

**Session 2019-21
No. 94**



**Monday
27 July 2020**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN ANSWERS

Written Answers.....1

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<i>Minister</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
Baroness Evans of Bowes Park	Leader of the House of Lords and Lord Privy Seal
Earl Howe	Deputy Leader of the House of Lords
Lord Agnew of Oulton	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 Answers

Monday, 27 July 2020

Adoption: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the access of local authorities and adoptive parents to therapeutic services provided through the Adoption Support Fund during the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL6871]

Baroness Berridge: The government acted quickly to establish the Adoption Support Fund COVID-19 scheme in April 2020. The government provided over £6 million to local authorities and regional adoption agencies through the Adoption Support Fund COVID-19 scheme to enable them to provide specific therapeutic support to adoptive and eligible special guardianship families for needs arising from the COVID-19 outbreak. The funding included support for activities which would normally be outside the standard Adoption Support Fund. Local authorities and regional adoption agencies were invited to apply between 27 April and 12 June 2020 and 433 applications were approved supporting up to 61,000 families.

We also introduced flexible arrangements for the standard Fund, including allowing therapy to be amended to take account of the COVID-19 restrictions.

Apprentices

Asked by Lord Allen of Kensington

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review (1) the apprenticeship system, and (2) the apprenticeship levy. [HL6746]

Baroness Berridge: The government is committed to improving the working of the apprenticeship system and the apprenticeship levy. We are continuing to engage closely with businesses and to listen to their views about the operation of the levy and the apprenticeships programme more broadly, taking into account the impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

The government's 'Plan for Jobs' will help to kickstart the nation's economic recovery and apprenticeships will be more important than ever in helping businesses to recruit the right people and develop the skills they need to recover and grow, both now and in the long-term.

We recognise that employers at the moment face increased challenges with hiring new apprentices and so we will introduce a new payment of £2,000 to employers in England for each new apprentice they hire under 25, and a £1,500 payment for each new apprentice they hire aged 25 and over, from 1 August 2020 to 31 January 2021. Details can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-treasury>.

Armed Forces: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Robathan

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether it is their policy that Armed Forces personnel be confined to barracks during the COVID-19 pandemic; and if so, whether any such policy has applied to (1) personnel undergoing training at depots, schools, bases and officer training establishments, (2) directing staff at such training establishments, and (3) all trained personnel of whatever rank. [HL6983]

Baroness Goldie: It is not Defence policy that Armed Forces personnel be confined to barracks during the COVID-19 pandemic. The only occasions on which personnel may be confined to their accommodation are if they are self- or household-isolating, or if they are required to isolate for a short period prior to deployment.

Art Works: Royalties

Asked by Lord Clement-Jones

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to continue the Artists Resale Rights regime as part of the future trade relationship with the EU. [HL6767]

Lord Callanan: The Government supports Artist's Resale Right (ARR), both domestically and internationally. It is provided for in UK law and after the transition period, the UK will continue to comply with its international obligations relating to ARR.

The final details of a future trade relationship between the UK and the EU will depend on the outcome of the ongoing negotiations.

Assessments: Ethnic Groups

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the accuracy of grade predictions for BAME students in schools. [HL6870]

Baroness Berridge: This is a matter for the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) and I have asked its Chief Regulator, Sally Collier, to write directly to the noble Lord. A copy of her reply will be placed in the House of Lords Library.

BBH Legal Services

Asked by Lord Mann

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much they paid in fees to BBH Legal Services Limited for work relating to the compensation schemes for health problems caused by mining. [HL6786]

Lord Callanan: In total, the Department and its precursors have paid a total of £96,282.85 in costs to

BBH Legal Services Limited. All payments have been made in respect of Noise-Induced Hearing Loss claims.

Care Homes: Closures

Asked by Lord Pendry

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many care homes have closed as a result of cuts to local authority budgets. [HL6507]

Lord Bethell: We do not hold data nationally on reasons for care home closures.

Under the Care Act 2014, local authorities are required to shape their local market to ensure that they are sustainable, diverse and offer high quality care and support for people in their local area. The Care Act places a duty on local authorities to ensure that people continue to receive the services they need if their adult social care provider is no longer able to carry on delivering services. As in any market there are entries and exits of care providers, however the number of overall care home beds has remained broadly constant over the last 10 years from 460,664 beds in 2010 to 457,847 beds, as of June 2020.

Care Homes: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Warner

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bethell on 15 June (HL4730), how many (1) claims, and (2) payments, have been made to the families of deceased care homes staff under the terms of the life assurance scheme for frontline National Health Service and social care staff; and what steps they have taken to draw the attention of families of deceased care homes staff to this scheme. [HL6738]

Lord Bethell: The Government launched the NHS and Social Care Coronavirus Life Assurance scheme on 20 May 2020. The scheme is non-contributory and pays a £60,000 lump sum where staff who had been recently working where personal care is provided to individuals who have contracted COVID-19 die as a result of the virus.

As of 13 July 2020, the scheme administrator has received 29 claims for social care as a whole in England, of which 25 claims are from the families of staff who had been providing adult social care in a care home. This is out of a total of 57 claims to the scheme. Of these 25, eight have been agreed for payment subject to receiving probate, nine require further information and eight are in the process of consideration.

The Department worked closely with stakeholders in the adult social care sector to ensure the details of the scheme were made as widely available as possible. This included cascading the information to employers through provider representatives, and also through the Care Quality Commission.

Care Homes: Protective Clothing

Asked by Lord Warner

To ask Her Majesty's Government what review arrangements are in place to assess whether care homes' access to personal protective equipment, including masks, meets their requirements; and what national schemes are in place to ensure an adequate supply of such equipment to care homes (1) now, and (2) in the future. [HL6740]

Lord Bethell: During this unprecedented global outbreak, we have kept our social care guidance under constant review and have been working tirelessly with the sector to reduce transmission and save lives. The Government is fully committed to ensuring care homes feel confident in their personal protective equipment (PPE) supply. We are now confident in the stocks and sources of supply of PPE to meet the needs of health and social care over the next seven and 90 days.

More widely, in the long term, we have set out a comprehensive action plan to support the adult social care sector throughout the COVID-19 outbreak. This has included £3.2 billion of funding for councils and providing millions of items of PPE.

Care Homes: Staff

Asked by Lord Turnberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that the proposed White Paper on social care will include greater support for the care home work force than has previously been available. [HL6650]

Lord Bethell: The Government has put in place increased support for the social care workforce, including funding to support those needing to isolate, wellbeing assistance and initiatives to attract more people to social care roles. We will continue to review this support as we develop long-term plans for supporting our vital social care workforce.

The Government's priority for adult social care is for everyone who relies on care to get the care they need throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are committed to bringing forward a plan for social care to ensure that everyone is treated with dignity and respect and to find long term solutions for one of the biggest challenges we face as a society. There are complex questions to address and it is important that we give these issues our full consideration in the light of current circumstances.

China: Uighurs

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the authenticity of the drone footage reported to show shackled and blindfolded Uighur Muslims being led from trains in China. [T] [HL6990]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are aware of the footage, which was initially published online in September 2019. Open source analysis indicates the people shown in the footage are Uyghur or other minorities in Xinjiang. We judge this analysis to be credible. The footage adds to the growing body of evidence on the disturbing situation that Uyghurs and other minorities are facing in Xinjiang.

Common Purpose: Finance

Asked by Lord Maginnis of Drumglass

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Common Purpose receives financial support from (1) the EU, and (2) any external sources; and if so, how much. [HL6855]

Lord True: The Government does not hold this information.

Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Keen of Elie on 30 June (HL5740), what comparative estimate they have made of the number of COVID-19 (1) cases, and (2) deaths, of (a) prisoners, and (b) the general population, in England and Wales. [HL6755]

Lord Keen of Elie: We do not hold the comparative data requested. However, on 24 April, we published Public Health England modelling which assessed the impact of the population management measures prisons have implemented in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and provided updated reasonable worst-case scenario estimates. This modelling suggested that the measures we have implemented have had a positive impact on limiting the transmission of the virus in prisons and minimising the number of deaths. The modelling can be found on gov.uk.

The Ministry of Justice releases a weekly publication of Covid-19 statistics, including prisoner Covid-19 cases and deaths. The publication can be found on gov.uk and is updated every Friday.

Coronavirus: Disease Control

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the adequacy of (1) supplier performance, and (2) value for money achieved, for their contracts established in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL6795]

Lord Bethell: Contracts are placed in line with Departmental terms and conditions which include clauses for contract management to ensure that supplier performance and the delivery of value for money can be properly assessed throughout the lifetime of the contract.

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Asked by Baroness Coussins

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the lack of COVID-19 information and advice in relevant languages on the death rate among BAME communities. [HL5291]

Lord Bethell: We have not made such an assessment. The Government has provided a wide range of guidance to support the country in tackling COVID-19 and considerable efforts are now underway to address that including work with stakeholder groups to help ensure messages are disseminated into different communities in culturally appropriate ways. For example, in Leicester, assets have been translated into 12 different languages, and a range of local community voices, such as faith leaders and local general practitioners, are engaged in supporting the campaign.

Coronavirus: Inquiries

Asked by Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe

To ask Her Majesty's Government what will be the terms of reference of the independent inquiry into COVID-19, announced on 15 July; and whether that inquiry will examine the prevalence of diabetes and obesity as key risk factors for patients with COVID-19. [HL7202]

Lord True: The Government has always been clear that there will be opportunities to look back, analyse and reflect on all aspects of COVID-19. As the Prime Minister has said, this will include an independent inquiry at the appropriate time. For now the Government is focused entirely on responding to the pandemic and saving lives. Further details will be set out in due course and announced in the usual way.

Coronavirus: Screening

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people in England have been tested for COVID-19 antibodies. [HL5121]

Lord Bethell: As of 19 July, over 1.31 million COVID-19 antibody tests have been carried out.

Asked by Baroness Jolly

To ask Her Majesty's Government, if a reliable COVID-19 antibody test is found, (1) which, (2) when, (3) how, (4) by whom, and (5) with what frequency, people will be tested. [HL5200]

Lord Bethell: Antibody testing is a key part of the Government's testing programme and will play an increasingly important role as we move into the next phase of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A positive antibody test result indicates that a person has previously had the virus and developed some form of

immune response. However, we do not currently know how long an antibody response to the virus lasts, nor whether having antibodies means a person cannot transmit the virus to others. Our understanding of the virus will grow as new scientific evidence and studies emerge.

Cricket: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Naseby

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will allow county cricket grounds to open to members only in the light of their ability to provide track and trace information through membership controls and to manage their grounds to ensure social distancing. [HL6899]

Baroness Barran: We are working closely with the sector, including the England and Wales Cricket Board, to facilitate the return of spectators to elite sport. A multidisciplinary working group, including medical directors from a number of sports, has begun to develop guidance around the return of spectators to stadia. Guidance will incorporate medical, sports, and venue expertise as well as the experience of other sectors that will reopen to audiences. Compliance with track and trace policies would be expected of any ticket holders.

We will continue to be led by wider public health guidance such as the "one metre plus" concept and the working group will reflect on all emerging best practice, both domestically and internationally, in their work.

Energy: Housing

Asked by Lord Stunell

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to Written Answer by Lord Callanan on 27 May (HL4211), what assessment they have made of the additional number of retrofit coordinators needed to deliver the £2 billion home energy retrofit programme announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 8 July; and what is their assessment of the number of retrofit coordinators who (1) have graduated, and (2) will have graduated, by 31 December. [HL6810]

Lord Callanan: There are currently 166 retrofit coordinators who have completed the training and over 250 more are undertaking it. Given the number of people completing the qualification is based on demand and individuals' chosen speed of training, we have not estimated how many will complete it by 31 December 2020.

Asked by Lord Stunell

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of their home energy retrofit programme on (1) employment in each region of England, and (2) the annual carbon emission tonnage reduction when the programme is completed. [HL6811]

Lord Callanan: A good supply of skilled workers is essential in order to meet our aspiration for as many UK homes as possible to be Energy Performance Certificate band C by 2035, where practical, cost-effective and affordable.

In 2018, the domestic and non-domestic energy efficiency sectors employed 153,600 people, but more will be required. The new Green Homes Grant scheme could deliver over 100,000 green jobs throughout the many different regions of England.

The Government calculates greenhouse gas emissions savings for a range of different policies, and we will equally do so for the Green Homes Grant scheme.

Asked by Lord Stunell

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to continue the home energy retrofit programme to upgrade the 20 million existing homes remaining unimproved at the conclusion of the current scheme on 31 March 2021. [HL6812]

Lord Callanan: The Government remains committed to delivering the aspiration set out in the Clean Growth Strategy for as many homes as possible to be Energy Performance Certificate Band C by 2035, where practical, cost-effective and affordable.

We are planning to publish a Heat and Buildings Strategy in due course, which will set out the immediate actions we will take for reducing emissions from buildings.

These actions include the deployment of energy efficiency measures and low carbon heating as part of an ambitious programme of work required to enable key strategic decisions that set us on a path to decarbonising all homes and buildings.

Film: Ethnic Groups

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by Clive James Race and ethnicity in the UK film industry: an analysis of the BFI diversity standards, published on 15 July. [HL6909]

Baroness Barran: The Government's aim is to see a UK cultural and creative sector that is strong, vibrant and inclusive, which can only be achieved through a diverse and representative workforce. We recognise there is still much to be done to improve diversity and inclusion across both the film and wider creative industries workforce and are working with industry - including the BFI and Creative Industries Council - on a range of measures to ensure the sector better reflects the diversity of the UK.

Whilst DCMS has made no assessment of Dr Nwonka's report, the Diversity Standards are an important part of the BFI's work, and as an arm's-length body of DCMS, the department works closely with them to ensure that they are as effective as possible in driving change.

Football: Racial Discrimination

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to issue a response to the study by RunRepeat Racial Bias in Football Commentary, published on 10 July. [HL7021]

Baroness Barran: Racial bias or any form of discrimination has no place in football or society.

The Government is committed to working with the whole of sport to ensure it is diverse and inclusive, and to supporting greater diversity in the media, which plays a vital role in British society. It is important that the media reflects modern Britain with its diversity of thought and experience, both on and off screen and this can only be possible with a representative, and diverse workforce.

We will continue to liaise closely with all the football authorities to tackle discrimination in the game. To this end, I welcomed the Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) background player-to-coach placement scheme jointly announced recently by the Premier League, English Football League and Professional Footballers' Association to increase diversity in football coaching.

Foreign Students: USA

Asked by Baroness Featherstone

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the announcement by the government of the United States that foreign students will not be able to stay in that country if universities have moved classes fully online, what steps they are taking (1) to protect, and (2) to support, British students planning on studying in the United States in the autumn. [HL6625]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: On 14 July, the government of the United States of America confirmed that it will not require international students to leave the country if they are unable to continue their studies in-person because of the COVID-19 outbreak. The government welcomes this decision.

Further Education: Finance

Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of (1) the overall funding gap, and (2) the shortfall in income from apprenticeships and other vocational courses, for further education colleges in (a) 2020/21, and (b) 2021/22. [HL6756]

Baroness Berridge: Working closely with the FE college sector we will receive a light touch financial return at the end of the 19/20 academic year setting out the year-end financial position for 19/20 and forecast for 20/21. On a voluntary basis, colleges can also provide information on 21/22. The return is designed to minimise the administrative burden on the sector during this time and therefore focuses on the finances at institutional level

and does not provide the level of detail to assess the impact at individual funding lines such as apprenticeships. The intention is to continue to monitor the impact and receive further submissions during 20/21. These returns will enable FE colleges with current or forecast financial issues to be identified.

In regard to the funding gap, the 20/21 return will allow us to make an overall assessment of the difference between income and costs for colleges.

Gambling: Internet

Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effectiveness of schemes in schools and colleges to raise awareness of the dangers of online gambling. [HL6833]

Baroness Berridge: We want to support all young people to be happy, healthy and safe and want to equip them for adult life and to make a positive contribution to society. Relationships Education for all primary school-aged pupils, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) for all secondary school-aged pupils, and Health Education for all pupils in state-funded schools, will become compulsory from 1 September 2020.

In light of the circumstances caused by the COVID-19 outbreak and, following engagement with the sector, the department is reassuring schools that although the subjects will still be compulsory from 1 September 2020, schools have flexibility over how they discharge their duty within the first year of compulsory teaching. For further information, I refer the noble Lord to the answer I gave on 10 June to Question 55660.

The subjects will support all young people in terms of managing risk, making informed decisions, as well as in key aspects such as mental wellbeing and online behaviour. Under the topic of internet safety and harms, the statutory guidance sets out that young people should be taught about the risks related to online gambling, including the accumulation of debt, how advertising and information is targeted at them, and how to be a discerning consumer of information online. The statutory guidance can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>.

As with other aspects of the curriculum, schools will have flexibility over how they deliver these subjects, so they can develop an approach that is sensitive to the needs and background of their pupils. Schools should assess each resource they intend to use, to ensure that it is appropriate for the age and maturity of pupils, and sensitive to their needs. These resources must also be factually accurate. We also expect schools to consult with parents on these matters and to make reasonable decisions about the content of their curriculum.

Many schools draw on the work of subject associations when choosing resources, for example the PSHE

Association. They have worked with organisations like Gamble Aware to develop a programme about the dangers of gambling.

To support schools, the department is investing in a central package to help all schools to teach these subjects. We are currently developing a new online service featuring training materials, an implementation guide and case studies. This will cover all of the teaching requirements in the statutory guidance, including modules on how teachers teach about the risks related to online gambling. The first training material, covering mental wellbeing, is now available on GOV.UK, and additional content will be added in the coming months.

Gaza: Agriculture

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they plan to make to the government of Israel about reports of the destruction of agricultural sites in Gaza by the Israeli military. [HL6817]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Whilst we have not made an assessment of these reports, we are troubled by reports of assaults on farmers and vandalism of agricultural land. We continue to stress the importance of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population.

Government Departments: Procurement

*Asked by **Lord Berkeley***

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to set out further details of their planned review of The Green Book; and what steps they are taking to ensure (1) that they effectively consider their target to reach net-zero emissions by 2050 in undertaking that review, and (2) that all Government departments treat reaching that target as a priority. [HL6758]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The Government's review of the Green Book - the government's core guidance on how to develop and appraise schemes against government objectives - is currently ongoing.

An updated Green Book will be published later in the year, and early findings will inform the allocations process at the Spending Review in Autumn.

The review is focused on ensuring that the guidance is consistent with the Government's ambition to level-up opportunity across the country, and it is also considering more broadly how project approval decisions are being made and looking at what clearer guidance and support to practitioners can be provided.

The Green Book currently provides a framework for valuing the costs and benefits of interventions, including with regards to climate change mitigation and other environmental impacts. The guidance requires that environmental impacts for projects and programmes are assessed and that legal commitments such as net-zero must be considered as part of appraisal.

Tackling climate change is a priority for the Government. The UK was the first major economy in the world to legislate for net zero, increasing the ambition of our commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions under the Climate Change Act 2008. The Government is committed to meeting that challenge.

Higher Education: Internet

*Asked by **Lord Bassam of Brighton***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they are planning to ensure that students registered at universities for the 2020–21 academic year who undertake courses through remote learning have (1) sufficient contact hours with tutors, and (2) effective learning support. [HL6874]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: English higher education (HE) providers are autonomous institutions – this means they have the freedom to determine the way their courses are taught, supervised, and assessed. However, providers that are registered with the Office for Students (OfS), the regulator of registered HE providers in England, must ensure that all students, from admission through to completion, have the support that they need to succeed in and benefit from HE. The government's expectation is that quality and academic standards must be maintained, and the OfS has made it clear that all HE providers must continue to comply with registration conditions relating to quality and standards, which set out requirements to ensure that courses are high quality, that students are supported and achieve good outcomes, and that standards are protected.

The OfS has published information and guidance for providers and students, and the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education has also published a series of guides to support providers in securing academic standards and supporting student achievement during the COVID-19 pandemic.

HE providers have indicated that they will deliver a blend of online teaching and in-person tuition in the autumn term that they consider appropriate and which is in line with public health advice. If students have concerns, there is a process in place for them to pursue them. They should first raise their concerns with their university. If their concerns remain unresolved, students at providers in England or Wales can ask the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education to consider their complaint. Notwithstanding the ongoing uncertainty, we expect providers to ensure that continuing and prospective students receive the clear, accurate, and timely information they need to make informed decisions. This includes making them aware of any potential for changes at the earliest opportunity.

The government is aware of the disproportionate impact that the pandemic will have on some students. We have already worked closely with the OfS to help clarify that providers can draw upon existing funding within the current academic year to provide hardship funds and support disadvantaged students affected by COVID-19,

including the purchase of IT equipment and mental health support. We have also allocated £100 million to support remote education, including to provide routers and laptops to vulnerable students, prioritising care leavers, including those at university.

House of Lords: Location

Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord True on 14 July (HL Deb, col 1546), whether they will place a copy of any correspondence relating to their expenditure so far on the possible relocation of the House of Lords to York in the Library of the House. [HL6883]

Lord True: The Prime Minister's letter to the CEO of the Restoration and Renewal Delivery Authority and the CEO of the R&R Sponsor Body, which requests that it give consideration to decant locations outside of London, were deposited in the Libraries of both Houses on 15 July. This letter is also publicly available on the parliamentary website.

The Government is keen to ensure the R&R of the Palace of Westminster delivers best value for money and would like the Sponsor Body to advise Parliament regarding a range of options as part of this process. As per the principle of exclusive cognisance, the location of Parliament is a matter for Parliament itself.

Housing: Construction

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether resources have been made available to pursue the recommendations of the Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission in its report Living with beauty, published on 30 January; and if so, (1) what is the extent of those resources, (2) where they have been allocated, and (3) whether the ongoing work on the recommendations includes full engagement with the mass housebuilding industry. [HL7098]

Lord Greenhalgh: The Government welcomes the report of the Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission, and is carefully considering its recommendations. A Government response will be published in due course.

Human Trafficking

Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 11 March (HL1946), whether they will now answer the question put, namely how many (1) non-EEA, and (2) non-UK national victims of trafficking with a positive conclusive grounds decision have received support following a recovery needs assessment. [HL6781]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The information requested on RNA data does not currently form part of the published NRM statistics. The Home Office publishes quarterly statistics regarding the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) which can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-referral-mechanism-statistics>.

The UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2019-uk-annual-report-on-modern-slavery>.

Human Trafficking: Children

Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 10 March (HL1877), when the next evaluation of the Independent Child Trafficking Guardians will be published. [HL6778]

Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children have been referred to Independent Child Trafficking Guardians since 1 February 2019. [HL6780]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: An evaluation of the Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (ICTG) service within the early adopter sites was published in July 2019 and can be found here (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/819723/evaluation-independent-child-trafficking-guardians-final-horrl11.pdf). This evaluation was conducted on the service provided in the three initial sites of Greater Manchester, Hampshire and Wales between February 2017 and January 2019. Over this time period, 445 children were referred to the ICTG service.

Later this year the Home Office will publish its next evaluation of the ICTG service, which will have a particular focus on the role and impact of the Regional Practice Co-Ordinator and will provide further updates on outcomes of the service including the number of children it supports.

In 2019, the Independent Review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, made a number of recommendations about ICTGs. In-line with the Government's response (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/815410/Government_Response_to_Independent_Review_of_MS_Act.pdf), we are considering these recommendations, alongside evaluation outcomes, which will feed into our future plans for ICTGs.

Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 11 March (HL1941), how much money has been allocated to fund Independent Child Trafficking

Guardians for this (1) financial year, and (2) the next two financial years. [HL6779]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Last year, the Government successfully rolled out Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (ICTGs) to one third of local authorities in England and Wales.

The continued national roll-out of ICTGs will be progressed as part of the recently established NRM Transformation Programme, which is designed to make sure we have a system that effectively identifies and delivers needs-based support for child and adult victims of modern slavery, is legally robust, sustainable and resilient to misuse. We will continue to review how the needs of individual children are best met at local level through the programme.

This financial year, the Home Office has allocated approximately £1.6m to the provision of Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (ICTGs) in the existing six early adopter sites. Home Office budget allocations for 2021/22 and 2022/23 will be determined in the next Spending Review.

Human Trafficking: Victim Support Schemes

Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have (1) to update the guidance on the recovery needs assessments, and (2) to publish an evaluation of the first nine months of the recovery needs assessment. [HL6782]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: This Government is committed to providing victims with the support that they need to help re-build their lives.

Since the roll-out of the Recovery Needs Assessment (RNA) in September 2019, we have worked collaboratively with The Salvation Army (TSA), TSA's subcontracted support providers and wider stakeholders to implement this new process and gather wider feedback from frontline staff on aspects of the published guidance.

An updated version of the guidance will be published later in 2020, alongside the introduction of a restructured RNA form which will be amended to reflect feedback from support workers using the form on the front line.

The 2020 Modern Slavery Annual Report, due for publication in October 2020, will include further information about the roll-out of the RNA over the past year.

Human Trafficking: Victims

Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of victims of human trafficking that have lost Government support and assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL6783]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Support provided to victims of modern slavery through the Victim Care Contract (VCC) is available to potential and confirmed victims for as long as they have an identified recovery need that cannot be met by alternative services.

A confirmed victim will only be exited from Victim Care Contract (VCC) support where the Recovery Needs Assessment (RNA) process finds that there is no longer an ongoing recovery need for VCC support or that the confirmed victim has access to alternative support services to meet their recovery needs, such as local authority housing or mainstream benefits. This process ensures that ongoing support is tailored to the victim's individual recovery needs arising from their modern slavery experiences.

Contingency planning has, and continues to, ensure essential services and support for all victims of modern slavery is available throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and as lockdown begins to ease. Through the RNA process, we also consider the impact the pandemic is having on access to alternative services which may impact on a victim's ability to move on from VCC services.

On 6 April, in line with Public Health England guidance, we announced that all individuals accommodated by the VCC would not be required to move on from their Government-funded accommodation for a period of three months. This has now been extended and the policy will remain in place until 6 August 2020.

Iraq: Turkey

Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of recent attacks in northern Iraq and Syria by Turkish warplanes. [HL6843]

Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that airstrikes by Turkish warplanes in Northern Iraq have hit internally displaced people and refugee camps in Sinjar; and what steps, if any, they intend to take in response to such reports. [HL6844]

Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of statements by the government of Turkey that they have 40 "military points" in the Kurdistan region of Iraq; and what steps, if any, they intend to take in response to this. [HL6845]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The British Ambassador in Ankara has raised the issue of Turkish military actions in northern Iraq with the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including the reports of civilian casualties. British diplomats have also discussed this with the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government. We continue to urge dialogue and cooperation between Iraq, including the Kurdistan Region, and Turkey to combat terrorism, ensure regional security and protect civilians.

Israel: Palestinians

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to encourage the government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority to work towards a lasting agreement based on a two-state solution. [HL6800]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK remains committed to achieving a two-state solution, based on 1967 lines with agreed land swaps, Jerusalem as the shared capital of both states, and a just, fair, agreed and realistic settlement for refugees. We continue to work closely with international partners advocating a two-state solution and encouraging a return to meaningful negotiations. The Foreign Secretary did so most recently in a meeting with the French Foreign Minister on 29 June and German Foreign Minister on 19 June. The Foreign Secretary also discussed the Middle East Peace Process and our opposition to the unilateral annexation of territory during calls with Alternate Israeli Prime Minister Gantz and Israeli Foreign Minister Ashkenazi. The Prime Minister has conveyed the UK's opposition to unilateral annexation to Prime Minister Netanyahu on 6 July and encouraged President Abbas to find a means of restarting dialogue with Israel on 14 July.

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about the case for establishing an independent investigation (1) into the death of Ibrahim Mustafa Abu-Yaaqouband, and (2) reports of an increasing number of attacks against Palestinians by the Israeli military. [HL6820]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Whilst we have not made representations on this case, we have raised the high numbers of Palestinians killed by the Israel Defense Forces in the West Bank and Gaza with the Israeli authorities. In instances where there have been accusations of excessive use of force, we have advocated swift, transparent investigations and if wrongdoing is found, that those responsible be held to account.

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that (1) Palestinians are unable to obtain building permits for their property, and (2) the lack of such permits is being used as a reason to demolish those properties; and what steps they are taking to protect such properties. [HL6821]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK is concerned by the continued demolition of Palestinian property by Israeli authorities. In all but the most exceptional of circumstances demolitions are contrary to International Humanitarian Law. The practice causes unnecessary suffering to ordinary Palestinians and is harmful to the peace process. We continue to urge the Government of Israel to develop improved mechanisms for zoning,

planning and permitting in Area C for the benefit of the Palestinian population, including by facilitating local Palestinian participation in such processes.

Israel: Sanctions

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to place sanctions on members of the government of Israel who have been accused of war crimes. [HL6818]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have no plans to sanction members of the Government of Israel.

Jerusalem: Religious Freedom

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the decision by a court in Jerusalem to reject the request by the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate to cancel the sale of three properties to Ateret Cohanim, what assessment they have made of the impact of that decision on religious freedom in Jerusalem. [HL6816]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have made no assessment of the decision on religious freedom in Jerusalem.

Local Education Authorities and Schools: Racial Discrimination

Asked by Lord Lucas

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that schools and local education authorities have available to them best-practice guides on (1) race issues, and (2) the Black Lives Matter campaign, so that they do not have to rely on advice from third parties; and what assessment they have made of reports of pressure groups with divisive philosophies seeking to provide schools with educational materials on these subjects. [HL6777]

Baroness Berridge: The Department for Education 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.

We want to support all young people to be happy, healthy and safe. We also want to equip them for adult life and to make a positive contribution to society. That is why we are making Relationships Education compulsory for primary school-age pupils, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) compulsory for secondary school-age pupils and Health Education compulsory for pupils in all state-funded schools, from September 2020.

The statutory guidance sets out that as part of Relationships Education, all primary-aged pupils will be taught the importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them, or make different

choices or have different preferences or beliefs. Pupils will also be taught what a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive. As with other aspects of the curriculum, schools will have flexibility over how they deliver these subjects, so they can develop an integrated approach that is sensitive to the needs and background of their pupils. The statutory guidance can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationship-s-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>.

The statutory guidance sets out clear advice on choosing resources. Schools should assess each resource they intend to use to ensure that it is appropriate for the age and maturity of pupils, and sensitive to their needs. These resources must be factually accurate. We also expect schools to consult with parents on these matters and to make reasonable decisions about the content of their curriculum. Schools should also ensure that, when they engage parents, they provide examples of the resources they plan to use, for example the books or materials they will use in lessons.

In Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education and Citizenship Education, pupils can develop their understanding of the diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom and the need for mutual respect and understanding.

Schools are required to actively promote fundamental British values, including democracy as well as the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faith 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 beliefs. Schools should also be aware of duties regarding impartiality and balanced treatment of political issues in the classroom to ensure content is handled in an appropriate way.

Middle East Quartet

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what diplomatic engagement they have had with the Middle East Quartet since 31 January. [HL6801]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Minister for the Middle East and North Africa met with the Office of the Quartet's Head of Mission during a virtual visit to the Occupied Palestinian Territories on 6 June. The UK is committed to making progress towards a two-state solution. We believe that negotiations will only succeed when they are conducted between Israelis and Palestinians, supported by the international community. We continue to work closely with the Quartet and like-minded diplomatic partners advocating a two-state solution and encouraging a return to meaningful negotiations.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government: Contracts

Asked by Lord Strasburger

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government will publish (1) the specific purposes of the contracted services, (2) a cost-benefit analysis of the contracted services, and (3) the Data Protection Impact Assessment, for its contract with Faculty for data science services. [HL6805]

Lord Greenhalgh: The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) are planning to publish the amended version of the Faculty contract that will include the specific purposes of the contracted services that were carried out. This is anticipated to be published on the Contract Finder website the week commencing the 27 July.

No cost benefit analysis of the contracted services has been undertaken at this time. A robust selection process was carried out through the Crown Commercial Service's G-Cloud Digital Marketplace.

MHCLG does not routinely publish Data Protection Impact Assessments completed by the Department.

Nature Conservation

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the risks to humans arising from re-wilding in England. [HL6857]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Rewilding often includes the re-introduction of species to restore ecosystems and natural processes. Any reintroduction or conservation translocation of a species should follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) guidelines. As part of this, a rewilding project should consider the risk or impacts that the reintroduction may have on humans.

The Government is currently developing of Code of Best Practice and Guidance for assessing the merits and risks of a reintroduction proposal. We would expect any such proposal to follow this, which will set the standards that a project needs to meet where a licence for release is needed.

Natural England already considers risks to humans in its assessment of a reintroduction proposal. The Government has also taken action to address such risks. For example, we have limited the potential sources for importation of beaver to ensure that animals released in England are disease-free.

Nitrous Oxide: Death

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people have died from inhaling nitrous oxide. [HL7033]

Lord True: The information requested falls under the remit of the UK Statistics Authority. I have therefore asked the Authority to respond.

Dear Lord Kennedy,

As National Statistician and Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority, I am responding to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people have died from inhaling nitrous oxide (HL7033).

In March 2018 we published a report providing the number of deaths related to volatile substance abuse and helium in England, Wales and Scotland[1]. This report describes trends in deaths involving volatile substances registered between 2001 and 2016 in Great Britain. Please see table 1 below for data where types of volatile substance are mentioned on the death certificate from the March 2018 publication. We would recommend referring to the report, where possible, due to the complexity of the methodology surrounding the use of coroner's text to identify relevant deaths.

Following the March 2018 publication, we published ad-hoc requests from members of the public, which include: the number of deaths in England and Wales involving nitrogen and nitrous oxide 2001-2016[2]; and deaths where nitrous oxide was mentioned on the death certificate 1993-2017[3]. Please note, published figures differ across these datasets due to the methodology used and the differing definitions of nitrous oxide deaths.

We intend to publish an update of the volatile substance report and accompanying datasets later this year. This is dependent on resource due to the current pandemic.

Yours sincerely

Professor Sir Ian Diamond

Table 1: Number of deaths related to volatile substance abuse, where types of volatile substance mentioned on the death certificate, England and Wales, deaths registered in 2001 to 2016 [4] [5] [6] [7] [8]

Registration Year	Nitrogen related deaths
2001	1
2002	1
2003	0
2004	1
2005	1
2006	1
2007	5
2008	2
2009	3
2010	5
2011	4
2012	2
2013	5
2014	9
2015	16
2016	23

[1]

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/articles/deathsrelatedtovolatilesubstancesandheliumingreatbritain/latest>

[2]

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/adhocs/008203deathsinvolvingnitrogenandnitrousoxideinenglandandwales2001to2016>

[3]

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/adhocs/009096drugrelateddeathsinvolvingnitrousoxideinenglandandwales1993to2017>

[4] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth revision (ICD-10) codes.

[5] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[6] Figures are for deaths registered rather than occurring in each calendar year.

[7] Specific substances included in each category, details are available in the published dataset.

[8] Counts total to more than the total number of VSA deaths, because more than one substance group can be involved in a single death.

Palestinians: Politics and Government

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the prospect for intra-Palestinian reconciliation, and (2) the likelihood of elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council. [HL6799]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK views the Palestinian Authority (PA) as the legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people. We are supportive of Hamas-Fatah reconciliation attempts, and of the PA returning to resume government functions in Gaza, helping to improve the dire humanitarian and economic situation and restore effective and accountable governance. Genuine and democratic national elections for all Palestinians are crucial to the establishment of a viable and sovereign Palestinian state. To this end, we call on all Palestinian factions to seek common ground and to work together to pursue a positive path towards democracy for the full benefit of the Palestinian people.

Pedestrian Areas: Social Distancing

Asked by Lord Allen of Kensington

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance they have given to local authorities on the pedestrianisation of streets to facilitate greater space for restaurants and bars to trade while practicing appropriate social distancing. [HL6743]

Lord Greenhalgh: The COVID-19 Secure: Urban Centres and Green Spaces guidance provides owners and

operators with a framework to support social distancing in our town centres and parks. This was published on 13 May and subsequently updated on 26 June 2020. The guidance provides local authorities with practical advice in considering how greater space for restaurants and bars to trade can be provided while ensuring social distancing can be facilitated and maintained in urban centres. This includes advice on pedestrianisation of streets.

Traffic authorities already have powers to close roads for a variety of reasons, including pedestrianisation, through Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs). There is updated statutory guidance on the traffic management duty in response to COVID-19 on the gov.uk website (attached) at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reallocating-road-space-in-response-to-covid-19-statutory-guidance-for-local-authorities>. This encourages authorities to make changes to their road layouts to give more space to cyclists and pedestrians.

The Department for Transport laid regulations on 22 May 2020 making it easier and quicker for traffic authorities to make TROs to deal with coronavirus.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Traffic management in response to COVID-19 [Traffic Management Act 2004_ network management in response to COVID-19 - GOV.UK - HL6743.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-13/HL6743>

Pension Schemes Bill (HL): Queen's Consent

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask the Senior Deputy Speaker why Queen's Consent was required in respect of the Pensions Schemes Bill. [HL6875]

Lord McFall of Alcluith: Queen's Consent is required for provisions affecting the Royal Prerogative, and the hereditary revenues, the Duchy of Lancaster or the Duchy of Cornwall, and the personal property or personal interests of the Crown. Queen's Consent was sought for the Pension Schemes Bill as it affected the interests of the Crown in relation to the pensions of Royal Household employees.

Public Health: Disclosure of Information

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the control of patient information notices published by the Department of Health and Social Care covers the release of patient identifiable information to local public health teams; and if so, whether any policy prevents local Directors of Public Health from receiving such information. [HL6483]

Lord Bethell: It is of vital importance that the health and care sector is able to access the data it needs to respond to COVID-19. A Control of Patient Information Notice was issued to require a range of organisations to share and process data for COVID-19 purposes. This should include sharing data with public health teams responding to COVID-19.

The Notice only applies to data processed for COVID-19 purposes and organisations must also meet other regulatory and legal requirements such as the General Data Protection Regulation.

Public Health England is making available to all local authorities information on positive tests for COVID-19. Public Health England also routinely shares personal data with local authorities to manage and control local clusters and outbreaks of certain infectious diseases.

Public Sector: Procurement

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure transparency regarding any conflicts of interest in matters relating to public procurement. [HL6796]

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what cross-Departmental discussions they have had about ensuring the transparency of their contracts during the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL6797]

Lord True: Regulation 24 of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 requires contracting authorities to take appropriate measures on conflicts of interest arising in the conduct of procurement procedures. In line with the practice of successive administrations, details of internal discussions are not normally disclosed.

Ramy Shaath

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Egypt about the ongoing imprisonment without trial of Ramy Shaath. [HL6819]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are following the case of Ramy Shaath closely. Our Embassy in Cairo is in regular contact with his lawyer, and has expressed our concern at his ongoing detention to the Egyptian authorities.

More broadly, Egypt is a Foreign and Commonwealth Office Human Rights Priority Country and the UK continues to urge the Egyptian Government to ensure the full implementation of the rights and freedoms set out in Egypt's constitution. We have concerns about mass detentions and sentencing, prison conditions, access to justice, and restrictions on freedom of expression and the media. We regularly raise these and other issues with the

Egyptian Government, both in public and in private, and including at Ministerial level.

Rare Diseases: Medical Treatments

Asked by Baroness Masham of Ilton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to promote alternative treatments to intravenous immunoglobulin for patients suffering from rare and genetic diseases. [HL6788]

Lord Bethell: The Government is committed to improving the lives of those affected by rare disease and continues to implement the commitments made in the UK Strategy for Rare Diseases.

NHS England and NHS Improvement specialised commissioning are in the process of reviewing all the indications for use in the *Clinical Guidelines for Immunoglobulin Use* (2011).

NHS England and NHS Improvement have published commissioning criteria which recommend alternative commissioned treatments to immunoglobulin where it is clinically appropriate, for example, the use of rituximab biosimilar agents in the treatment of Myasthenia Gravis.

NHS England and NHS Improvement have also worked to develop policies for alternatives such as Allogeneic Haematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant for Primary Immunodeficiencies (all ages) where a transplant is clinically indicated.

Rugby: Clubs and Schools

Asked by Lord Wigley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their most recent advice on playing the game of rugby (1) in schools, and (2) between clubs, in England. [HL6920]

Baroness Barran: Sports and physical activity facilities play a crucial role in supporting adults and children to be active. The Government has made it clear that it will adopt a phased approach based on scientific and medical advice, and that the primary goal is to protect public health.

The government has released new guidance to enable competitive grassroots team sports to be played – starting with cricket from 11 July. The government has asked individual sports including rugby union and rugby league to consider the steps that would need to be taken, and the conditions that would need to be met, for their activity to resume. Once those plans have been cleared by the government, the sport will be able to return.

Rugby: Equality

Asked by Lord Hayward

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they intend to have with the Rugby League authorities about its policies on equality, and in particular

homophobia, following the re-signing of Israel Folau by a Super League club. [HL6774]

Baroness Barran: There is no place for racism, sexism, homophobia or any other kind of discrimination in sport. Government's sport and physical activity strategy 'Sporting Future' sets out the ambitions for sport to be at the forefront of equality and inclusion.

Government has frequent discussions with the Rugby Football League on a range of issues including equality. It continues to support national governing bodies and other sports organisations on anti-homophobia initiatives, for example Stonewall's Rainbow Laces Campaign.

Russia: Submarines

Asked by Viscount Waverley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment has been made of recent Russian submarine deployment into the Mediterranean and Baltic seas. [HL6915]

Baroness Goldie: The Ministry of Defence monitors the deployments of Russian submarines and makes assessments based on their operational capability. A nuclear-powered submarine transited from its Northern Fleet base to St Petersburg where it will take part in Russia's Navy Day on 26th July, as part of a predicted annual commitment. A further Russian submarine transited from its Black Sea base port to Tartus, Syria, as part of their routine presence operations in the eastern Mediterranean. Russia continues to be a significant state-based threat to the UK; monitoring and responding to this threat is a core priority for the Ministry of Defence.

Saudi Arabia: G20

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that fossil fuel subsidies are discussed at the G20 ministerial and leaders' summits, to be hosted by Saudi Arabia. [HL6926]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: HMG supports the G20's commitment on phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and encourages countries with such subsidies to end them. We are in touch with our G20 partners and the Presidency about the topics to be discussed at forthcoming G20 meetings.

Schools: Registration

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the call by Ofsted's Chief Inspectors to introduce legislation to deal with illegal unregistered schools. [HL6804]

Baroness Berridge: The department is considering a number of steps to strengthen Ofsted's ability to tackle unregistered schools. This includes the proposals outlined in the consultation on regulating independent educational

institutions, which was published on 14 February 2020 and suspended on the 7 May due to the COVID-19 outbreak. We intend to restart this consultation in the autumn, when appropriate. Once the consultation is completed we will consider our next steps on the proposals, which include changes to the registration requirement.

In the February 2019 'Integrated Communities Action Plan', the department committed to legislate to strengthen Ofsted's powers in relation to unregistered schools. We are therefore working with Ofsted to identify areas where additional powers would enable it to better investigate unregistered schools and support prosecutions. We will announce proposals to do this in due course.

Shipping: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of vessels in British ports or territorial waters whose crews have been on board for more than eleven months; and what steps they are taking to ensure the repatriation of such crew members. [HL6775]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: For cruise vessels laid up in the UK, we are aware of 39 seafarers who have now gone over their 11 months. We continue to support operators in regard to repatriation and there are a number of planned repatriation flights over the next four weeks which should see many seafarers returning home. There are a small number of states where repatriation continues to be difficult or not possible and we are working with those States to seek solutions.

In regard to other vessels operating or calling at UK ports, we are not aware of any UK flagged ships in the UK territorial waters with seafarers who have been on board for more than 11 months.

With the exception of cruise vessels, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, as the port state authority, has not been made aware of any seafarers who have been working on board for more than 11 months on non-UK ships.

Slavery: Victims

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) reports that up to 10,000 people could be victims of modern slavery in textile factories in Leicester, (2) claims by Andrew Bridgen MP that "a conspiracy of silence" has prevented action from being taken on such victims' behalf, (3) the report by the Centre for Social Justice It Still Happens Here: Fighting UK Slavery in the 2020s, published on 12 July, that estimates there are at least 100,000 victims of modern slavery in the UK each year; and what plans they have (a) to undertake an analysis of those statistics, and (b) publish a summary of the factors to be considered to

review the effectiveness of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. [HL6753]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: We are deeply concerned by the appalling reports of illegal and unsafe working conditions for garment workers in Leicester. The Government will not tolerate the exploitation of vulnerable workers for commercial gain and is committed to taking action against those who seek to do so.

While we cannot comment on any ongoing investigations, we can confirm that since 2017 a number of operations have been undertaken in the Leicester area linked to potential exploitation of workers, including by the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority, HMRC and Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate. On each occasion, where breaches were found, enforcement action was taken, including warning letters, recovery of unpaid wages and director disqualifications.

In March 2020, the Office for National Statistics noted that there is no definitive source of data or suitable method available to accurately quantify the number of potential victims of modern slavery in the UK. While the hidden nature of modern slavery makes providing an accurate measure of its scale difficult, we are committed to improving our understanding of this often complex crime. In July 2019, the Government announced a £10 million investment to create a new Policy and Evidence Centre for Modern Slavery and Human Rights. We will continue working with the Centre and other partners to strengthen the evidence base underpinning our policy and operational response to modern slavery.

In July 2018, the Government commissioned an Independent Review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. The aim of the Review was to identify what can be improved in the implementation of the Act and whether specific areas of the legislation need to be strengthened. The Government response (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/803406/Independent_review_of_the_Modern_Slavery_Act_-_final_report.pdf) to the Independent Review, which was published on 9 July 2019, accepted or partially accepted the majority of the Review's recommendations.

Social Services

Asked by Baroness Campbell of Surbiton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that any future review of social care they commission will (1) treat social care in parity with the National Health Service, and (2) explore how personalised and community-based social care may be provided to enable recipients to lead socially-connected and fulfilling lives. [HL6619]

Lord Bethell: We recognise there is a need for long-term reform in social care. The Government's priority for adult social care is for everyone who relies on care to get the care they need throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are committed to bringing forward a plan for social care to ensure that everyone is treated with dignity and respect and to find long term solutions for one of the biggest challenges we face as a society. There are complex questions to address and it is important that we give these issues our full consideration in the light of current circumstances.

The recent NHS Long Term Plan highlighted integration of services as a key aim - making sure that everyone can receive high quality care that is coordinated around individual needs.

Social Services: Children and Young People

*Asked by **Baroness Eaton***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the potential for an increase in children and young people requiring support from social care services following the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions; and what support they will provide to local authorities to ensure that they are resourced appropriately to support such children and young people. [\[HL6841\]](#)

Baroness Berridge: Ensuring that vulnerable children remain protected is our top priority. We are doing everything we can to support local authorities, and their partners, to ensure that the most vulnerable children are protected and that there are sufficient places for children in their care.

School is a protective factor for many children and, as schools reopen fully, there could potentially be a rise in the number of children that need social care intervention. We are working closely with local authorities to ensure workforce capacity is sufficient to cope with any potential spike in referrals. This includes weekly discussions between the Chief Social Worker and practice leaders.

The department has set up dedicated regional teams that are in frequent contact with local authorities. Bringing together expertise from across the department, these teams monitor the challenges local authorities are facing, including any increases in demand. We also collect fortnightly data from local authorities across the country around their contact with vulnerable children, workforce availability and other system pressures in order to offer support and challenge where needed.

The government has also provided £3.7 billion of additional funding to support local authorities in meeting COVID-19 related pressures, including on children's services. This funding is un-ringfenced, recognising local authorities are best placed to decide how to meet the major COVID-19 service pressures in their local area.

We have also committed over £100 million to support access to social care services and remote education, including by providing laptops, tablets and 4G wireless routers to vulnerable and disadvantaged children. Furthermore, we are in continual discussions with charities on the support they provide and need. We have committed additional funding worth £26.4 million

directly to support them and £1.6 million to expand NSPCC's helpline.

Through the Coronavirus Act, we have been able to work with Social Work England, the Department of Health and Social Care and the Local Government Association to reinstate the professional registration of 8,000 former social workers so that they can re-join the profession, providing additional resource where it is required. We have also developed the Social Work Together online tool, so those social workers who have registered and are available to support their local community if needed.

Social Services: Coronavirus

*Asked by **Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they are seeking to ensure that those working in the social care sector during the COVID-19 outbreak are appropriately rewarded. [\[HL3858\]](#)

Lord Bethell: Social care staff have played, and continue to play, a vital role in the national effort to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. We value the contribution of the workforce on the frontline, alongside their National Health Service colleagues.

The Department continues to work at pace to develop measures to ensure the workforce gets the recognition and parity of esteem it deserves. For example, we have recently introduced a £600 million Infection Prevention Fund. This helps providers pay for additional staff and/or maintain the normal wages of staff who are self-isolating or have reduced the number of hours they work to stop the spread of infection. This follows a previous £1.6 billion of financial support, which was also able to cover pay costs.

Syria: Islamic State

*Asked by **The Marquess of Lothian***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken in response to the statement by the Syrian Democratic Forces in May requesting that the international community to take full responsibility for the numbers of ISIS prisoners in Syria and to set up international courts, under UN jurisdiction, and try them in North East Syria. [\[HL6894\]](#)

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK Government is clear that those individuals who have fought for, or supported Daesh, whatever their nationality, should face justice through a fair trial in the most appropriate jurisdiction. Any decision in relation to the continued detention, transfer or prosecution of detainees is ultimately a matter for authorities under whose jurisdiction the individuals are detained. The UK will continue to work with international partners, as well as partners in the region in seeking to secure the prosecution of individuals who have committed crimes in the name of Daesh. Any such justice mechanism must respect human

rights and the rule of law, as well as ensure fair trials and due process.

Trade Agreements: Israel

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to publish their conditions for trade with the government of Israel, following the UK's withdrawal from the EU/Israel Trade Association Agreement. [HL7117]

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel: The United Kingdom-Israel Trade and Partnership Agreement was signed on 18th February 2019 and is publicly available online. The current EU-Israel Association Agreement will govern our trade with Israel until the end of the Transition Period, when the United Kingdom-Israel Trade and Partnership Agreement will come into force.

Trade Agreements: Motor Vehicles

Asked by Lord Bradshaw

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the views of the UK automotive industry regarding vehicle safety standards in future free trade agreements. [HL6879]

Asked by Lord Bradshaw

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have discussed vehicle safety standards during negotiations on any free trade agreement; and if so, what agreement has been made. [HL6929]

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel: British vehicle safety standards are amongst the best in the world. HM Government welcomes input from industry and we share their view that our standards should not be compromised as part of future free trade agreements.

Due to their sensitive nature, it is not appropriate to discuss the details of ongoing free trade agreement negotiations.

Continuity trade agreements that have been completed are published in full on GOV.UK at: gov.uk/guidance/uk-trade-agreements-with-non-eu-countries. Each completed agreement includes a Parliamentary Report, which provides further details.

Trade Promotion: Reviews

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the planned review of the trade envoy programme will be completed; and what that review will cover. [HL6891]

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel: The review of the future of the Prime Minister's Trade Envoy Programme has been completed. We expect to make a written statement on the Programme in the near future.

UK Relations with EU: Coronavirus

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that the outcome of UK-EU negotiations on arrangements after the transition period for the UK's departure from the EU will not be detrimental to the UK's ability to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL6862]

Lord True: Leaving the EU means we will be able to design our own rules, in our best interests, including regarding how we manage our response to crises like the covid-19 pandemic. For example, we will have greater control over our laws, our borders and our economy. The UK Government will of course continue to cooperate closely with the EU and its member states, alongside other international partners.

UK Trade with EU

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, when negotiating future trade arrangements with the EU, they plan to adopt a policy of linking greenhouse gas trading systems in relation to common operational procedures and technical standards, similar to that included in the proposed agreement between the European Union and the Swiss Confederation (COM (2020) 255). [HL7044]

Lord True: As stated within the Government's publication: [The Future Relationship with the EU, The UK's Approach to Negotiations](#), the UK is committed to carbon pricing as a decarbonisation tool. We will establish a UK system that supports our world leading climate ambition, including net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. This will enable UK energy generators, heavy industry and aviation to decarbonise their operations in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

In the context of our approach to carbon pricing, the UK remains open to considering a link between any future UK Emissions Trading System (ETS) and the EU ETS (as Switzerland has done with its ETS), if it suited both sides' interests.

Visual Arts: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Clement-Jones

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether their relief package for the culture and heritage sector, announced on 5 July, will include support for visual artists. [HL6765]

Baroness Barran: We recognise the crucial role that individuals play in making our arts and creative industries world-leading. As a result of these grants and loans, organisations will be more able to resume cultural activity, albeit in a socially distanced way, which will increase employment opportunities for freelancers, including visual artists.

We are working closely with the DCMS Arm's Length Bodies to develop guidance indicating who can apply for the different elements of this funding, and we will publish detailed guidance as soon as possible in July.

Furthermore, this package complements the announcement made last week by the Arts Council England to reopen their project grants competition and make £59m funding available to support creativity, in particular from freelancers, creative practitioners and independent organisations.

Visual Arts: Self-employment Income Support Scheme

Asked by Lord Clement-Jones

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to extend and adapt the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme to take into account the specific needs of visual artists. [[HL6766](#)]

Baroness Barran: Self-employed visual artists are among the millions of people who are able to benefit from the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme (SEISS). The

SEISS has been extended, with applications opening in August, for a second and final grant. The grant will operate in the same way as the existing scheme, with self-employed workers eligible for a single payment covering three months, at a level of 70% of average monthly earnings up to a maximum of £6,570.

Alongside this, DCMS has worked closely with its arm's-length bodies to deliver tailored support packages at speed, including the £160m Emergency Funding Package announced by Arts Council England (ACE) in March. This includes £20 million of financial support for individuals, including visual artists, so they can better sustain themselves, and their work, in the coming months. More than 9000 individuals and organisations have been successful in applying for this emergency funding.

On 5 July, the government also announced a major £1.57 billion package to provide support for key organisations across the cultural, heritage and creative sectors. As a result of these grants and loans, organisations will be more able to resume cultural activity, thereby increasing work opportunities for freelancers and self-employed practitioners.

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