess whether utilisation of such are in the best interests of safeguarding abuse survivors, and may provide alternative accommodation (through local authority or charitable provision) if distance between perpetrator and survivor is required.

The MOD is currently reviewing the tri-service policy on domestic abuse with the help of leading charity Hestia, who sit alongside MOD on the Employer's Initiative on Domestic Abuse. It is intended that this policy apply to the whole force – civilians, contractors and the single Services. The review will also focus on the availability of accommodation for survivors, taking advice from the domestic abuse charity Standing Together. MOD intends to refresh and re-launch the policy towards the end of 2020.

The MOD continually monitors whole force data on domestic abuse for prevalence and risk factors – this has been of particular focus during the Covid-19 pandemic. This data is disseminated and discussed within the MOD Domestic Abuse Stakeholder Forum the Domestic Abuse Working Group (DAWG), which meets quarterly. The DAWG seeks advice and guidance from national

domestic abuse charities like Hestia, Aurora New Dawn and the Employer's Initiative on Domestic Abuse, resulting in continual policy improvement.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL6648 - AF Common Assault Data  
[20200710\_PQ\_07865\_Figures for ABH-GBH-Common Assault (1).xlsx]

HL6648 - AF Domestic Violence Tick Box [20200710\_PQ 07865 - Domestic Violence Tick Box.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-08/HL6648>

*Asked by Lord Tunncliffe*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many houses on the defence estate are available to survivors of domestic abuse. [HL6692]

*Asked by Lord Tunncliffe*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many days, on average, it takes for the British Armed Forces chain of command to engage with the Royal Military Police on reports of domestic abuse. [HL6693]

*Asked by Lord Tunncliffe*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to analyse 'Whole Force' data (1) to identify the prevalence of domestic abuse and potential risk factors, and (2) to evaluate the effectiveness of prevention measures and interventions, in order to refine and improve the policy and practice of the British Armed Forces. [HL6694]

**Baroness Goldie:** There is no statutory offence of 'domestic abuse' and actions amounting to it could be recorded under a number of offences such as Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH), Actual Bodily Harm (ABH), Common Assault or sexual offences. Furthermore, within military police crime-recording systems, the categorisation of whether an incident involves 'domestic violence' or not, is not a mandatory field, meaning that the figures provided are indicative only.

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## **Armed Forces: Families**

*Asked by Lord Tunncliffe*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much funding has been spent by the Ministry of Defence to implement the Armed Forces Families' Strategy in (1) 2016, (2) 2017, (3) 2018, (4) 2019, and (5) 2020 to date. [HL6695]

**Baroness Goldie:** Although it is not possible to provide the figures requested, the UK Armed Forces Families

Strategy remains one of our priorities, setting the principles against which the Ministry of Defence (MOD) formulates policy; this acknowledges the challenges which mobility and separation present to family life, alongside the numerous positive aspects of Service life. Success is measured in satisfaction levels and improved outcomes for families, rather than in financial expenditure. In adhering to the principles of the strategy MOD has introduced flexible working, the Future Accommodation Model and is working across government, in the devolved administrations and the charitable sector to mitigate disadvantage in access to education and healthcare through the Armed Forces Covenant. £317 million has been provided by MOD to circa 21,000 families under the Forces Help to Buy Scheme - the current tranche of the scheme runs until December 2022 and we will actively look to extend this. This Government has committed to funding wrap around childcare for Armed Forces families, and recently announced the launch of a pilot programme beginning in September.

### Children: Vocational Guidance

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they will ensure that all children receive careers guidance during school closures. [[HL6422](#)]

**Baroness Berridge:** The Careers & Enterprise Company (CEC) continues to support schools and colleges to provide young people and their parents with high-quality careers education and guidance, working with the network of local partners and providers across the country to do so. This includes supporting Careers Leaders and employers to deliver virtual careers activities, including work experience and mock interviews. The CEC worked in partnership with Oak National Academy and Learn Live to create 'My Week of Work', which ran from 8-12 June. There were 35,066 users on the Oak platform during the week, while 84,933 students and 758 schools registered for the Learn Live employer Q&As. The week inspired and prepared young people for the world of work by allowing them to hear from over 30 leading employers, including Burberry, BAE Systems, Morgan Sindall, Microsoft and NHS Trusts. Students heard from employees, learned about the businesses, and completed virtual work tasks.

The National Careers Service continues to provide high-quality, impartial careers information, advice, and guidance for young people via its helpline, website and web chat facility throughout this difficult time. In addition, the National Careers Service will operate an exam results helpline to ensure that young people receiving their GCSE and A Level results this summer can get advice from qualified advisers. We anticipate over 2700 young people will call the helpline this year.

### Disability: Coronavirus

*Asked by Lord Low of Dalston*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they intend to offer disabled people and their families as the restrictions in place to address the COVID-19 pandemic are eased. [[HL6416](#)]

**Baroness Stedman-Scott:** The Government is committed to supporting disabled people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work has had discussions with charities, disabled people's organisations and individuals to understand the range of experiences disabled people have had during the COVID-19 pandemic and to identify the support needed as lockdown restrictions are eased.

The Government is ensuring that disabled people continue to have access to accessible communications, updated guidance, including workplace and transport related guidance, as well as access to food, medicines and essential supplies, disability benefits and other financial support during the COVID-19 pandemic. Unpaid carers in financial need are able to access the full range of Social Security benefits, which include Universal Credit, Pension Credit and Carer's Allowance.

The Government continues to support disabled employees to access assistive technology and other forms of support they need to retain, adapt and move into employment through the Access to Work scheme. All equality and discrimination laws and obligations continue to apply during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Cabinet Office Disability Unit continues to work with disability stakeholders and across Government Departments to ensure that the needs of disabled people are considered in the UK Government's response to COVID-19.

### Education: Equality

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Berridge on 30 June (HL5626), how they ensure that the UK has an inclusive education system which recognises and embraces diversity when schools make their own choices about what is taught. [[HL6424](#)]

**Baroness Berridge:** All state-funded schools in England have a duty to teach a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school, and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. Under the Equality Act 2010, schools must also not discriminate against a pupil in a number of respects because of a characteristic protected by the Act.

The Department for Education has published guidance to help schools fulfil their duties under the Act. This includes advice on the Public Sector Equality Duty which requires public bodies, including state-funded schools, to have due regard to the need to: foster good relations across all protected characteristics; advance equality of opportunity for people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and eliminate discrimination and other conduct prohibited by the Act. Additionally, the Independent Schools Standards requires independent schools to encourage respect for others, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Act.

Schools and further education colleges are also required to actively promote fundamental British values, including individual liberty, and mutual respect of those of different faiths and beliefs. The Department for Education has published advice for schools on promoting these values, and has made resources available through the 'Educate Against Hate' website. This website provides teachers, school leaders and parents with the information, guidance and support they need to challenge radical and discriminatory views.

The school's curriculum, including how well it meets these duties and expectations, is at the centre of Ofsted's school inspections. Ofsted will expect a good curriculum to equip pupils for life in modern Britain. Inspectors will look at how well schools are developing pupils' understanding of the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. They will take account of pupils' understanding and appreciation of the range of different cultures at the school and further afield; pupils' ability to recognise and value the things we share in common across cultural, religious, social and socio-economic communities; and pupils' interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity and the extent to which they understand, accept and respect diversity. Ofsted's school inspection handbook also sets the expectation that in a school with 'good' personal development, the school promotes equality of opportunity and diversity effectively. As part of assessing the school's leadership and management, inspectors also consider the school's adherence to its duties under the Equality Act 2010.

### Employment Schemes: Coronavirus

*Asked by Lord Porter of Spalding*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether employment programmes could be targeted to support the economic recovery of local authority areas from COVID-19. [HL6418]

**Baroness Stedman-Scott:** The economic recovery package will have a number of components, at both national and local levels. Although contracted provision is often delivered more effectively at national level, we recognise the key role local areas will have in

supplementing that provision with the best possible support offer, tailored more specifically to local needs.

The Department offers significant support to unemployed people across Great Britain, through our network of Jobcentres. Our Jobcentres are using digital technology to host virtual jobfairs, working with employers to deliver online mentoring circles and facilitating sector based work academies. In addition, Work Coaches are conducting customer support calls with new Universal Credit and New Style Jobseekers Allowance claimants, providing support with finding a job, help with retraining or skills advice, CVs and job applications, and access to the new vacancies.

### Food: Import Duties

*Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to protect British food standards under any dual tariff proposals. [HL6509]

**Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park:** The Government stood on a manifesto commitment that in all of our trade negotiations, we will not compromise on our high environmental protection, animal welfare and food standards. The EU Withdrawal Act will transfer all existing EU food safety provisions, including existing import requirements, onto the UK statute book.

We are going into all our trade negotiations clear that we will uphold our food standards in future deals and we will use the most appropriate levers available to achieve this.

### History: Curriculum

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the national curriculum framework includes (1) black history, and (2) content on the UK's colonial and imperial past. [HL6423]

**Baroness Berridge:** The department is committed to an inclusive education system which recognises and embraces diversity and supports all pupils and students to tackle racism and have the knowledge and tools to do so.

The national curriculum is a framework setting out the content of what the department expects schools to cover in each subject. The curriculum does not set out how curriculum subjects, or topics within the subjects, should be taught. The department believes teachers should be able to use their own knowledge and expertise to determine how they teach their pupils, and to make choices about what they teach.

As part of a broad and balanced curriculum, pupils should be taught about different societies, and how different groups have contributed to the development of Britain, and this can include the voices and experience of Black people. The flexibility within the history curriculum means that there is the opportunity for teachers to teach about Black history across the spectrum

of themes and eras set out in the curriculum. For example, at key stage 1, schools can teach about the lives of key Black historical figures such as Mary Seacole and Rosa Parks or others; and at key stage 3, cover the development and end of the British Empire and Britain's transatlantic slave trade, its effects and its eventual abolition. The teaching of Black history need not be limited to these examples.

It is important that pupils are taught how Britain has influenced and been influenced by the wider world. A balanced history curriculum equips pupils to ask perceptive questions, to think critically, to weigh evidence, sift arguments, and develop perspective and judgement. Fundamentally, it supports pupils to understand how Britain became the country it is today.

There is also scope to include Black and minority ethnic history and experience in other curriculums, such as in:

**Citizenship:** At key stage 4, students should be taught about the diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom and the need for mutual respect and understanding.

**PSHE:** Schools have flexibility to teach topics such as Black history as part of their Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE) programme and through the introduction of Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education students will be taught the importance of respectful relationships in particular how stereotypes, based on sex, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation or disability, can cause damage.

### **Industrial Health and Safety: Leicester**

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to investigate reports that clothing manufacturing businesses in Leicester (1) have not complied with the restrictions in place to address the COVID-19 pandemic, and (2) do not intend to follow the restrictions being put in place to address the localised lockdown. [HL6401]

**Baroness Stedman-Scott:** The Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) website ([www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)) has advice for businesses and organisations on the precautions required in the workplace, including from COVID-19 and enables employees and others to contact HSE about working conditions or practices. HSE has also been working alongside other government departments across a range of sectors following up reports and concerns about safety in the workplace and COVID-19 restrictions.

Throughout the pandemic, HSE has actively engaged with businesses, including clothing manufacturers, by site visits and phone calls, investigating reports from those raising concerns, assessing compliance with health and safety law, and using guidance such as that published about social distancing from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy:

(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19>).

Specifically, in Leicester HSE has investigated 3 textile businesses following concerns reported, contacted 17 and undertaken 14 site visits to assess compliance with health and safety legislation. Enforcement action has been taken at 1 of these sites where non-compliance with COVID-19 risk controls was found.

HSE will continue to regulate workplaces by carrying out proactive spot checks over the coming weeks to ensure that appropriate measures are in place to protect workers from COVID-19. In Leicester, HSE has prioritised these spot checks in the textile industry and will take enforcement action to secure compliance where businesses cannot demonstrate they are taking all reasonable steps to make their workplace COVID secure. HSE will also continue to respond to reports of concerns raised.

(Footnote – It is usual to provide documents when web links are used in Parliamentary Questions but during the COVID – 19 outbreak Government Departments have used interactive websites that allow stakeholders to access a wide range of guidance that is relevant to their situation. These sites have content pages that link to other sites and documents.)

### **Iraq: Turkey**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they intend to make to the government of Turkey about reports of attacks by Turkish armed forces on settlements in Iraq and the subsequent deaths of Kurdish civilians living there. [HL6409]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK is closely following the situation in northern Iraq. Our Ambassador in Ankara has spoken to the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including on reports of civilian casualties. We continue to urge dialogue and cooperation between Iraq and Turkey to combat terrorism, ensure regional security and protect civilians.

### **Religious Society of Friends: Coronavirus**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they intend to have with representatives of the British Society of Friends to discuss post COVID-19 pandemic recovery plans. [HL6561]

**Lord Greenhalgh:** Faith leaders and communities continue to play a critical role in our response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Government has been working closely with all major faith groups through Minister-led faith leader roundtables, as well as through the Places of Worship Taskforce. The roundtable engagement has directly fed into our decision making and has included representation from the British Society of Friends. This

engagement will continue through our response to this pandemic.

### **Syria: Sanctions**

*Asked by Baroness Cox*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 18 June (HL5356), whether EU sanctions will continue to apply in the UK after the Transition Period. [HL6213]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** After the Transition Period, the UK and the EU will pursue independent sanctions policies, driven by our respective foreign policies. Her Majesty's Government is transferring existing EU sanctions into UK law through regulations made under the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018. We aim to transition the remaining EU sanctions regime into UK law by the end of the transition period but, as a safeguard, any sanctions regimes which we do not transition by then will be retained by effect of the EU (Withdrawal) Act 2018. These regulations will come into force on 1 January 2021, at which point existing EU sanctions will become autonomous UK sanctions.

### **Teachers: Coronavirus**

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many teachers have been in receipt of full pay and (1) have not had to teach, and (2) have had to teach for less than two days a week, as a result of the restrictions in place to address the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL6400]

**Baroness Berridge:** State-funded schools have continued to receive their budgets for the year, as usual, regardless of any periods of partial or complete closure. This has ensured that schools have been able to continue to pay their staff in full and meet their other regular financial commitments.

The specific information requested at (1) and (2) is not held centrally by the department.

### **Telecommunications: Huawei**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when Huawei was first given access to the UK's telecommunications infrastructure; what assessment was made of any security, defence and human rights implications of that decision at that time; whether Parliament was consulted; and which Ministers had to approve that access. [HL6395]

**Baroness Barran:** The details of Huawei's entry into the UK market and associated decision making were subject of an inquiry by the Intelligence and Security Committee into 'Foreign involvement in the Critical National Infrastructure - The implications for national

security'. The findings of which were published in June 2013 followed by the government response in July 2013.

The government response accepted the Committee's conclusion that the processes of considering national security issues at the time in 2003-06 were insufficiently robust and that Ministers should have been informed.

### **Terrorism: Northern Ireland**

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to reports of delays by the Northern Ireland Executive in administering the payment of pensions to victims of the Troubles in Northern Ireland, what plans they have, if any, to ensure that these payments take place. [HL6668]

**Viscount Younger of Leckie:** The Government is taking this matter very seriously and we are extremely disappointed by the current delay.

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland is working tirelessly to see a resolution on departmental designation by the Executive Office, which is the next vital step towards this scheme opening. The Executive needs to designate a department that can own the policy and implement the scheme so that applications can be processed and payments made to victims.

The Government provided a legislative framework for this scheme in the absence of an Executive and the Executive must now deliver.

### **Voluntary Organisations: Coronavirus**

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support BAME community organisations which have lost heritage funding as a result of the restrictions in place to address the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL6387]

**Baroness Barran:** Government is fully committed to supporting the heritage sector through the coronavirus crisis. BAME community organisations are able to take advantage of the unprecedented support made available by the Government, including the Job Retention Scheme and a years' business rates holiday. In addition to Government support, Historic England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund have made emergency response packages available, totalling over £50 million, for those organisations most in need.

### **Windrush Generation: Compensation**

*Asked by Baroness Hamwee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their target for the number of (1) claims settled in full, and (2) interim awards made, in respect of the Windrush Compensation Scheme within (a) 18 months, and (b) one year, of the commencement of that Scheme. [HL5671]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We are processing claims as quickly as possible, but all claims are different, and the time taken will depend on many factors, including the complexity of the case. We are committed to working with the claimant to ensure all possible information is taken into account - this will have an impact on the length of time it takes to process the claim but can result in a higher level of payment. Wherever possible, we will make interim payments on parts of the claim that are straightforward to determine, such as immigration fees, thereby speeding up the provision of compensation.

### **Yvonne Fletcher**

*Asked by Lord Willoughby de Broke*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by the Prime Minister on 1 July (HC Deb, col

327), what steps they are taking to prosecute the person responsible for the death of WPC Yvonne Fletcher. [[HL6426](#)]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is not currently considering charges against anyone in relation to the tragic death of PC Yvonne Fletcher.

In any case referred to the CPS by the police, a decision to prosecute is made in accordance with the Code for Crown Prosecutors, and a case must meet the evidential and public interest stages of the Code Test.

In accordance with the Code, the CPS will consider any new information that is referred to them by the police in relation to this case, and will continue to bring offenders to justice wherever possible.

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