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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>
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 Statements

Wednesday, 2 September 2020

Administrative Law: Independent Review

[HLWS422]

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.

On the 31st July 2020, I announced, via press notice, the creation of an Independent Review of Administrative Law. I am today following up this announcement. This review extends from our Manifesto commitment; an external advisory Panel will provide the Government with expert advice on potential reform of judicial review. As Lord Chancellor, I am committed to defending our world-class and independent courts and judiciary that lie at the heart of British justice and the rule of law.

Specifically, this work aims to examine the effectiveness of judicial review as a mechanism for balancing the rights of the citizen and effective governance, considering the role of the executive, Parliament and the courts. The review is examining four key areas outlined in detail in the Terms of Reference which have been placed in the Library of the House. Broadly, the panel will consider the following issues:

- i) whether judicial review should be codified;
- ii) whether certain executive decisions should be non-justiciable;
- iii) which grounds and remedies should be available in justiciable claims; and
- iv) procedural reforms to judicial review (such as timings, appeals and ‘standing’).

The examination of these issues will consider the balance of the legitimate interest of the citizen being able to challenge the lawfulness of executive action through the courts with the importance of the executive being able to govern effectively under the law. Moreover, it will consider data and evidence and relevant caselaw on the development of judicial review and consider whether reform is justified.

It is my intention that the panel shall consider these questions thoroughly. As courts and the way they operate is a key part of our constitution, any options for reform put forward by the panel will be considered by myself and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, Michael Gove. The panel will report back later this year and their report will be published, as will the Government’s response.

The following people are members of the panel. Each were selected on the basis that they are senior legal practitioners and eminent academics. The panel members are:

- Lord Faulks QC – Panel Chair
- Professor Carol Harlow QC

- Vikram Sachdeva QC
- Professor Alan Page
- Celina Colquhoun
- Nick McBride.

Biennial Report of the National DNA Database Strategy Board

[HLWS426]

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

I am pleased to announce that I am, today, publishing the Annual Report of the National DNA Database Strategy Board for 2018-20. This report covers the National Fingerprints Database and the National DNA Database (NDNAD).

The Strategy Board Chair, ACC Ben Snuggs, has presented the Annual Report of the National DNA Database to the Home Secretary. Publication of the Report is a statutory requirement under section 63AB(7) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 as inserted by section 24 of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.

The Report shows the important contribution that the NDNAD and the National Fingerprint Databases (policing collections) make to supporting policing and solving crimes. I am grateful to the Strategy Board for their commitment to fulfilling their statutory functions.

The report is today being laid before the House and copies will be available from the Vote Office.

Contingencies Fund Advance: The Parliamentary Works Sponsor Body

[HLWS427]

Lord McFall of Alcluith: In April 2020, the Commissions of both Houses agreed funding for the Restoration and Renewal Programme for April to June 2020 of £27,500,000 which was laid before the House of Commons on 4 May as the initial Main Estimate for 2020-21. In June, the Commissions of both Houses agreed funding for the Programme for July 2020 to March 2021 of £98,700,000 which will be laid before the House of Commons as a Supplementary Estimate for 2020-21 during the current Financial Year. Ahead of the Supplementary Estimates being voted on towards the end of the 2020-21 Financial Year, a cash advance has been sought from HM Treasury in order to enable the continued operation of the Programme.

Parliamentary approval for additional resources of £96,230,000 and capital of £2,470,000 will be sought in a Supplementary Estimate for the Parliamentary Works Sponsor Body. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £98,700,000 will be met by repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund.

Independent Review of Supervision of Terrorism and Terrorism-risk Offenders

[HLWS430]

Lord Keen of Elie: My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Chris Philp) has made the following Written Statement.

"Last November Usman Khan brutally murdered Saskia Jones and Jack Merritt before being shot dead by police on London Bridge. Khan was being supervised by the National Probation Services (NPS) on a post-release licence following a number of years in prison for terrorist offences. He was subject to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), where the NPS, prisons and police work together with other agencies, including, when it comes to terrorist offenders, the Security Services to assess and manage the risk presented by known dangerous offenders.

Protecting the public from harm is the first duty of any government, and police, prison, probation and intelligence officers work tirelessly to keep our country safe. However, they can only manage and reduce the risk posed by dangerous individuals, it can never be eliminated entirely. Some offenders will always be determined to sow terror, despite all the efforts made to divert them from extremism.

It is, therefore, imperative that we seize every opportunity to improve our counter-terrorism efforts. That is why, as part of our response to the London Bridge attack, the government asked Jonathan Hall QC, the independent reviewer of terrorism legislation, to review the effectiveness of MAPPA when it comes to managing terrorist offenders and other offenders who may pose a terror risk. The terms of reference were published in January:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-public-protection-arrangements-review/terms-of-reference-independent-review-of-the-statutory-multi-agency-public-protection-arrangements>. The review includes an annex assessing the tools available to manage radicalised offenders with serious mental health needs.

The importance of this review was further highlighted by the horrific attack in Streatham in February in which two people were stabbed. Thankfully, their lives were saved by the rapid work of the emergency services, and the attacker, Sudesh Amman, was shot dead before he could inflict more harm. He, too, was a convicted terrorist subject to MAPPA management and had recently left prison.

Jonathan Hall's review did not consider the circumstances that led up to these attacks – separate reviews are still under way.

Jonathan Hall found that MAPPA is a well-established process and did not conclude that wholesale change is necessary. He has made a number of recommendations on how the management of terrorists can be improved and the government, police and prison and probation service have been working on changes in line with many of them. For example, we are already legislating to require terrorist

offenders to undergo polygraph testing; in addition, we are also legislating so that other offenders can have their crimes identified as terror-related, even if not terror offences as set out in law.

We are also establishing a division of specialist staff in the NPS to manage terrorist risk offenders, bringing together counter-terrorism expertise in one place and strengthening its work with the police and security services.

This is on top of our wider efforts to tackle terrorism:

- Increasing funding for Counter-Terrorism Police by 10% this year to over £900 million.
- Doubling the number of probation staff who supervise terrorist offenders.
- Strengthening the tools used to monitor and manage extremist individuals, including Terrorist Prevention and Investigation Measures and Serious Crime Prevention Orders.
- Ensuring terrorists spend longer in prison, including by creating a minimum 14-year jail term for those convicted of serious terror offences.

We are considering the remainder of Jonathan Hall's recommendations and hope to set out our response shortly. The full report has been published here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-public-protection-arrangements-review>".

Kickstart Scheme

[HLWS428]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: My Right Honourable Friend, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Dr Thérèse Coffey MP) has made the following Written Statement.

Today we are launching the Kickstart scheme, which was announced by the Chancellor as part of Our Plan for Jobs in his statement on 8th July. This £2 billion programme will fund the direct creation of additional jobs focused on young people at risk of long-term unemployment to improve their chances of progressing to find long-term, sustainable work.

As we build back our economy and return to work we know that for many young people a lack of work experience can be a barrier to taking that first step on the jobs' ladder. That is why we are taking steps to help young people gain experience through the Kickstart Scheme and a foothold in the world of work.

The scheme is open to employers from across the private, public and voluntary sectors. Through the scheme, employers will be able to access a large pool of young people with lots to offer, ready for an opportunity. Organisations of all sizes are encouraged to participate. Organisations with a small number of placements will be expected to bid through intermediaries or umbrella organisations like local enterprise partnerships, business trade associations or local government, ensuring the necessary support is in place to enable them to deliver placements effectively.

Employers will need to show that these are additional jobs and that the Kickstart role will provide the experience and support a young person needs to improve their chances of permanent employment. People will be referred through the Jobcentre Plus network. Employers will be able to interview candidates for the roles they offer.

Funding available for each job will cover the relevant National Minimum Wage (NMW) rate for 25 hours a week, plus the associated employer National Insurance contributions, and employer minimum automatic enrolment contributions. It will also include £1500 for start-up and wrap around support for people of a Kickstart placement.

Today we are calling for employers to bid to be involved in the scheme, with the first job placements expected to begin in November. The bid application and information to support employers will be available online through www.gov.uk/kickstart.

List of Ministerial Responsibilities

[HLWS429]

Lord True: My Hon. Friend, the Minister of State for the Cabinet Office (Chloe Smith) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

As part of the Government's ongoing commitment to transparency and accountability, I am pleased to announce that the Government has published the List of Ministerial Responsibilities document on GOV.UK. I will today be placing copies in the library of both Houses.

The list includes details of Ministerial departments, the Ministers within Ministerial departments, the private offices of all the Ministers and the executive agencies within each department.

OECD Report of International Regulatory Co-operation in the UK

[HLWS424]

Lord Callanan: I am today publishing the Government Response to a review by the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) into the UK's international regulatory cooperation practices. This includes launching a call for evidence targeted at UK regulators, standard bodies and industry groups to understand their priorities for greater regulatory cooperation, and how the government can help support and leverage their engagement in support of the UK's wider national interest.

International regulatory cooperation (IRC) is about understanding the implications of regulation beyond national borders. It provides an important opportunity for countries to adapt their regulations to the rapidly evolving needs of a globalised world and to influence the regulation of others. In practical terms, this involves shaping and complying with international agreements, utilising international evidence and collaborating with

international partners when designing and enforcing regulations.

For the UK, consideration of IRC is increasingly important given we are at a critical juncture for the country and our regulatory policy. We are seeking to build on our global ambitions now that the UK has left the European Union and is taking back regulatory competencies. In tandem, we are developing our own independent trade policy for the first time in almost fifty years. The emergence of new technologies, which are global in their scale and implications, also means that regulation is more international than ever. Effective regulation in these technologies underpinned by international cooperation enables consistent enforcement across borders and opens up trade opportunities by the reduction in non-tariff barriers.

In light of this, in 2018 the government invited the OECD (as the leading authority on regulatory policy) to conduct a review into the UK's IRC practices. The resulting OECD report finds that there is no overarching, cross-government strategic vision and systematic practices in place in relation to IRC. And while there are some examples of effective regulatory cooperation initiatives being undertaken by our world-renowned regulators, overall, this is sporadic and sector specific.

The report makes 25 recommendations to address this across three broad categories which are:

- building a holistic IRC vision, a strategy and political leadership for IRC in the UK;
- embedding IRC more systemically in regulatory management tools; and
- increasing awareness and understanding about IRC across departments and regulators.

The document I am publishing today 'International Regulatory Cooperation for a Global Britain', sets out our response to these recommendations. It welcomes the OECD's report and sets out the programme of work my department will be undertaking to drive a systematic focus on IRC across government and regulators by:

- developing a whole-of-government international regulatory cooperation strategy, which sets out the policies, tools and respective roles of different departments and regulators in facilitating this;
- embedding international regulatory cooperation considerations within the better regulation framework and other government guidance;
- developing specific tools and guidance to policy makers and regulators on how to conduct international regulatory cooperation; and
- establishing networks to convene international policy professionals from across government and regulators share experience and best practice on international regulatory cooperation.

The call for evidence we are launching as part of this response aims to understand where regulators, standards bodies and industry groups already engaged in IRC, their priorities for where they would like to see greater IRC and

how the government can aid them identify and pursue opportunities.

The UK has a proud tradition of better regulation in ensuring that regulation is proportionate, targeted, transparent, accountable and consistent. Adopting a more international approach continues this by helping to reduce regulatory burdens on our exporting businesses and ensuring more effective regulatory outcomes for society. IRC will play a critical role in delivering on the government's vision of a Global Britain that is a responsible international actor playing a constructive role in tackling issues of collective global responsibility, and a champion of free trade that seeks to counter the growing proliferation of non-tariff barriers.

The results of the call for evidence will be used to inform the development of the government's international regulatory cooperation strategy to be published at a future date, on which I will update the House.

School Estate

[HLWS423]

Baroness Berridge: My right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Education (Gavin Williamson) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Today, I am confirming £560 million of capital funding to maintain and improve the condition of the school estate.

On 29 June, the Government announced a transformative, ten-year rebuilding programme for schools, supported by over £1 billion for the first 50 projects. This will replace poor condition and ageing school buildings, with modern, energy efficient designs, transforming education for thousands of pupils.

The government also announced that £560 million of additional condition funding would be made available this year to maintain and improve the condition of the school estate. This is in addition to the £1.45 billion already provided for school maintenance in financial year 2020-21.

Details of how the additional funding has been allocated were published on 5 August 2020. This included:

- £182 million to fund a further 580 Condition Improvement Fund projects from the 2020-21 application round, at 548 eligible academies, sixth form colleges and voluntary aided schools. A further £5 million will support the CIF appeals round and urgent projects later in the year.

- A further £373 million allocated through School Condition Allocations for 2020-21 for local authorities, large multi-academy trusts and academy sponsors, and dioceses, and other large voluntary aided school groups.

Overall, for the Condition Improvement Fund 2020-21 bidding round we have now awarded a total of £616 million for 2,056 projects, benefitting 1652 schools and colleges. We have now also allocated £1,176 million in School Condition Allocations for 2020-21.

Full details have been published on the Department for Education section on the GOV.UK website. Copies will be placed in the House Library.

Wylfa Newydd Nuclear Power Station Energy Infrastructure Project

[HLWS425]

Lord Callanan: My Right Honourable Friend, the Minister for Business, Energy and Clean Growth Kwasi Kwarteng MP made the following statement today:

This statement concerns an application made by Horizon Nuclear Power Limited under the Planning Act 2008 for development consent for the construction and operation of a new nuclear power station and associated infrastructure at Wylfa Head on the Isle of Anglesey.

Under section 107(1) of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State must make a decision on an application within three months of receipt of the Examining Authority's report unless exercising the power under section 107(3) to set a new deadline. Where a new deadline is set, the Secretary of State must make a Statement to Parliament to announce it. The deadline for the decision on the proposed The Wylfa Newydd (Nuclear Generating Station) Order application was 23 October 2019 but that deadline was reset to 31 March 2020 to allow further information in respect of environmental effects and other outstanding issues to be provided and considered.

Following initial analysis of the further information which has now been provided, the Secretary of State has concluded that an additional period of time is required in order to complete his consideration in respect of environmental effects and other issues which were outstanding following the examination. It is not anticipated that any further information will be required.

The Secretary of State has set a new deadline for deciding the application of 30 September 2020. The decision to set the new deadline for the application is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's decision on whether to grant or refuse development consent.

Written Answers

Wednesday, 2 September 2020

A27: East Sussex

Asked by *Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Vere of Norbiton on 21 July (HL6569), how Highways England was able to determine three possible new routes for the A27 between Polegate and Lewes before completing consideration of (1) environmental impacts, and (2) the impact on the towns and communities at the two endpoints of these routes. [HL7240]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The "A27 East of Lewes Off-line Study" represents an early stage of work to evaluate the need or otherwise for an enhancement of the A27 off the existing line of route. The study uses three different alignments for modelling purposes only. Development of specific route options and a detailed assessment of their benefits and costs, including environmental impacts, would follow at a later stage of work.

A55: Road Traffic

Asked by *Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many extra (1) trucks, and (2) other vehicles, they estimate will be using the A55 from Holyhead after 31 December. [HL6952]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Department has not made such estimates, and in any case, roads are a devolved matter. Changes in traffic volumes on the road network in Wales (including on the A55) is a matter for the Welsh Government.

Abortion

Asked by *Baroness O'Loan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many at-home abortions beyond 9 weeks and 6 days have been reported; and what was the gestational age of each, since the temporary order to allow them commenced. [HL7384]

Lord Bethell: The Department will be publishing an additional official statistics release of abortion data covering the COVID-19 period from January to June 2020 on 10 September. The Code of Practice outlined in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 prohibits the pre-release of official statistics before the due date of publication.

Abortion: Northern Ireland

Asked by *Lord McCrea of Magherafelt and Cookstown*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the fact that abortion remains a devolved issue in Northern Ireland, why they were required to bring the Abortion (Northern Ireland) (No. 2) Regulations 2020 to Parliament. [HL7535]

Viscount Younger of Leckie: Her Majesty's Government was placed under a clear legal duty to bring forward regulations on access to abortion services under section 9 of the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation etc.) Act 2019, given the Northern Ireland Executive was not restored by 21 October 2019.

The Government has delivered Regulations, which initially came into force on 31 March 2020, and these have now been approved by Parliament to remain in place as the law on access to abortion services in Northern Ireland.

The Regulations deliver equivalent outcomes in practice to the rest of the UK so that women and girls in Northern Ireland can enjoy similar rights in accessing abortion services.

The Government stands ready to provide whatever support and guidance we can to both the Northern Ireland Minister for Health and his department to assist them in progressing work to set up full abortion services as soon as possible, consistent with the Regulations.

Abortion: Public Consultation

Asked by *Baroness O'Loan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Home Office on 6 July (HC Deb, col 717), when their public consultation on the use of both sets of abortion pills at home will commence; and how long the consultation will last. [HL7382]

Asked by *Baroness O'Loan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what precautions they are taking to ensure that the public consultation on 'at home' abortions does not extend beyond the end date of the temporary order. [HL7383]

Lord Bethell: The Government has committed to undertake a public consultation on making permanent the COVID-19 measure allowing for home use of both pills for early medical abortion up to 10 weeks gestation for all eligible women. The current COVID-19 measure will be kept in place until the public consultation concludes and a decision has been made. Work to develop the consultation will begin soon and further details will be available in due course, but the consultation will be completed and a Government response published, before the end date of the temporary order.

Accountancy: Standards

Asked by Baroness Bowles of Berkhamsted

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the consistency of the use of current market values in company accounts with the preparation of accounts on a going concern basis; and what assessment they have made of the adequacy of international accounting standards on current market values, following the collapse of companies such as Carillion and Thomas Cook which applied these standards. [HL7506]

Lord Callanan: BEIS and the FRC are responsible for UK accounting standards as set out in the Companies Act 2006. The FRC's Accounting and Reporting Policy Team's remit is to follow and comment on the work of the IASB as it develops IFRS. The FRC regularly discuss improvements and amendments to standards with the IASB and responds to consultations in the light of discussions with stakeholders.

At the end of the Transition Period, the UK Endorsement Board (UKEB) will work directly with IASB as part of their responsibilities for endorsing and adopting IFRS for the UK. One of the key responsibilities of the UKEB will be to ensure that adopting IFRS are in the UK's public interest.

The investigations into Carillion and Thomas Cook are ongoing. We will consider the outcome of these investigations and where necessary bring findings to the attention of the IASB.

Asked by Baroness Bowles of Berkhamsted

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of the probity of the International Financial Reporting Standards Foundation following the case of ZAO Askeri-ACCA v International Accounting Standards Committee Foundations ([2004] EWHC 2939 (Ch)); and what plans they have to conclude such an assessment before committing any taxpayer funds to the International Financial Reporting Standards Foundation. [HL7507]

Lord Callanan: The Government is discussing a license agreement for International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) with the IFRS Foundation. We are content that we will be able to conclude a legally satisfactory agreement. This is in line with the Government's commitment to maintain use of IFRS after the end of the Transition Period.

The case of ZAO Askeri-ACCA v International Accounting Standards Committee Foundations ([2004] EWHC 2939 (Ch)) was heard 16 years ago regarding a contract with the IFRS Foundation's predecessor organisation. The Government does not believe this case to be relevant to any discussions between the Government and the IFRS Foundation.

Asked by Baroness Bowles of Berkhamsted

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to conduct an investigation into (1) past inconsistencies in the registered addresses and the address for legal service of documents of the International Financial Reporting Standards Foundation, and (2) alleged conflicts of interest in the award of the International Financial Reporting Standards Foundation's translation contracts, before committing any tax-payer funds to that Foundation. [HL7508]

Lord Callanan: Companies House records show that the IFRS Foundation is registered in Delaware and based in London. The Government hopes that the IFRS Foundation will continue to be based in London, as this will continue to recognise the UK's world leading role in accounting standards and practice. The Government has no oversight role for the IFRS Foundation, which is the responsibility of its Monitoring Board, comprising of a number of international securities regulators.

The Government is not aware of any alleged conflicts of interest that are referred to in the question.

Adoption Support Fund

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to set the Adoption Support Fund on a stable basis rather than making year-by-year announcements; whether they will consider lifting the cap for individual support above £5,000; and whether they plan to extend their support to respite care and psychological support for parents, on the same basis to that currently provided to foster families. [HL7323]

Baroness Berridge: The Adoption Support Fund provides funds to local authorities and regional adoption agencies to pay for essential therapeutic services for children who have left the care system either through adoption or special guardianship order. Since its launch in 2015, the Adoption Support Fund has approved £168 million to deliver support, such as therapeutic parenting, creative therapies, and specialist assessments to 59,000 families.

The government acted quickly to establish the Adoption Support Fund COVID-19 Scheme in April 2020, and has provided over £6 million to local authorities and regional adoption agencies to support up to 61,000 families to meet needs arising from the COVID-19 outbreak. The funding included support for activities, such as couples counselling, which would normally be outside the scope of the standard Adoption Support Fund.

On 17 July 2020, my right hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced the 2020 Comprehensive Spending Review, which will set out the government's spending plans for the next three years. The Comprehensive Spending Review will be published in the

autumn. We will consider future funding, scope and fair access limits for the Adoption Support Fund as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review discussions.

Africa: Overseas Aid

Asked by Lord Chidgey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in redirecting aid programmes in each relevant country in Africa through (1) their country programmes, (2) multilateral programmes, and (3) the World Food Programme; and for full details in each case. [[HL7337](#)]

Baroness Sugg: Many bilateral and multilateral aid programmes across Africa have been redirected, prioritising health, humanitarian, growth and trade as well as education and nutrition, recognising that these components are vital both for the immediate response to COVID-19, and for longer-term recovery. The UK has successfully pivoted huge amounts of programming to support nimble and innovative responses in African countries.

For example, in South Sudan, the UK is making a significant contribution to government-led efforts to prevent and respond to cases of COVID-19, including through support for infection prevention and control as well as water, sanitation and hygiene activities. The UK's flagship Sexual and Reproductive Health Programme (WISH) has been adapted in 24 countries across Africa to ensure the continuation of lifesaving services to marginalised women and girls despite COVID-19. Multilaterally, £20m has been provided towards the African Union's new COVID-19 response plan which funds and deploys health workers, clinical equipment, and capacity building training to all 55 AU Member States. In 2020, DFID has so far provided USD 254million to support the World Food Programme's operations – this includes a USD 19million contribution to The World Food Programme's Global Services in response to COVID-19.

Africa: Racial Discrimination

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the governments that make up the African Group about the draft proposal for a UN Human Rights Council inquiry into systemic racism against Africans and people of African descent by law enforcement agencies. [[HL7101](#)]

Baroness Sugg: The UK Government regularly engages with governments that make up the African Group on a number of issues. Information on discussions about the draft proposal for a UN Human Rights Council inquiry into systematic racism against Africans and people of African descent by law enforcement agencies is not centrally held, and can only be made available at a disproportionate cost.

The UK is committed to combatting all forms of racism, both at home and abroad. We actively participate in the full range of racism-related UN mechanisms, and speak out against instances of racism and intolerance bilaterally and in multilateral fora. Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon recently discussed the importance of combatting racism during the UK's closing statement at the 44th session of the Human Rights Council, on 26 June.

Ahmadiyya: Oppression

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Suffering of the Faithful – the persecution of Ahmadi Muslims and the rise of international extremism, published on 20 July; and what steps they are taking to address the recommendations of that report. [[HL7318](#)]

Baroness Sugg: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon was pleased to attend the launch of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community's report on 20 July. We welcome the thrust of the report and are considering the recommendations made. The UK Government remains deeply concerned by reports of discrimination and violence against Ahmadiyya Muslims in Pakistan and elsewhere. Most recently, Lord Ahmad raised our concerns about Freedom of Religion or Belief, with Pakistan's Human Rights Minister, Dr Shireen Mazari, on 15 July. We continue to urge the Government of Pakistan at senior levels to guarantee the fundamental rights of its citizens, regardless of their belief.

Alcoholic Drinks: Import Duties

Asked by Lord Moynihan

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to apply tariffs on imported wines and spirits after the end of the transition period. [[HL7540](#)]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: On 19 May, the Secretary of State for International Trade announced the UK Global Tariff ^[1] which will take effect on 1 January 2021. It set out the UK's Most Favoured Nation (MFN) import tariffs, including for wine and spirits, on GOV.UK. These are the tariffs that will apply to all imports unless there is a preferential trading arrangement in place.

Under the UK Global Tariff, import tariffs on wines and spirits will range from 0% to 40%, depending on the type of product. Within the 0-40% range, the average tariff will be around 8% on wine and approximately 1% on spirits. However, where a preferential trading arrangement is in place, for example a Free Trade Agreement, the tariffs will be lower and often 0%.

[1] <https://www.gov.uk/check-tariffs-1-january-2021>

Ambulance Services: Alcoholic Drinks

Asked by *Baroness Brinton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of alcohol-related ambulance service callouts in each of the last four years in England. [HL7434]

Lord Bethell: The information requested is not centrally collected.

Antimicrobials: Drug Resistance

Asked by *Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to fund research into antimicrobial resistance following the UK's withdrawal from the EU; how such funds will be allocated; and who will allocate these funds. [HL7513]

Lord Bethell: The United Kingdom Government funds domestic research into antimicrobial resistance (AMR) through the UK Research and Innovation research councils and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The NIHR also supports AMR research for the primary benefit of people in low- and middle-income countries, using Official Development Assistance funding, as does the Department directly through the Global AMR Innovation Fund. These investments will continue after the end of the transition period. The NIHR welcomes funding applications for research into any aspect of human health, including AMR. These applications are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made on the basis of the importance of the topic to patients and health and care services, value for money and scientific quality. It is not usual practice for the NIHR to ring-fence a proportion of its budget for research into particular topics or conditions.

Apprentices

Asked by *Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to increase the provision of apprenticeships. [HL7027]

Baroness Berridge: As part of the government's Plan for Jobs, apprenticeships will be more important than ever in helping businesses to recruit the right people and develop the skills they need to recover post COVID-19. Apprenticeships also present excellent opportunities to young people seeking to start and build careers.

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 aged 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. We will also ensure that there is sufficient funding to support small businesses wanting to take on an apprentice this year. In addition, we have increased the

number of reservations that small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) can now make through the apprenticeship service, from 3 to 10, enabling them to recruit more apprentices.

Details can be found at the link below: <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/a-plan-for-jobs-2020>.

We continue to listen to the views of businesses and are working closely with employers to help them make the most of our apprenticeship reforms and funding support offer.

Armed Conflict: Civilians

Asked by *Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have for public consultation over the creation of the UK Strategy on Protection of Civilians; and when they expect to publish the Strategy. [HL7145]

Baroness Sugg: As part of the review of its approach to the protection of civilians (PoC), the Government has consulted extensively with civil society and academia. We hope to publish soon a document outlining our approach to PoC with examples of action the Government has been taking. We were unable to meet the previously stated publication date as we were required to adhere to the rules governing the publication of documentation in the run up to the December 2019 General Election. We further postponed publication in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Armed Forces: Coronavirus

Asked by *Lord Robathan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many serving personnel in the Armed Forces aged (1) 18–24, (2) 25–29, (3) 30–34, (4) 35–39, (5) 40 or more, years old have (a) contracted, and (b) died as a result of, COVID-19. [HL6982]

Baroness Goldie: As at 17 July 2020 (inclusive), 406 UK Armed Forces personnel had a positive COVID-19 infection test result entered into their medical record. Of which:

- 57 were aged 18-24 years.
- 70 were aged 25-29 years.
- 66 were aged 30-34 years.
- 61 were aged 35-39 years.
- 152 were aged 40+ years.

Two of these UK Armed Forces personnel with a positive COVID-19 infection test result subsequently died; both personnel were aged 40+ years.

Asked by *Lord Robathan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Goldie on 27 July (HL6983), whether any military training

establishments, specifically (1) Britannia Royal Naval School Dartmouth, (2) Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, and (3) Royal Air Force College Cranwell, have confined all trainees to barracks due to concerns about COVID-19. [HL7474]

Baroness Goldie: Britannia Royal Naval School Dartmouth has implemented COVID-19 control measures, including the operation of a restricted leave policy throughout COVID-19, to protect the Royal Navy's training output in line with its Defence commitments and above all, ensure a safe and secure COVID-19 training environment for its staff and trainees, following as far as practicable, PHE guidance at all times.

Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) - All Army recruits, including Officer Cadets at RMAS, have been confined to Army barracks at some stage during the HMG directed Covid-19 restricted movement period. Trainees and staff were released to travel home only for emergencies or in exceptional circumstances.

RAF College Cranwell - there have been no instances where all personnel at RAFC (Royal Air Force College) Cranwell have been confined to their personal accommodation due to concerns about COVID-19. During the peak of 'lockdown' all personnel accommodated at RAFC Cranwell were required to stay at the station, unless there were extenuating circumstances requiring weekend leave. The right to weekend leave was decided on an individual basis.

As lockdown restrictions have now eased, personnel are able to visit family and local community facilities, provided that the extant COVID-19 regulations are adhered to.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Asked by Lord Grocott

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many serving members of the UK armed forces are stationed abroad, listed by country of assignment. [HL7356]

Baroness Goldie: The stationed locations of UK Armed Forces across the globe and within the UK are detailed in the annual statistics published on 9 July 2020. This can be accessed using the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/location-of-uk-regular-service-and-civilian-personnel-annual-statistics-2020><https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/location-of-uk-regular-service-and-civilian-personnel-annual-statistics-2020>

Further information on UK Armed Forces stationed abroad is listed on the Excel workbook on sheets 1.1A and 1.1B.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Annual Location Statistics (ALS) [Copy of ALS_-_April_2020_-_OS.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-27/HL7356>

Armed Forces: Employment

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to maintain the size of the regular Armed Forces as set out in the National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015, published in November 2015. [HL7016]

Baroness Goldie: The Armed Forces have active and targeted recruitment campaigns which are proving effective; intake to the UK Regular Armed Forces was 16,340 in the 12 months to 31 March 2020, an increase of 30.9 per cent compared with the previous 12 months. Although recruitment figures have exponentially increased, we are not complacent and recognise that outflow also increased slightly by 5.7 per cent to 15,460 in the same 12 months. To improve retention, we closely monitor the impact of Service life on individuals, particularly in areas where there are shortages, and take steps to address issues arising.

Measures include the 2019 Armed Forces pay rise of 2.9 per cent which also increased starting pay by 6%, one of the biggest awards within the public sector; Flexible Service, introduced in April 2019 affording personnel more control over their working patterns; the new Future Accommodation Model (FAM) which gives personnel greater control over their housing arrangements; the Service for Experienced Re-joiner and Volunteer Engagements (SERVE) launched on 24 June; and Wrap-around childcare pilots that alleviate the associated challenges faced by our personnel.

Armenia: Azerbaijan

Asked by Baroness Cox

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that the government of Turkey is recruiting Syrian troops to fight for the Azerbaijani military against the Armenian military. [HL7082]

Baroness Sugg: We are not able to confirm media reporting that the Government of Turkey is recruiting Syrian troops to fight for the Azerbaijani military. The UK is deeply concerned by the recent ceasefire violations on the international border between Armenia and Azerbaijan and regrets the loss of life. We will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to recent fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani soldiers, what assessment they have made of the current security situation on the Armenia-Azerbaijan state border; and what discussions they have had with international

partners on ways to prevent further escalation. [HL7168]

Baroness Sugg: The Government is deeply concerned by the recent ceasefire violations on the international border between Armenia and Azerbaijan and regrets the loss of life. We continue to monitor the situation closely. The Government supports the negotiations facilitated by the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group aimed at securing a peaceful settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office statement of 14 July called for both sides to respect the ceasefire, engage in dialogue and refrain from rhetoric that could increase tensions. In our conversations with both governments we will continue to stress the need for a return to substantive talks and the importance of building confidence in the peacebuilding process.

Arms Trade: Saudi Arabia

Asked by *Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why they decided to resume granting export licences for the sale of arms to Saudi Arabia. [HL7396]

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel: The Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) of 7th July 2020 set out details of the revised methodology developed to comply with the Court of Appeal's judgment of 20th June 2019 and applied to re-take the decisions remitted by the Court of Appeal on the correct legal basis.

It also set out why my Rt Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Trade assessed that there is not a clear risk that the export of arms and military equipment to Saudi Arabia might be used in the commission of a serious violation of International Humanitarian Law.

Having now re-taken the decisions that were the subject of judicial review on the correct legal basis, as required by the Order of the Court of Appeal of 20th June 2019, it follows that the undertaking given to the Court – that we would not grant any new licences for the export of arms or military equipment to Saudi Arabia for possible use in Yemen – falls away. The broader commitment that was given to Parliament, relating to licences for Saudi Arabia and its coalition partners, also no longer applies.

Decisions on export licence applications for Saudi Arabia and its Coalition partners for possible use in the conflict in Yemen can now be taken. All export licence applications will be assessed against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria.

Arts: GCSE

Asked by *Lord Baker of Dorking*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many GCSE entrants there were in (1) art, (2) music, (3) dance, and (4) drama, in (a) the 2010, and (b) the 2020, academic years. [HL7127]

Baroness Berridge: This information is not yet available for 2019/20. It will become available once we release our provisional publication between December and January 2021 at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/entries-for-gcse-november-2020-exam-series>.

The number of pupils in all schools in England at the end of key stage 4 who entered music, art, drama or dance at GCSE level (including equivalents) is published each year (including 2010 onwards) in the 'subject time series data' table at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/key-stage-4-performance-2019-revised>.

Arts: Insurance

Asked by *Lord Foster of Bath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made (1) of the difficulties in obtaining insurance cover faced by people working in the creative industries, and (2) of the effect that such difficulties may have on those people's creative output; and what plans they have to support such people. [HL7208]

Baroness Barran: The Government has announced a £500m compensation scheme to assist the film and TV production sectors who are ready to return to work, but are precluded from doing so by the difficulties they face obtaining insurance cover for Covid-19.

The new UK-wide £500 million Film and TV Production Restart Scheme will get TV and film productions across the country that have been halted or delayed specifically by a lack of insurance back up and running by giving productions the confidence they need that they will be supported if future losses are incurred due to Covid-19.

It will fill the gap left by the lack of available insurance and cover coronavirus-related losses for cast member and crew illnesses and filming delays or disruptions caused by the Covid-19. The scheme will directly support up to 40,000 - 50,000 jobs in the film and TV production industry.

A targeted intervention in the TV and film sector was considered necessary for its restart. The government will continue to monitor what further action is needed to support the re-opening of the economy and any potential further interventions would be assessed on a case by case basis. With regard to other creative industries, we are regularly in touch with a range of stakeholders from across the Creative Industries, including via ministerially-chaired roundtables, to ensure that we fully understand the range of issues affecting them during the Covid crisis and recovery period.

In terms of supporting the creative workforce, other recently announced sector-specific schemes include the £1.57bn funding package for the arts, culture and heritage industries, which comes on top of the multi-billion pound support already made available to the cultural and creative

sectors, including the Job Retention Scheme and the Self Employed Income Support Scheme.

Asthma: Death

Asked by Baroness Masham of Ilton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the variation in asthma-related deaths across Clinical Commissioning Groups in England; and what plans they have to address any such variation. [HL5869]

Lord Bethell: No assessment has been made as the information is not held centrally.

Respiratory disease is a clinical priority within the NHS Long Term Plan. The Plan has the overarching objective of improving outcomes for people with respiratory disease, including asthma. Within the Plan, the respiratory interventions include early and accurate diagnosis, medicines optimisation and the development of self-management models to support people with respiratory conditions to manage their condition all of which are applicable for asthma.

Asylum: Housing

Asked by Lord Beecham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking in response to the £3.1 million in service credits charged to Mears Group between September 2019 and January 2020 for poor performance in its contract to provide accommodation to asylum seekers. [HL7075]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: We expect the highest standards from our providers and accommodation provided must be safe, habitable, fit for purpose and it is required to comply with the Decent Homes Standard in addition to standards outlined in relevant national or local housing legislation.

The AASC contracts have robust performance management system to which Providers are expected to deliver; where performance falls short of the required standard for each of the individual KPIs the failures are recorded and can result in the award of Points; which can result in a Service Credits being applied.

Mears performance is monitored closely with dedicated staff in each contract area who are in contact with the Provider on a daily basis. This is supplemented by a formal governance process which includes quarterly Strategic Review Management Boards and monthly Contract Management Groups. Service credits and subsequent improvement plans are discussed and monitored as part of this process.

Australian Aid and Canadian International Development Agency

Asked by Lord Chidgey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of international standing and influence of (1) the Canadian International Development Agency, following its merger with the Canadian Department of International Affairs and Trade, and (2) Australian Aid, following its merger into the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. [HL7437]

Baroness Sugg: We will learn from the examples of Australia and Canada, who run generous and respected development programmes from their foreign ministries. There are lessons we can draw from the experiences of other countries, but we will do this in a way that works best for the UK.

Aviation

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many commercial flights have (1) taken off, and (2) landed, in the UK each day from 23 March to 16 July. [HL6976]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Department for Transport does not currently hold complete official statistics on commercial flight operations for the period requested. Data on the operation of commercial flights in the UK is collected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and received from UK airports typically up to two months after the end of each month in adherence to statistical regulation (EC) 437/2003 on statistical returns in respect of the carriage of passengers, freight and mail by air. As indicated on the CAA's website, some airports have not yet reported data, which prevents the full UK picture being established.

Monitoring of flight traffic conducted by Eurocontrol, which publicly reports on daily flight traffic levels across its member states on their website, can be used to identify the overall number of flights operated in the UK each day since 1 March 2020, and includes both commercial and non-commercial operations for international arrival, departure and domestic flights.

Aviation: Coronavirus

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further (1) to the statement by the Airport Operators Association that airports may have lost at least £4 billion in revenue by the end of 2020, and (2) the job losses in the aviation sector, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, what steps they are taking to assist financially the aviation industry. [T] [HL7306]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Government recognises the challenging times facing the aviation sector as a result of COVID-19. The aviation sector is crucial to the UK's economy and businesses across the industry will be able to draw on the unprecedented package of economic measures we have put in place during this time.

This includes a Bank of England scheme for firms to raise capital and the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme which facilitates access to finance for businesses affected by the outbreak. Firms are also able to access 'Time to Pay' scheme which eases restrictions with tax bills and VAT deferrals.

The Government is also ensuring financial support for employees through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme covering 80% of furloughed employees' usual monthly wage costs, up to £2,500 a month, alongside the associated Employer National Insurance contributions and pension contributions.

The Department is in close contact with the aviation sector ensuring that the Government is kept fully aware of the latest developments with all firms and to understand where additional policy measures may be useful and to address specific industry issues.

The Department has established a Restart and Recovery Unit for aviation. The unit will immediately focus on restart, in particular:

- Examining new standards on health and wellbeing across the customer journey;
- Measures needed to sustain and boost the sector;
- Ensuring new standards are established at an international level; and
- Engagement with the sector to ensure the proposals developed are fit for purpose.

The unit will also focus on establishing a clear vision and objectives for the sector looking forward to the recovery phase. We are working closely with the aviation sector to support it to ensure there is sufficient capacity to protect global travel routes, continue repatriation, freight and maintain vital connectivity.

Aviation: Crew

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions, if any, they have had with the Civil Aviation Authority about the effect of the difference between the maximum age for commercial pilots and the state pension age on the financial position of commercial pilots. [HL6948]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Department for Transport is aware of the difference between the maximum age for commercial pilots and the state pension age, and of the financial impact this could have on some people. The Government is determined to ensure equal employment opportunities are available to all, regardless of age. The Department is working with the CAA to explore whether there is a safety case for increasing the maximum age for commercial pilots and is also

considering the approach that other regulators are taking in Europe on this issue.

Aviation: Licensing

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to raise the maximum age at which the Civil Aviation Authority can grant a licence to a commercial pilot so that it is equivalent to the state pension age; and what assessment they have made of the financial position of commercial pilots who are no longer permitted to fly but who are not yet eligible for a state pension. [HL6947]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Department for Transport is aware of the difference between the maximum age for commercial pilots and the state pension age, and of the financial impact this could have on some people. The government is determined to ensure equal employment opportunities are available to all, regardless of age. The Department is working with the CAA to explore whether there is a safety case for increasing the maximum age for commercial pilots and is also considering the approach that other regulators are taking in Europe on this issue.

Bahrain: Capital Punishment

Asked by Lord Collins of Highbury

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by the Minister for the Middle East and North Africa on 9 July (HC Deb, col 1119) and the decision of the Court of Cassation in Bahrain to uphold the death sentences of Mohammed Ramadhan and Hussain Moosa, what plans they have (1) to issue a public statement, and (2) to make representations the government of Bahrain, about the use of the death penalty in that country. [HL7204]

Baroness Sugg: We are deeply concerned that on 13 July Bahrain's Court of Cassation upheld the death penalty verdicts imposed on Mohammed Ramadhan and Husain Moosa. Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, Minister responsible for Human Rights, reiterated our concern in a tweet of 14 July. We have raised both cases at senior levels with the Government of Bahrain. Lord Ahmad also raised the cases with the Bahraini Ambassador to the UK on 14 July. The Government of Bahrain is fully aware that the UK opposes the death penalty, in all circumstances, as a matter of principle.

Beer: Excise Duties

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to ensure that the proposed changes to the Small Brewers' Relief will not increase the tax burden for brewers who produce between 2,100 hectolitres and 5,000 hectolitres a year. [HL7228]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The Treasury has been reviewing the Small Brewers Relief (SBR) scheme since 2018. The SBR scheme in part aims to provide smaller brewers support with their higher production costs. Small brewers receive a 50% reduction from their beer duty bills, but currently once brewers produce more than 5,000 hectolitres this is rapidly withdrawn.

Based on evidence provided by a survey of brewers conducted in 2019, which received over 300 responses, and data provided by the Society of Independent Brewers and other brewing groups, the Treasury has concluded that production costs for brewers in the range of 2,100-5,000 hectolitres are not significantly different for those in the 5-10,000 hectolitres range.

Accordingly, the Treasury considers that the radically different tax treatment both groups currently face is not appropriate. It disincentivises growth and distorts business decisions.

Therefore, the Treasury has concluded that both groups of brewers should be brought in scope of the scheme's taper. The Treasury will discontinue the "cliff edge" design of the current taper in favour of a new one, which tapers relief more smoothly over a broader range of production.

The details of these proposals are subject to further consultation, and the final shape of these reforms has not yet been determined. The Treasury expects that more than 80% of all brewers will be unaffected by these changes, and brewers who are affected will benefit from the improved economics of the scheme. Final changes will not take effect until at least 31 December 2021.

Blood: Coronavirus

Asked by Baroness Masham of Ilton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the acute shortage of intravenous immunoglobulin since 2018, (2) the impact of COVID-19 on the supply of that medicine, and (3) the impact of that shortage on treatment. [HL6787]

Lord Bethell: NHS England and NHS Improvement have been closely monitoring all use of immunoglobulin stock through the national immunoglobulin database and through the sub-regional immunoglobulin assessment panels (SRIAP), ensuring use of immunoglobulin is used for commissioned indications only and at the correct dosage and frequency. There have been no shortages reported since the beginning of 2019 with supplies being managed carefully by SRIAP.

As part of our concerted national efforts to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak, we are doing everything we can to ensure patients continue to access the appropriate medicines.

The Department is working closely with industry, the National Health Service and others in the supply chain to help ensure patients can access the medicines they need, and precautions are in place to reduce the likelihood of future shortages.

Blood Cancer: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people were (1) added to, and (2) removed from, the shielding list in (a) April, (b) May, and (c) June; and of those, how many have blood cancer. [HL6981]

Lord Bethell: The information requested on people on the shielded patients list is shown in the following table.

	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>
Additions	979,484	569,516	44,921
Deductions	4,700	178,439	33,832

Source: Shielded Patients List, NHS Digital

People who have been diagnosed with blood cancer are not separately identifiable on the shielded patients list.

Boilers: Waste Heat Recovery

Asked by Lord Foster of Bath

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Callanan on 23 July (HL6670), what estimate they have made of how much less carbon dioxide would be emitted if boilers in all large houses were fitted with stored passive flue gas heat recovery technology (1) when such houses are built, or (2) when boilers in such houses are replaced. [HL7278]

Lord Callanan: Passive Flue Gas Heat Recovery System's (PFGHR) with thermal storage can deliver total annual gas savings for heating hot water of around 30% for a typical domestic building. This is equivalent to a boiler efficiency improvement of around 5% versus a system without. These savings can vary significantly depending on the volume of the thermal store, space heating demand, usage patterns and property type.

Domestic hot water gas savings will typically be close to 20% for a new-build dwelling, and up to 35% for a larger existing property.

Boundary Commissions

Asked by Lord Grocott

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the total cost of the work of the four Parliamentary Boundary Commissions, from the passage of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 to the publication of their reports of September 2018. [HL7357]

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the cost of the Boundary Commission reviews of the boundaries of UK parliamentary constituencies since 2011. [HL7523]

Lord True: Figures for expenditure over each financial year are published by the Boundary Commissions for England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland as part of their annual reports. These are available online.

Brexit: Northern Ireland

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government how the provisions of the Revised Protocol to the Withdrawal Agreement relating to EU regulations and goods manufactured in Northern Ireland will be incorporated into law in Northern Ireland; and who will bring forward this legislation. [HL7512]

Viscount Younger of Leckie: The Northern Ireland Protocol was implemented into domestic law by the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020. This gives effect to certain aspects of EU law in Northern Ireland for as long as the Protocol alignment provisions remain in force, for the purposes of avoiding a hard border on the island of Ireland.

The delivery and implementation of the Protocol's provisions, including any further legislation that is required, is for the UK Government and, where appropriate, devolved Northern Ireland authorities. The UK Government will continue to work closely with the Northern Ireland Executive on this.

British Indian Ocean Territory: Legal Costs

Asked by Baroness Whitaker

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Sugg on 17 July (HL6542), what has been the total cost to the public purse of the UK's participation in recent proceedings before the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965. [HL7037]

Baroness Sugg: These advisory proceedings in the International Court of Justice concerned a request for an advisory opinion from the United Nations General Assembly. All Member States of the United Nations were invited to participate in the proceedings. Thirty-one States and the African Union filed written statements, and ten States and the African Union filed written comments on the written statements. Twenty-two States and the African Union participated in the oral proceedings, which took place in September 2018. The UK participated at all stages of the proceedings. The ICJ handed down its advisory opinion in February 2019.

British National (Overseas): Hong Kong

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to prepare to accommodate British National (Overseas) passport holders from Hong Kong; and

where such passport holders will be accommodated. [HL6447]

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the devolved administrations about their plans to offer a route to British citizenship to British National (Overseas) passport holders from Hong Kong. [HL6448]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Secretary was pleased to recently announce details of the new immigration route for Hong Kong British National (Overseas) citizens, which can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/hong-kong-bno-visa-policy-statement/hong-kong-british-national-overseas-visa-policy-statement-plain-text-version

This is a special bespoke set of arrangements, developed for the unique circumstances we face and in light of our historic commitment to the people of Hong Kong.

British National (Overseas) citizens who choose to come to the UK will need to be self-sufficient and will be able to work in the UK.

Recognising this new immigration route applies across the Union, Home Office officials, with support from the Territorial Offices, have already begun engaging with the Devolved Administrations. This engagement has kept the Devolved Administrations informed of the policy as it develops, which will enable them to co-ordinate the most effective response for their respective regions.

British Nationality: Assessments

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the (1) target, and (2) anticipated, processing time for those applying for indefinite leave to remain in the UK. [HL7366]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The normal service standard for applications for Indefinite Leave to Remain applications is six months. Immigrations case-working operations have been impacted by COVID-19 and we have continued to make decisions where we have been able to. The re-opening of case-working offices has commenced, and all teams are committed to decide applications as quickly as possible.

Information on processing times for visa applications is published as part of the Migration Transparency data, available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data>.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

UKVI - Asylum Q4 2019
[UKVI_Asylum_Q4_2019_Published.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-27/HL7366>

Asked by *Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic on the process for applying for indefinite leave to remain in the UK; and what plans they have, if any, to ensure that the process for applying for such leave is adapted to reflect any such disruption. [HL7368]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office is committed to ensuring that all applications are considered without unnecessary delay. Immigration case-working operations have been impacted by COVID-19, with most locations going into lockdown at the end of March, although we have continued to make decisions where we have been able to.

As UK Visas and Immigration has now reopened the majority of its Visa Application Centres both in the UK and overseas, we are working closely with our partners to maximise the available capacity to service applicants in line with social distancing rules in each location.

The Home Office has put in place a range of measures to support those affected by the covid-19 outbreak to ensure people are not unduly affected by circumstances beyond their control.

British Nationality: British Overseas Territories

Asked by *Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what rights to enter the UK will be accorded to Hong Kong residents who were British Overseas Territories citizens until 1997. [HL7533]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Individuals in Hong Kong who were British Dependent Territories Citizens before 1997 and chose not to register for British National (Overseas) status may apply under existing immigration routes to come to live, work or study in the UK. Those that hold Hong Kong Special Administrative Region passports can visit for up to 6 months without needing a visa.

Those British Dependent Territories Citizens who elected to retain close ties with the UK through registering for British National (Overseas) status will have the option of applying for a new Hong Kong British National (Overseas) Visa from January 2021. Successful applicants will be able to come and stay in the UK for up to 5 years, with a view to settlement and then citizenship if desired.

Further details on this new immigration route can be found on gov.uk:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hong-kong-bno-visa-policy-statement>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HK BN Visa Policy Statement - July 2020 [HK BN Visa Policy Statement - July 2020.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-29/HL7533>

Broadband: Religious Buildings

Asked by *Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with churches and faith communities about the difficulties of obtaining broadband access for places of worship which do not have a postcode; and what plans they have to arrange a debate on this issue in the House. [HL7195]

Baroness Barran: The Government has been in discussion with representatives from the Church of England, in particular, regarding the issue of broadband access where places of worship do not have postcodes, or are otherwise missing from telecom provider databases. In some cases this leads to issues in identifying and providing service to such locations.

Over 31,000 premises are listed in relevant databases accessible to the Government as being used as places of worship. Of these, approximately 86% of premises used for religious purposes in Great Britain can access Superfast broadband speeds or better on fixed networks, compared to the UK average of 95%. Approximately 4% of premises used for religious purposes in Great Britain cannot access 'decent broadband' speeds of 10 Megabit/s on Fixed networks, compared to the UK average of 2%, largely due to their rurality. However, 4G data services are also widely available, and this reduces the number of such listed places of worship with no potential service to less than 0.2% of the total.

We are working with relevant stakeholders, including telecom operators (such as Openreach) and Ofcom, to ascertain the extent of this problem, and how many religious premises are still facing these barriers. This includes whether data used by operators is consistent with that available to the Government and to identify appropriate solutions, including ensuring that databases are up to date, but also that all broadband technology solutions that are available to places of worship are considered. Therefore, there are no current plans to debate the matter in the House.

We understand the importance for broadband access in places of worship to help improve connectivity for local communities, as well as practical benefits for such premises, including streaming services, security, and accepting contactless donations or administration.

Buildings: Insulation

Asked by *Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Housing Associations will be able to access the Remedial Fund for Cladding without having to use charitable resources

ring fenced for charitable purposes and without having to charge leaseholders. [HL7458]

Lord Greenhalgh: We continue to engage with the social sector to ensure that leaseholders are supported and do not have to bear the costs associated with remediation of unsafe non-ACM cladding. Housing Associations will be able to apply for funding to cover the cost of remediation that they would otherwise pass on to leaseholders. Each Housing Association will need to make its own assessment as to how best to meet the remaining remediation costs in line with their business plans and different sources of income.

Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have undertaken a review to ascertain whether leaseholders of Housing Associations properties might be unfairly discriminated against in relation to leaseholders of private landlords in the allocation of the Remedial Fund for Cladding. [HL7459]

Lord Greenhalgh: The Secretary of State considered the decision to launch the Building Safety Fund in line with requirements under the Public Sector Equality duty. Funding is being provided to support leaseholders in both the social and private sectors. Where funding is claimed from government, the costs of remediating unsafe non-ACM cladding systems cannot be passed onto leaseholders.

Bus Services and Trams: Coronavirus

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Vere of Norbiton on 22 July (HL6684), what additional funding they intend to provide to support bus and tram services outside of London once the current COVID-19-related funding expires on 4 August; and when they intend to announce the arrangements for any such funding. [HL7238]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Officials are engaging with HMT on the future of emergency funding for the bus and light rail sectors, as a matter of the highest priority. The department will be in contact with operators as soon as we are in a position to update them.

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to provide long-term financial support to bus, coach and tram services outside of London whilst there is reduced capacity and demand for public transport due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and how any such funding will be dispersed. [HL7239]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Department continues to work closely with transport authorities and operators to understand the risks and ongoing issues in the bus and coach industry and how these can be addressed, so that public transport services can adapt to any 'new

normal' that emerges from the COVID-19 outbreak and work towards a sustainable long-term recovery.

The Department is engaging with HMT on the future of emergency funding for the bus and light rail sectors as a matter of the highest priority. My department will be in contact with operators as soon as we are in a position to update them.

We are continuing to engage with the coach sector to understand what the ongoing risks and issues are, and how these could be addressed.

Bus Services: Coronavirus

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the findings of the review by the UCL Institute of Health Equity into COVID-19 related deaths of bus workers in London, published 27 July, whether they intend to issue new guidance to bus companies to protect drivers and other front-line staff. [HL7469]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: We have been clear that the safety of transport workers is a top priority, and employers must take appropriate measures to protect all staff in line with the recommendations we have set out in the Safer Transport guidance, to ensure their workplaces are Covid-19 secure. This includes making sensible workplace adjustments, for example introducing screens, providing hand sanitiser, and reducing capacity onboard services in line with social distancing requirements.

Business: Human Rights

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that all firms based in, and selling products in, the UK comply with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in conducting due diligence on the impact of the products they sell. [HL7321]

Lord Callanan: The Government supports the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights - the authoritative, voluntary international framework, which encourages businesses to conduct due diligence as part of their approaches to protecting human rights. The Government also drives transparency from our businesses to hold them to account on human rights. UK listed companies cover relevant human rights issues as part of their annual corporate reporting and our large businesses publish supply chain transparency statements according to the Modern Slavery Act, including on due diligence approaches where these are followed. In May, the Government published two policy papers which provide an update on what the Government has done to implement the UN Guiding Principles and to give an overview of how each government department contributes to this work.

Carbon Emissions

Asked by *Lord Birt*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will publish their plans for meeting their Net Zero target for carbon emissions by 2050. [HL7429]

Lord Callanan: Tackling climate change and delivering our world-leading Net Zero target is a key priority for the Government.

In 2020-21, ahead of hosting COP26, we will bring forward ambitious new plans to reduce emissions across key sectors of the economy – including an Energy White Paper, Transport Decarbonisation Plan and Heat and Building Strategy.

This will build on the strong foundations we have established through our world-leading progress in decarbonising our economy, our ambitious manifesto commitments, and recent announcements from my Rt. Hon. Friends the Prime Minister and Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer of measures to cut emissions as we build back better in our economic recovery from Covid-19.

We look forward to the Committee on Climate Change's advice on the sixth carbon budget in December this year, ahead of setting this next ambitious target on the path to Net Zero by June 2021 as required by the Climate Change Act.

Care Homes: Coronavirus

Asked by *Lord Warner*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bethell on 15 June (HL4726), whether the COVID-19 Hospital Discharge Service Requirements authorised NHS Trusts to make incentive payments to care homes to admit patients discharged from acute hospitals, irrespective of whether they posed an infection risk to other residents in the care homes; and whether such payments are permissible. [HL6737]

Lord Bethell: It is our priority to ensure that everyone is discharged safely from hospital and to the most appropriate available place.

Funding announced alongside the COVID-19 Hospital Discharge Service Requirements was not conditional on care homes accepting discharged patients. Discharges from hospital are decided by local clinicians and only happen when doctors determine it is in an individual patient's best interests.

This is an unprecedented global pandemic and at every stage we have been guided by the latest scientific advice. We keep our policies under continuous review, based on the emerging international and domestic evidence.

Asked by *Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic more than 4,000 people were

discharged from hospital into care homes without being tested for the virus. [HL6991]

Lord Bethell: Throughout our COVID-19 response we have worked with the care sector and public health experts to put in place measures to reduce transmission and save lives. It has been our priority to ensure that everyone is discharged safely from hospital and to the most appropriate available place. Wherever possible, people who are clinically ready should be supported to return to their place of residence, where assessment of longer-term needs will take place. This approach follows the 'Discharge to Assess' model, to support timely and appropriate discharge from hospital.

The Hospital Discharge Service and staff should clarify with care homes the COVID-19 status of an individual and any COVID-19 symptoms, during the process of transfer from a hospital to the care home. As testing capacity was being built priority for testing was given to the most clinically vulnerable patients:

- all patients in critical care for pneumonia, acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) or flu like illness;
- all other patients requiring admission to hospital for pneumonia, ARDS or flu like illness; and
- where an outbreak has occurred in a residential or care setting, for example long-term care facility or prisons.

As set out in the Adult Social Care Action Plan on 15 April, all patients are now required to be tested prior to discharge to a care home.

Carers: Learning Disability

Asked by *Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they have offered to carers of adults with learning disabilities during the COVID-19 outbreak. [HL6837]

Lord Bethell: We recognise the crucial role unpaid carers play caring for those with learning disabilities, especially at this time. We commissioned the Social Care Institute of Excellence to develop a hub of resources for paid and unpaid carers of people with learning disabilities and/or autism. The guidance is available in an online only format and covers topics such as social distancing, advance care planning and staying well.

We have also published guidance in an online only format for unpaid carers, which includes advice on infection control, and links to information and support, and we have provided funding to extend Carers UK's information and advice service.

To help unpaid carers continue to claim Carer's Allowance if they need to self-isolate, we made temporary amendments so that emotional support counts towards the 35 hours a week threshold.

We continue to work with carers organisations to identify further solutions to support carers.

Carillion: Audit

Asked by **Baroness Bowles of Berkhamsted**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether (1) KPMG, and (2) the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, are involved in any of their work dealing with international accounting standards and dividends payments; and if so, what assessment they have made of whether such involvement is appropriate in the light of reports that the Official Receiver is seeking to take action against KPMG over alleged negligence in its audits of Carillion. [HL7505]

Lord Callanan: The Government announced as part of its response to the consultation on Insolvency and Corporate Governance that it would look further at options for strengthening of the legal framework governing dividend payments in a proportionate way. In that context, the Department asked the ICAEW for technical advice on ways in which potential new distributable reserves disclosure requirements might be framed. The ICAEW was also asked to consider how its Guidance on Realised and Distributable Profits (Tech 02/17BL) might be simplified and clarified. It has subsequently published an Introduction to the Law on Dividends which includes an explanation of the role and content of its technical guidance.

The Government believes that it is appropriate to receive views and advice on accountancy matters from a wide and balanced range of expert stakeholders including the ICAEW and KPMG. In relation to international accounting standards, members of KPMG and ICAEW have attended meetings and have input into discussions and consultations since the standards were introduced in the UK.

Consistent with his duties as a liquidator, the Official Receiver has investigated whether Carillion may have a claim against KPMG for losses resulting from the conduct of its statutory audit and is considering pursuing a claim in this regard. It would be inappropriate to comment further at this stage.

CDC: Overseas Aid

Asked by **Baroness Tonge**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in view of the reduction in actual Official Development Assistance, what plans they have to re-focus money given to the Commonwealth Development Corporation on poverty, including education and universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights. [HL7482]

Baroness Sugg: CDC invests in the poorest countries in Africa and South Asia to support the growth of companies that create employment, help transform economies, and improve people's lives, through the goods and services they produce and the local taxes they generate. In 2019, the businesses into which CDC is

invested employed 875,790 people; sourced from 1.84 million farmers; and paid \$3.3 billion in local taxes.

As part of its ODA prioritisation process, the Government looked across its ODA programming including CDC. We are investing significantly less capital into CDC than originally planned at the start of the year. Funding will be focused on ensuring that CDC continues to take a targeted response that preserves, strengthens and helps rebuild economies across Africa and South Asia to mitigate the economic and health impacts of Covid-19. Funding originally earmarked for CDC will be re-purposed to ensure we can continue to focus on delivering for the bottom billion including by prioritising girls' education, climate change, essential health, sexual and reproductive health rights, while also responding to Covid-19.

CDC: Tax Havens

Asked by **Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to prohibit CDC Group from investing in companies based in tax havens or linked to companies based in tax havens. [HL7076]

Baroness Sugg: There is no internationally recognised definition of a "tax haven." CDC respects the tax policies of governments and supports their ability to tax. Whilst the development of domestic tax policy is the responsibility of governments, CDC requires its investee companies to approach tax in a responsible manner. CDC requires that: investee companies should be compliant, should not engage in base erosion and profit shifting, and should not engage in egregious tax planning.

Wherever possible, CDC invests directly into the country in which an investee company is located. If CDC invests through an intermediate country, it does so only if the country is compliant with international tax transparency standards as monitored by the OECD's Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Tax information.

CDC's policy on the payment of taxes and the use of offshore financial centres is available on CDC's website. This policy has been agreed with DFID and is reviewed annually.

Change of Use: Coronavirus

Asked by **Baroness Gardner of Parkes**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they plan to take to bring presently unused office spaces into use to provide housing for those who are unable to find safe places to live during the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL7518]

Asked by **Baroness Gardner of Parkes**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for providing access to

unused holiday lets accommodation in London to homeless people. [HL7519]

Lord Greenhalgh: Almost 15,000 vulnerable people have been housed in emergency accommodation, including hotels, since the start of the COVID-19 emergency. This includes people coming in directly from the streets, people previously housed in shared night shelters and people who have become vulnerable to rough sleeping during the pandemic.

On 24 June we announced that we are providing local authorities with a further £105 million to enable them to best support those placed into emergency accommodation during the COVID-19 pandemic. This commitment will help to ensure that as few of these people as possible return to the streets.

We also recently announced that £160 million of Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme funding will help ensure that 6,000 new housing units are put into the system, with 3,300 of these becoming available within 2020/21. We expect local authorities and registered providers to bring forward units of accommodation from a variety of sources and this could potentially include repurposing other buildings where appropriate.

Children: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie

To ask Her Majesty's Government to list the additional data requirements on local authorities relating to children's social care since the start of the COVID-19 lockdown. [HL7490]

Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have collected on the effect of the COVID-19 lockdown on vulnerable children; and how many new referrals have been made to local authority children's social care services by (1) self-referral, (2) the police, and (3) the NHS, since the start of that lockdown. [HL7491]

Baroness Berridge: The department has undertaken a survey of pupils, parents and young people (including vulnerable young people) to collect their views and experiences during the COVID-19 outbreak. It has also undertaken a survey of school leaders and teachers about the impact of COVID-19 on children and young people.

The department also publishes statistics on attendance in education and early years settings during COVID-19 (<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/attendance-in-education-and-early-years-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/2020-week-29>). There are also many other publicly available sources that the department makes use of, including a collated research study on children's and young people's views from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (<https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/covid-19-research-studies-children-young-peoples-views>).

Additionally, a new Vulnerable Children and Young People Survey collects fortnightly data from local authorities in England. It includes data on contact with children supported by children's social care, workforce, cost and system pressures. The new and temporary report includes the number of referrals to children's social care and referral source. The department is planning to publish the data in due course.

The department has been working closely with local authorities to assess the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak, setting up dedicated regional teams that are in frequent contact. Bringing together expertise from across the department, these teams monitor the challenges that local authorities are facing, including any increases in demand, and can provide support and guidance where appropriate.

Figures on the number of referrals and referral source are published annually in the 'Characteristics of children in need' statistical release here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-children-in-need>. The latest published data relates to the period up to 31 March 2019.

The attached table shows the number of referrals to children's social care services by referral source from the Vulnerable Children and Young People Survey.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL7490_HL7491_table [HL7490 HL7491 table showing the number of referrals by referral source.doc]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-28/HL7490>

Children: Day Care

Asked by Lord Beecham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the availability of childcare provision; and what steps they propose to take to mitigate that impact on service providers and those dependent on such provision. [HL7320]

Baroness Berridge: In order to control the spread of COVID-19, early years settings were asked to only open for children of critical workers and vulnerable children from 20 March. An Ipsos MORI survey showed that three-quarters of critical workers with young children could access childcare during the coronavirus lockdown. The survey is available at: <https://www.ipsos.com/ipsos-mori/en-uk/parents-0-4-year-olds-and-childcare-1st-june-2020>.

To ensure provision was available for all who needed it, local authorities have been able to redistribute free early years entitlement funding in exceptional cases to ensure childcare places are available for vulnerable and critical worker children.

Early years providers have been able to open to all children from 1 June. The latest attendance data shows

that on 30 July, an estimated 285,000 children were attending an early years setting. The latest data, published on 4 August, is available at: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/attendance-in-education-and-early-years-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/2020-week-31>.

Since 20 July, early years settings have been able to return to their normal group sizes, paving the way for more children to transition back to their early education and supporting parents to return to work.

On 20 July, we announced our commitment to continue paying local authorities for the childcare places they usually fund throughout the autumn term. This means that even if providers are open but caring for fewer children, they can continue to be funded as if the COVID-19 outbreak were not happening.

Local authorities should also continue to fund providers which have been advised to close, or left with no option but to close, for public health reasons. That gives another term of secure income to nurseries and childminders who are open for the children who need them. Until the start of the 2020 autumn term, it remains the case that free early years entitlement funding can be used differently and redistributed in exceptional cases to ensure childcare places are available for vulnerable and critical worker children.

The childcare sector has also been able to access a wider package of government support in the form of a business rates holiday, business interruption loans and the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. Full details of the support available is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures#funding>.

For school-aged children, holiday clubs and other out-of-school settings have been able to open since 4 July, helping parents to meet their childcare needs during the school summer holidays.

Children: Social Services

Asked by Baroness Eaton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the statement by the Secretary of State for Education on 12 February (HCWS110), what plans they have to engage with the children's social care sector to develop the terms of reference for their review of the care system; and when those terms of reference will be published. [HL7083]

Baroness Berridge: The Care Review is a fundamental part of the government's manifesto, and will be launched as soon as possible. The review will be bold, broad, and independently led, taking a fundamental look across children's social care, with the aim of better supporting, protecting and improving the outcomes of vulnerable children and young people. We will engage with the children's social care sector and ensure the review reflects the experiences of those who have needed a social worker

and been in care, putting children, young people, and their families at its centre.

Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect that the review of children's social care, set out in the Conservative Party's 2019 General Election manifesto, to commence. [HL7487]

Baroness Berridge: The Care Review is a fundamental part of the government's manifesto. While work has been delayed due to our immediate response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the review will be launching as soon as possible. The review will be bold, broad, and independently led, taking a fundamental look across children's social care, with the aim of better supporting, protecting and improving the outcomes of vulnerable children and young people.

Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the demand likely to be placed upon children's social care services in the autumn. [HL7571]

Baroness Berridge: The department has been working closely with local authorities to assess the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak, setting up dedicated regional teams that are in frequent contact. Bringing together expertise from across the department, these teams monitor the challenges that local authorities are facing, including any increases in demand, and they can provide support and guidance where appropriate.

We are aware that there may be an increase in demand for children's social care services in autumn. We are monitoring referrals via our regional teams and via a new Vulnerable Children and Young People Survey, which collects data fortnightly from local authorities in England. It includes data on contact with children supported by children's social care, workforce, cost and system pressures as well as the number of referrals to children's social care. We are planning to publish the data in due course.

The government has provided £3.7 billion of additional funding to support local authorities in meeting COVID-19 related pressures, including in children's services.

We will continue to work closely with local authorities as the outbreak progresses.

Children: Vaccination

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to reports by the World Health Organisation that there has been a significant decline in the global vaccination of children against diphtheria, tetanus, and whooping cough in the first four months of this year, what urgent action they are taking (1) to reverse this decline, (2) to minimise the disruption of immunisation programmes in adversely

impacted areas, and (3) to prevent further deterioration in vaccine coverage. [HL7171]

Baroness Sugg: COVID-19 lockdown measures have disrupted routine immunisation services in the poorest countries with the weakest health systems, reducing access to vaccines for vulnerable children. The World Health Organisation estimates that coverage of the third dose of diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis may have declined by 25-50% in May 2020 in Gavi-supported countries as compared to baseline levels.

Routine immunisation is the strongest shield against outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases. The UK is Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance's largest donor. Through UK support, Gavi, UNICEF and the World Health Organisation are working closely with countries to maintain and restore coverage levels, through catch up immunisation campaigns and strengthened routine immunisation programmes.

Through our support to Gavi and DFID's bilateral health programmes, we are advocating for the importance of immunisation within countries' COVID-19 primary health care recovery plans, with an unrelenting focus on equity at the sub-national level and reaching zero-dose children. The \$8.8 billion raised by the UK at the Global Vaccine Summit on 4th June, will enable Gavi to immunise 300 million more children and save up to 8 million lives.

China: British National (Overseas)

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take, when determining the eligibility of British National (Overseas) passport holders to settle in the UK, to ascertain whether the applicants (1) have supported the Chinese Communist Party in the past, and (2) are committed to democracy, human rights and the rule of law. [HL7067]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Secretary was pleased to recently announce details of the new immigration route for Hong Kong British National (Overseas) citizens, which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hong-kong-bno-visa-policy-statement>

The eligibility requirements are set out in the policy statement.

China: International Law

Asked by Lord Collins of Highbury

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to support independent, impartial and international mechanisms to investigate any violation by the government of China of its obligations and responsibilities under international law. [HL7445]

Baroness Sugg: As the Foreign Secretary said during a Statement to the House on 20 July, we have particularly

grave concerns about the gross human rights violations being perpetrated against Uyghurs and other minorities in Xinjiang. We have repeatedly urged China to live up to its international obligations and raised our serious concerns about the human rights situation in Xinjiang, including at the UN Human Rights Council where we delivered a joint statement on behalf of 27 other countries on 30 June. We have also repeatedly called for China to allow the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights meaningful access to the region, including on 30 June at the UN Human Rights Council.

China: Religious Freedom

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of China about (1) its rejection of Article 18 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and (2) whether that government will support Article 18 in the future. [HL7071]

Baroness Sugg: We regularly raise human rights concerns, and the need for China to uphold its international obligations with the Chinese authorities. On 9 March the Foreign Secretary raised our concerns about the human rights situation in Xinjiang with his Chinese counterpart, Foreign Minister and State Councillor Wang Yi. On 30 June, the UK read out a statement on behalf of 28 countries at the 44th session of the UN Human Rights Council highlighting concerns about arbitrary detention, widespread surveillance and restrictions, particularly those targeting Uyghurs and other minorities, in Xinjiang.

China: Uighurs

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what assessment they have made of the statement by the President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, in a letter of 20 July to the Ambassador of China to the UK that "the world will neither forgive nor forget a genocide against the Uyghur people." [HL7068]

Baroness Sugg: We are aware of the statement. We have made clear our serious concerns about the human rights situation in Xinjiang, including the extra-judicial detention of over a million Uyghur Muslims and other minorities in "political re-education camps", systematic restrictions on Uyghur culture and the practice of Islam, and extensive and invasive surveillance targeting minorities.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to seek international support for a full and impartial investigation into the detention of Uighur Muslims in camps in Xinjiang. [HL7069]

Baroness Sugg: The UK has played a leading role in drawing attention to the deeply concerning situation in

Xinjiang. This has included working with international partners in relevant UN bodies, such as the UN Human Rights Council, to call for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and her Office to be granted immediate and unfettered access to the region. We also frequently raise our concerns directly with the Chinese authorities, urging them to change their approach in Xinjiang and to respect international human rights norms.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they last discussed the detention of Uighur Muslims in camps in Xinjiang with the Ambassador of China to the UK; and what response they received to any such discussions. [HL7070]

Baroness Sugg: The Minister for Asia raised the Government's serious concerns about the detention of Uyghurs in so-called "re-education camps" with the Chinese Ambassador to the UK during their most recent meeting on 5 March. Officials also regularly raise our human rights concerns with the Chinese Embassy. We will continue to raise this issue with the Chinese authorities, both bilaterally with China and at the UN alongside our international partners.

Asked by Lord Anderson of Ipswich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the finding and recommendations of the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales in its briefing paper Responsibility of States under International Law to Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, China, published on 22 July. [HL7189]

Asked by Lord Anderson of Ipswich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken or are planning to take, following the recommendation of the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales in its Briefing Paper Responsibility of States under International Law to Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, China, published on 22 July, to request that an Advisory Opinion be sought from the International Court of Justice on the allegations highlighted in that paper. [HL7190]

Asked by Lord Anderson of Ipswich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken or are planning to take, following the recommendation of the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales in its Briefing Paper Responsibility of States under International Law to Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, China, published on 22 July, to support the call of the UN independent experts of 26 June for decisive measures to protect fundamental freedoms in China by (1) urging the government of China to invite mandate-holders, including those with a mandate to monitor civil and political rights, to conduct independent missions and to

permit those visits to take place in an environment of confidentiality, respect for human rights defenders, and full avoidance of reprisals against those with whom mandate-holders may meet, (2) calling upon the UN Human Rights Council to act with a sense of urgency to take all appropriate measures to monitor Chinese human rights practices, and (3) establishing an impartial and independent United Nations mechanism or a Secretary-General Special Envoy, to closely monitor, analyse and report annually on the human rights situation in China, particularly, in view of the urgency of the situation in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region. [HL7191]

Asked by Lord Anderson of Ipswich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken or are planning to take, following the recommendation of the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales in its Briefing Paper Responsibility of States under International Law to Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, China, published on 22 July, to invoke China's international responsibility for alleged violations of the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination by engaging the inter-State dispute mechanism. [HL7192]

Asked by Lord Anderson of Ipswich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken or are planning to take, following the recommendation of the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales in its Briefing Paper Responsibility of States under International Law to Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, China, published on 22 July, to use all available offices and legal means to prevent any violations being committed against Uyghur and Turkic Muslim populations. [HL7193]

Asked by Lord Anderson of Ipswich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken or are planning to take, following the recommendation of the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales in its Briefing Paper Responsibility of States under International Law to Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, China, published on 22 July, as recommended by the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales, to create and apply Magnitsky-style sanctions on individuals, whether state or non-state actors, where there are reasonable grounds to suspect the person is involved in serious human rights violations in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region. [HL7194]

Baroness Sugg: We are aware of the Bar Human Rights Committee report published on 22 July. We are carefully considering its findings. As the Foreign Secretary said during a Statement to the House on 20 July, we have particularly grave concerns about the gross human rights violations being perpetrated against Uyghurs and other minorities in Xinjiang. We regularly

raise our serious concerns about the human rights situation in Xinjiang, including at the UN Human Rights Council in a joint statement with 27 other countries on 30 June.

Asked by Lord Collins of Highbury

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to respond to the recommendations of the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales report, Responsibility of States under International Law to Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, China, published 22 July. [HL7444]

Baroness Sugg: We are aware of the Bar Human Rights Committee report published on 22 July and are carefully considering its findings. As the Foreign Secretary said during a Statement to the House on 20 July, we have particularly grave concerns about the gross human rights violations being perpetrated against Uyghurs and other minorities in Xinjiang. We have repeatedly urged China to live up to its international obligations and raised our serious concerns about the human rights situation in Xinjiang, including at the UN Human Rights Council where we delivered a joint statement on behalf of 27 other countries on 30 June.

Chorley and South Ribble Hospital: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Hoyle

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the pathology laboratory at Chorley and South Ribble Hospital is not being used for COVID-19 testing. [HL5368]

Lord Bethell: In line with the Lord Carter of Coles report furthering the modernisation of pathology services, a network approach supporting the consolidation and integration of laboratory testing continues to progress. The networked approach has enabled the pathology services across England to stand up significant testing capability rapidly.

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust host the microbiology hub and provide COVID-19 testing for the hospitals within its management, including Chorley and South Ribble Hospital.

Climate Change Convention: Travel

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they are making, as hosts of COP26, to ensure that participants are able to travel to the conference in the lowest-carbon manner possible, including by (1) train from all parts of Europe, and (2) by sleeper trains. [HL7322]

Lord Callanan: We will encourage all delegates to consider low-carbon travel options, such as rail, particularly those arriving from Europe. Rail travel within the UK will certainly be encouraged and we are in the process of developing a multifaceted transport plan that

supports the delegate experience and has sustainability at the core.

Colombia: Overseas Aid

Asked by Baroness Coussins

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, following the merger of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department of International Development, they plan to fund projects to help combat sexual violence in Colombia on a longer-term basis than the annual funding cycle has permitted to date. [HL7446]

Asked by Baroness Coussins

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to include greater involvement of survivors of sexual violence in the programme design of funded projects in Colombia. [HL7447]

Baroness Sugg: The United Kingdom remains committed to protecting and promoting human rights in Colombia, which the FCO has designated a Human Rights Priority Country. Since 2016, UK support to a network of survivors of sexual violence has helped document 1200 new cases which are now before the transitional justice system. The UK has also funded work to train rural medical professionals in how to attend cases of sexual violence, including with a view to preserving evidence to facilitate convictions. More broadly, the UK has led efforts to strengthen action on conflict-related sexual violence through UN Security Council Peacekeeping Mandates and Resolutions. In April 2019, we advocated and voted for UN Security Council Resolution 2467 on sexual violence in conflict. This specified the importance of a survivor-centric approach in response to conflict-related sexual violence, which is the approach that underpins our programme work in Colombia. The UK remains committed to providing support to help Colombia tackle the legacy of sexual violence from its long conflict, and, as part of the FCO-DFID merger discussions, we will take the opportunity to review, refresh, and build on all existing strategies, as well as developing new approaches where appropriate.

Common Travel Area

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the legal status of the common travel area between the UK, the Crown Dependencies and Ireland. [HL7274]

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what mechanism exists to resolve disputes between the UK Government and the government of Ireland over the operation of the common travel area. [HL7275]

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what, if any, disputes have arisen between the UK Government and

the government of Ireland over the operation of the common travel area. [HL7276]

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether a UK citizen has ever taken legal action against the UK Government over the operation of the common travel area. [HL7277]

Lord True: The Common Travel Area (CTA) is an arrangement between the UK, the Isle of Man, Guernsey, Jersey, and Ireland. It is underpinned by domestic law in each jurisdiction.

Both the UK and Irish Governments have committed to taking all necessary measures to ensure that the Common Travel Area and its associated rights and privileges are protected and maintained, including entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 8 May 2019. We are not aware of any significant disputes that have arisen between the UK Government and Ireland over the operation of the Common Travel Area, nor of cases when a UK citizen has taken legal action against the UK Government over the operation of the Common Travel Area.

Commonwealth

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to discuss the case for creating new permanent Commonwealth specialist agencies at the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. [HL7225]

Baroness Sugg: The UK has no plans to discuss the creation of new specialist agencies at the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). We are focused on strengthening and delivering through the existing institutions, organisations and networks of the Commonwealth. Those include the three inter-governmental organisations (the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Commonwealth Foundation and the Commonwealth of Learning) and their many programmes; several intergovernmental fora of ministers and senior officials; and over 80 Commonwealth-accredited organisations. We look forward to the postponed CHOGM being held in Kigali next year. The UK will continue as Commonwealth Chair-in-Office until then.

Commonwealth Games 2022

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Birmingham Organising Committee for the 2022 Commonwealth Games about the diversity of its workforce. [HL7114]

Baroness Barran: The government is in regular discussions with the Birmingham 2022 Organising Committee about equality, inclusivity and the diversity of

its workforce. Birmingham 2022 is committed to living up to the Games Partners' common purpose of being a 'games for everyone' and recognises it has work to do to ensure its workforce reflects the rich diversity of the West Midlands. It is developing an initial roadmap to move forward positively on the issue and recently set this out in an open letter which can be found on its website. It is also committed to openness and transparency. More details of its action plan will be made public in due course.

Community Charge: Non-payment

Asked by Lord Jones

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the total amount of uncollected poll tax, post poll tax abolition. [HL7161]

Lord Greenhalgh: The Department no longer collects data on the amount of community charge that remains uncollected.

Commuters: Greater London

Asked by Lord Grocott

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the (1) absolute numbers, and (2) proportions of commuters, travelling into by London by (a) rail including London Underground, (b) bus, (c) car, (d) bicycle, and (e) motor cycle. [HL7358]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: To monitor the use of the transport system during the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, the Department for Transport provides statistics on transport use by mode, published every Wednesday. Data on usage of the different transport modes is available on GOV.UK.

This includes usage of Tube and Bus in London compared to a pre Covid-19 baseline. Specific data on the purpose of a journey (e.g. commuting) by mode is not available for the Covid-19 period yet. Historic data on this can be found in the National Travel Survey and in Transport Statistics Great Britain both available on GOV.UK.

Companies: Annual reports

Asked by Baroness Bowles of Berkhamsted

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy research paper Stakeholder perceptions of non-financial reporting, published in October 2019, (1) why they commissioned PwC to undertake this research; (2) whether the tendering process took account of any financial interest PwC had in non-financial reporting systems relating to that company's audit services; (3) why the paper does not specify (a) which stakeholders were involved in the research, and (b) how they were selected; (4) what assessment they have made of the relative benefits of UK-led non-financial reporting standards compared to international standards; and (5)

what assessment they have made of the difficulty in reaching a consensus on common international standards for non-financial reporting of (a) human rights, and (b) climate change, impacts. [HL7270]

Lord Callanan: The PWC research was commissioned to inform work on a post-implementation review of non-financial reporting regulations, covering:

a) the 2013 regulations which required all companies, apart from those subject to the small companies' exemption, to produce strategic reports, and

b) the 2016 non-financial reporting regulations which required all large (>500 employees) Public Interest Entities to report on environmental, social and community matters to the extent necessary for an understanding of the company's development, performance and position, and the impact of their activities.

The research project was put out to tender in line with the Public Procurement Guidelines. BEIS received two bids to carry out the work and PWC was selected as the preferred contractor, based on the quality of the bid including their expertise. The project was managed by a social researcher who agreed all details related to the methodology and its implementation. The focus of the report was on stakeholder and company perceptions of the regulations and their impact in general and did not use, or consider the use of, non-financial reporting systems by PwC or any other company.

For the qualitative interviews, the Department selected stakeholders covering a likely cross section of views, including a range of investor groups and non-profit and professional bodies and they are listed on page 12 of the report. The stakeholder interviews were intended to complement the quantitative survey of over 100 companies, who provided their views on a confidential basis.

Although different reporting frameworks and international standards were not a focus of the 2019 research, the UK Government supports the use of international frameworks or standards for reporting on non-financial issues where this is possible. We have commissioned further research, which will include looking at the role of domestic and international reporting frameworks.

Conflict Prevention

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the potential (1) of creating new, and (2) of improving current, channels for détente and dialogue to prevent violent conflict and foster harmonious development globally. [HL7226]

Baroness Sugg: Dialogue is an essential part of efforts to prevent violent conflict. We continue to prioritise preventive diplomacy and mediation through the UN and push for greater collaboration on peacebuilding amongst international organisations. The evidence is also clear that women's meaningful participation in conflict prevention

through to conflict resolution is key to securing sustainable peace. In the 20th anniversary year of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, we are prioritising promoting women's meaningful inclusion in peace processes; and increasing support and protection for women resolving conflict, countering violent extremism and building peace at the grassroots level.

Contact Tracing: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to reports that over 20 per cent of those traced by the NHS COVID-19 test, track and trace system could not be reached, what plans they have to adjust the system to take into account the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies' advice that the threshold for effectiveness per index case is 80 per cent. [HL6146]

Lord Bethell: The Government launched its NHS Test and Trace service on 28 May 2020 to control the rate of reproduction (R), reduce the spread of the virus and save lives.

The contact tracing process starts as soon as NHS Test and Trace receive notification that someone has tested positive for COVID-19. The NHS Test and Trace service contacts people by text message, email or phone, including sending reminder messages and calls. We are reaching the close contacts of thousands of positive cases, where their contact details are known by the positive index case, and we are encouraged by the progress so far and user feedback.

Data published on 9 July shows that since 28 May, 75.7% (23,796) of people who tested positive (and had their case transferred to NHS Test and Trace) were reached and asked to provide contact details of recent, close contacts. Of the contacts identified through NHS Test and Trace, 85.1% (144,501) were reached and advised to self-isolate. Work is ongoing to understand, evaluate and continuously improve the test and trace programme and its effectiveness.

Continuing Care: Internet

Asked by Baroness Gale

To ask Her Majesty's Government what monitoring and evaluation they have undertaken to ascertain the compliance of NHS continuing healthcare (1) virtual assessments, and (2) associated services, delivered during the COVID-19 pandemic with (a) the national framework for NHS continuing healthcare, and (b) relevant legislation. [HL7279]

Asked by Baroness Gale

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to produce guidance on monitoring and evaluating the quality of virtual NHS continuing healthcare assessments. [HL7280]

Asked by **Baroness Gale**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that virtual NHS continuing healthcare assessments are compliant with the Equality Act 2010 reasonable adjustments duty. [HL7281]

Lord Bethell: During the COVID-19 emergency period, National Health Service Continuing Healthcare (CHC) assessments have not been required due to changes made under section 14 of the Coronavirus Act 2020. Where CHC assessments have continued during the emergency period, these must be compliant with the NHS Commissioning Board and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) Regulations 2012 and the CHC National Framework.

CCGs may use a number of approaches to arrange Multidisciplinary Team assessments, including video conference. Preferences for how these are carried out should be indicated by the individual being assessed or their representatives.

To ensure the delivery of high-quality assessments, local assurance processes should be in place. There is also a detailed review process for eligibility decisions if an individual is dissatisfied with the outcome.

Coronavirus

Asked by **Lord Alton of Liverpool**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review internal advice on personal protective equipment given to NHS doctors; and what steps they are taking to ensure that medical staff swabbing patients for COVID-19 have filtering facepiece 3 respirators. [HL2599]

Lord Bethell: To provide a more comprehensive response to a number of outstanding Written Questions, this has been answered by an information factsheet *PPE - note for House of Lords* which is attached, due to the size of the data. A copy has also been placed in the Library.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

PPE information factsheet [PPE - note for House of Lords v2.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-16/HL2599>

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

Asked by **Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent discussions they have had, and with whom, about the effect of the withdrawal of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme on those with protected characteristics. [HL7390]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: In making decisions about the withdrawal of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme,

HM Treasury worked closely with key stakeholders, including business representatives, and other Government departments.

HM Treasury considers the equality impacts of individual policies on those with protected characteristics carefully and consistently, in line with both its legal obligations and its strong commitment to equality; and there are internal procedural requirements and support in place for ensuring that such considerations inform decisions taken by Ministers.

Coronavirus: Children

Asked by **Lord Jones**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children have been recorded as having contracted COVID-19 in 2020 to date. [HL7159]

Lord Bethell: As of 7 August 2020 in England, 10,471 COVID-19 cases were recorded for children and young people aged 19 and under.

Coronavirus: Clinical Trials

Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for early human challenge trials to assist with the development of a COVID-19 vaccine. [HL6971]

Lord Callanan: The Vaccine Taskforce fully recognises the importance of effective clinical trials to demonstrate the safety and efficacy of potential vaccines. The case for early human challenge studies is under constant review and we are working at pace to develop a vaccine as quickly as possible.

Coronavirus: Contact Tracing

Asked by **Lord Birt**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the data obtained so far from the Test and Trace programme and, in particular, what it shows about how people are contracting COVID-19. [HL5636]

Lord Bethell: To provide a more comprehensive response to a number of outstanding Written Questions, this has been answered by an information factsheet *Testing – note for House of Lords* which is attached, due to the size of the data. A copy has also been placed in the Library.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Testing information factsheet [Testing - note for House of Lords.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-15/HL5636>

Asked by Lord Freyberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many COVID-19 tests have been made available but not processed as part of the NHS Test and Trace programme, broken down by the local authority area (1) to which they were sent, or (2) in which they were administered. [HL6454]

Lord Bethell: The Department does not hold data in this format. There will be many instances where the National Testing Programme sends kits out that are not used immediately, for example to be held at local sites for when they are needed.

Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what (1) social, (2) economic, and (3) demographic, trends they have identified among those who have not been successfully traced via the NHS Test and Trace system; and what plans they have to implement measures to (a) target specific groups, and (b) use different methods of communication, to ensure that underrepresented groups are contact-traced. [HL7054]

Lord Bethell: The Contact Tracing Advisory Service is undertaking work to evaluate valid postcodes gathered through the service and are broken down across a range of trends to cover social, economic, and demographic factors, including includes analysis of valid and non-valid postcodes.

The service conducts research across different communities, including those hard to reach and areas of multiple deprivation; in order to understand the customer experience and difficulties encountered when engaging with it to continually improve the service.

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the national test and trace system in deprived areas. [HL7167]

Lord Bethell: All local councils have published Local Outbreak Control Plans, which include sections on identifying and managing outbreaks in high-risk communities and supporting vulnerable communities to self-isolate. Local areas are taking targeted practical action through these, engaging with local networks to get to the heart of communities. A range of activities are being implemented across the areas on the watchlist, which are typically deprived areas, to raise awareness and compliance with NHS Test and Trace as well as public health behaviours, with close attention to shared learning to ensure best practice.

Coronavirus: Contracts

Asked by Lord Strasburger

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will list the contracts awarded in 2020 for the supply of (1) personal protective equipment, and (2) other COVID-19

related products or services, with companies that had no previous experience of supplying those products or services; and in each case identify (a) how the supplier was selected, (b) what due diligence was performed to determine the supplier's ability to perform the contract, (c) who carried out that due diligence, (d) how value for money was assessed, and (e) who was the senior official or minister to authorise the order. [HL6808]

Asked by Lord Strasburger

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether at any time in 2020 they had a preferred list of suppliers of COVID-19 related products and services; and, if so, what checks were carried out to ensure that no conflicts of interest existed between those companies and ministers or special advisers. [HL6809]

Lord Bethell: Online guidance on how contracting authorities should respond to coronavirus was published on March 18. Public authorities are allowed to procure goods, services and works with extreme urgency in exceptional circumstances using regulation 32(2)(c) under the Public Contract Regulations 2015. Available options include a direct award due to extreme urgency and direct award due to absence of competition or protection of exclusive rights.

Over 1,000 purchase orders have been awarded to suppliers for COVID-19 related work, the majority through a direct award. There is no single consideration such as previous experience as to whether a supplier is added to the supply chain. The supplier will be evaluated by Departmental officials on their financial standing, compliance with minimum product specifications and ability to perform the contract. To provide a validated assessment of solely the previous experience for each of the suppliers on each of these contracts would involve disproportionate cost. Contracts are awarded by the appropriate Departmental accounting officer, an official, in line with Department's terms and conditions which include clauses for contract management to assess performance and value for money throughout the lifetime of the contract.

Coronavirus: Death

Asked by Baroness Uddin

To ask Her Majesty's Government what data they are collecting on the numbers of COVID-19 deaths broken down by (1) age, (2) occupation, (3) gender, (4) ethnicity, and (5) religion. [HL3099]

Lord Bethell: To provide a more comprehensive response to a number of outstanding Written Questions, this has been answered by an information factsheet *Science of Covid-19 note for House of Lords*, which is attached due to the size of the data. A copy has also been placed in the Library.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Science of COVID-19 information factsheet [Science of Covid-19 note for House of Lords.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-22/HL3099>

Asked by Lord Truscott

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the per capita COVID-19 death rate in England relative to other countries; and what assessment they have made of analysis which indicates that England has one of the highest per capita COVID-19 death rates in the world. [HL5135]

Lord Bethell: To provide a more comprehensive response to a number of outstanding Written Questions, this has been answered by an information factsheet *Science of Covid-19 – note for the House of Lords* which is attached, due to the size of the data. A copy has also been placed in the Library.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Science of COVID-19 information factsheet [Science of Covid-19 note for House of Lords.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-02/HL5135>

Asked by Lord Marlesford

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord True on 28 May (HL4424), what estimate they have made of the total number of deaths from COVID-19 in the UK in each week since 1 May. [HL7234]

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

Dear Lord Marlesford,

As National Statistician and Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority, I am responding to your Parliamentary Question asking, further to the Written Answer by Lord True on 28 May (HL4424), about the total number of deaths from COVID-19 in the UK in each week since 1 May (HL7234).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for publishing numbers of deaths registered in England and Wales. The most recent annual figures published are for deaths registered in 2019[1]. However, we do publish provisional weekly deaths registrations, which are currently available for deaths registered up to 10 July 2020[2]. National Records Scotland (NRS) and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) are responsible for publishing the number of deaths registered in Scotland and Northern Ireland respectively.

Cause of death is defined using the International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th edition (ICD-10). Deaths involving COVID-19, as either a contributory or underlying cause of death, are identified by the ICD-10 codes U07.1 and U07.2.

The accompanying dataset ² to our provisional weekly deaths bulletin includes UK data on deaths involving COVID-19, which refer to deaths where COVID-19 was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate.

Table 1 shows the provisional number of deaths involving COVID-19 registered each week in the UK from the week ending 8 May up to the week ending 10 July 2020, broken down by country.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Sir Ian Diamond

Table 1: Number of deaths involving COVID-19 registered each week in the UK, week ending 8 May up to the week ending 10 July 2020[3][4][5][6][7][8][9]

Week number	Week ended	UK	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
19	08-May-20	4,426	3,716	211	415	84
20	15-May-20	4,214	3,624	180	336	74
21	22-May-20	2,872	2,455	134	230	53
22	29-May-20	2,000	1,715	105	131	49
23	05-Jun-20	1,697	1,488	100	89	20
24	12-Jun-20	1,204	1,057	57	69	21
25	19-Jun-20	849	744	39	49	17
26	26-Jun-20	651	574	30	35	12
27	03-Jul-20	561	497	35	18	11
28	10-Jul-20	388	344	22	13	9

[1]

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/datasets/deathsregisteredinenglandandwalesseriesdrreferencetables>

[2]

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/datasets/weeklyprovisionalfiguresondeathsregisteredinenglandandwales>

[3] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes U07.1, U07.2

[4] Figures are based on deaths registered up to 1 May 2020

[5] All figures for 2020 are provisional

[6] Weekly deaths for Scotland are produced by NRS: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/covid19stats>

[7] Weekly deaths for Northern Ireland are produced by NISRA: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/covid19stats>

[8] England, Wales and Northern Ireland weekly deaths run from Saturday to Friday, Scotland deaths run from Monday to Sunday

[9] Northern Ireland week allocation differs from other countries. For example, week 1 is week ending 10-Jan. This has been adjusted for the purpose of aggregating the data

Coronavirus: Disease Control

Asked by Lord Scriven

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was their estimate of the basic COVID-19 reproduction rate in each week from 1 February to 2 April. [HL3844]

Lord Bethell: To provide a more comprehensive response to a number of outstanding Written Questions, this has been answered by an information factsheet *Science of Covid-19 note for House of Lords*, which is attached due to the size of the data. A copy has also been placed in the Library.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Science of COVID-19 information factsheet [Science of Covid-19 note for House of Lords.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-05/HL3844>

Asked by Baroness Hayman

To ask Her Majesty's Government to publish their current assessment of the relative impact of different risk factors including (1) age, (2) gender, (3) ethnicity, and (4) specific health conditions, on the (a) incidence, and (b) increased risk, of serious illness from COVID-19 for individuals; and what plans they have to develop an individual risk analysis tool to aid (1) Government, and (2) personal, decision making in relation to the virus. [T] [HL3866]

Lord Bethell: To provide a more comprehensive response to a number of outstanding Written Questions, this has been answered by an information factsheet *Science of COVID-19* which is attached, due to the size of the data. A copy has also been placed in the Library.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Science of COVID-19 information factsheet [Science of Covid-19 note for House of Lords.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-05/HL3866>

Asked by Lord Wigley

To ask Her Majesty's Government to what extent they assess the effective reproduction number of COVID-19 for populations other than that of the UK as a whole; and, what was the effective reproduction number for respectively (1) England, (2) Wales, (3) Northern Ireland, and (4) Scotland, for the latest date when all four figures are available. [HL3935]

Lord Bethell: To provide a more comprehensive response to a number of outstanding Written Questions, this has been answered by an information factsheet *Science of Covid-19 note for House of Lords*, which is attached due to the size of the data. A copy has also been placed in the Library.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Science of COVID-19 information factsheet [Science of Covid-19 note for House of Lords.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-05/HL3935>

Asked by Lord Maginnis of Drumglass

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the populations for (1) England, (2) Scotland, (3) Wales, and (4) Northern Ireland; what has been the number of deaths from COVID-19 per country; what is the effective reproduction number of the virus in each country; and what plans they have to publish statistics on COVID-19 on this basis. [HL3964]

Lord Bethell: To provide a more comprehensive response to a number of outstanding Written Questions, this has been answered by an information factsheet *Science of Covid-19 note for House of Lords*, which is attached due to the size of the data. A copy has also been placed in the Library.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Science of COVID-19 information factsheet [Science of Covid-19 note for House of Lords.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-05/HL3964>

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to raise public awareness about the long-term effects of COVID-19 experienced by some people who had only mild symptoms of the disease. [HL5747]

Lord Bethell: COVID-19 is a new disease and therefore it is not yet clear what the medical, psychological and rehabilitation needs will be for those experiencing long-term effects, to enable them to make as full a recovery as possible.

The UK Research and Innovation-National Institute for Health Research Rapid Response Rolling Call has funded a large post-hospitalisation study. The study, announced in July, will establish a national consortium and a research platform embedded within clinical care to better understand and improve long-term outcomes for survivors following hospitalisation with COVID-19. It will also help to ensure future treatment can be tailored as much as possible to the person.

The new 'Your COVID Recovery' service, forms part of National Health Service plans to expand access to COVID-19 rehabilitation treatments for those who have survived the virus but still have problems with breathing, mental health problems or other complications.

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to support those suffering long-term effects from COVID-19. [HL5748]

Lord Bethell: The National Health Service and the wider scientific community are currently working to better understand the disease course of the COVID-19 virus, including the severity and duration of symptoms. The UK Research and Innovation-National Institute for Health Research Rapid Response Rolling Call has funded a large post-hospitalisation study. The study, announced in July, will establish a national consortium and a research platform embedded within clinical care to understand and improve long-term outcomes for survivors following hospitalisation with COVID-19.

NHS England and NHS Improvement have worked with the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust to develop a digital, interactive, personalised recovery programme for people recovering from COVID-19. The new 'Your COVID Recovery' service, which was announced on 5 July, forms part of NHS plans to expand access to COVID-19 rehabilitation treatments for those who have survived the virus but still have problems with breathing, mental health problems or other complications.

Asked by Lord Birt

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bethell on 26 June (HL3499), where in the report *Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and Mitigating Measures*, published on 4 June, "the latest research on the amount of time that the COVID-19 virus remains potent on different kinds of surface" is addressed; and whether they will now answer the question put, namely, what assessment they have made of the latest scientific research on the amount of time that the COVID-19 virus remains potent on different kinds of surface; whether they will publish that assessment; and if so, when. [T] [HL6347]

Lord Bethell: The key conclusions on page one of the report *Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and Mitigating Measures* reported that the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 is most strongly associated with close and prolonged contact, suggesting that close-range direct person-to-person transmission (droplets) and indirect contact

transmission (via surfaces and objects) are the most important routes of transmission.

In the overview of modes of transmission from page two onwards, the report stated that transmission may also be influenced by environmental conditions. The virus is stable on surfaces and in air under laboratory conditions that simulate indoor environments. The virus survives better under colder, drier conditions with survival times of hours to days. Experiments under simulated sunlight suggests that high exposure to UV in outdoor environments will reduce the survival time to the order of minutes, however this will depend on the time of year and the cloud cover. The virus is not likely to survive for long periods of time on outdoor surfaces in sunlight, but it may survive for more than 24 hours in indoor environments.

No further assessment has been undertaken.

Asked by Baroness McDonagh

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the implications for their policies of the review by Professor Philip Calder of the University of Southampton Nutrition, immunity and COVID-19, published on 20 May in the journal *BMJ Nutrition, Prevention and Health*. [HL6852]

Lord Bethell: Public Health England (PHE) is aware of the paper by Professor Calder. The Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) considered the paper as part of a recent scoping exercise on nutrition and immunity. Interim conclusions of the committee were that there is currently a lack of robust evidence to suggest that specific nutrients or nutritional supplements can reduce the risk or severity of COVID-19. SACN and PHE will keep this topic under review.

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the role played by UK-based companies in addressing COVID-19. [HL6938]

Lord Bethell: United Kingdom-based companies have played a major role in working with the Department on some of the most challenging healthcare areas of the response to COVID-19. These have included:

- building UK manufacturing of personal protective equipment (PPE) capacity by signing contracts to manufacture over three billion items of PPE with over 30 UK-based companies; and
- at the start of the COVID-19 outbreak in March there were more than 8,000 mechanical ventilators in hospitals across the UK. As of the end of July we now have over 30,000 mechanical ventilators available to the National Health Service. 14,679 of these are from new suppliers responding to the Prime Minister's ventilator challenge and are mostly made in the UK.

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what (1) plans, and (2) preparations, they are making for any second wave of COVID-19. [HL6973]

Lord Bethell: The Government has now developed testing capacity to around 300,000 tests per day across in preparation for any second wave. We will constantly monitor demand, including anticipating winter pressures, and scale up the contact tracing workforce if needed.

We are also planning for the next phase of testing: ensuring our testing is as effective as possible in containing the virus, and building resilience for the long-term, especially ahead of winter. We plan further increases through the summer and into the autumn through a combination of improvements to existing labs and new partnerships. Increasing our testing capacity will further support the NHS Test and Trace system by allowing widespread testing of those suspected to be infected with COVID-19 and their contacts and enable the deployment of additional testing capacity to respond to local outbreaks.

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to support people who are shielding (1) who have been advised by their clinicians to continue shielding, and (2) whose workplaces are not safe to return to, after 1 August. [HL6977]

Lord Bethell: All employers have been asked to work with the Government to ease the transition back to a more normal way of life for their clinically extremely vulnerable employees. Employers and employees should start having these conversations as early as possible before the guidance is changed on 1 August.

At this time, the Government does not advise clinically extremely vulnerable individuals to attend their place of work if this requires them to leave their home. From 1 August those shielding who are unable to work from home but can work on site, should do so, provided the business is COVID-safe.

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the publication of Our Plan to Rebuild: The UK Government's COVID-19 Recovery Strategy in May, what plans they have to introduce the "more differentiated approach to risk" for people who are shielding if the COVID-19 infection rate increases. [HL6979]

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government to what level the COVID-19 infection rate would need to rise for shielding to be re-introduced (1) locally, and (2) nationally. [HL6980]

Lord Bethell: We are working with a consortium of leading academics and the National Health Service to develop a new risk assessment tool that will allow us to better judge the risk that individuals face from COVID-19. This means that if the shielding policy needs to be started again in the event of an increase in the COVID-19 infection rate or in local lockdowns, we will be able to

better target interventions and have a much stronger scientific basis for our approach to risk management for those most at risk.

There is no predetermined infection rate at which shielding may be reintroduced. Any decision to restart shielding would be based on clinical advice at the time taking into account the particular circumstances. We are keeping this under constant review.

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what further plans they have to change regulations relating to COVID-19; and how any such plans have been influenced by the behaviour of any ministers or advisors who may have previously violated those regulations. [HL7178]

Lord True: We are at a stage of the epidemic where the number of infections has come down considerably from its peak and the virus is broadly under control in the majority of the UK. The Government keeps the situation under constant review and remains ready to take further action if required. We have made regulations in response to local outbreaks. We have also amended the border restrictions on various occasions in response to changes in the spread of the virus in other countries. As is always the case, decisions on health and other such measures are made on the basis of official advice, informed by expert scientific advisers.

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the ethical implications of the creation of emergency funds by multinational corporations to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL7230]

Baroness Sugg: The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a severe impact on those who work in and supply global value chains. 292 million jobs in manufacturing supply chains are at high risk globally due to the COVID-19-related drop in consumer demand. These include 73 million in textiles and garment supply chains – a critical source of labour demand for many of the poorest and most vulnerable workers globally.

Multinational corporations have significant reach and can have a positive impact on their supply chains. DFID is partnering with Unilever to deploy a Hygiene and Behaviour Change Coalition to combat COVID-19 where our support is matched in-kind from Unilever. DFID is also supportive of initiatives such as the ILO/IUTC Action in the Global Garment Industry that encourages good practice. We also support the efforts of organisations like the Ethical Trading Initiative and Fairtrade Foundation, who work with companies to ensure good working conditions in their supply chains. Finally, DFID has provided funding to the Business and COVID-19 Response Centre, which is working to accelerate global learning and action to support the most vulnerable people in companies' supply chains.

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government on what date the COVID-19 lockdown began in the UK; and under what circumstances they would impose a similar such lockdown in the future. [HL7365]

Lord Bethell: The Government implemented restrictions and behavioural advice throughout March. Self-isolation guidance was published online at GOV.UK on 12 March. The statement of 16 March, *Official Report*, columns 1347-1349, advised those who had symptoms and those who lived in a house with someone with symptoms, to stay at home for 14 days.

On 16 July, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care outlined that we are moving from blanket national measures, to targeted, local measures, supported by the NHS Test and Trace system. Often this will be a very small scale, such as an individual factory, but when necessary we will also act on a broader basis as we have done in Leicester. However, in the event that local response is not sufficient to contain outbreaks and prevent the virus returning to general circulation, the Government remains ready and prepared to act rapidly and implement a national lockdown if deemed necessary to protect lives and the National Health Service.

Asked by Lord Lipsey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of how much the increase in daily reported COVID-19 cases can be attributed (1) to increased testing, and (2) to changes in natural prevalence. [HL7375]

Lord Bethell: Public Health England and the Joint Biosecurity Centre established a Joint Situational Awareness Team that produces a daily situational awareness report to provide an overview of current COVID-19 epidemiology locally, regional and nationally using a range of epidemiological, clinical and other indicators (including testing data). These reports are disseminated to Directors of Public Health and discussed each morning with frontline health protection colleagues to ensure that local knowledge is factored into the interpretation of the data.

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of easing COVID-19-related restrictions in England on those who are (1) ill, and (2) disabled. [HL7391]

Lord Bethell: The Government have considered the impact that COVID-19 and social distancing restrictions are having on those with disabilities, and poor physical and mental health.

We keep these impacts under constant review assessing them to ensure that restrictions continue to be necessary and proportionate based on available scientific evidence, which includes up to date data.

The Chief Medical Officer has advised that the risk of exposure to the virus in the community is now significantly reduced from where it was at the peak of the pandemic. Therefore it is appropriate to pause shielding in England from 1 August 2020, as this was designed to protect clinically extremely vulnerable people during the peak of the risk of exposure to the virus, and in recognition that asking people to shield for longer than necessary would also cause harm for example increased social isolation and impacts on mental health.

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Asked by Baroness Crawley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to shield the BAME community from COVID-19. [HL4313]

Lord Bethell: To provide a more comprehensive response to a number of outstanding Written Questions, this has been answered by an information factsheet *Science of Covid-19 note for House of Lords*, which is attached due to the size of the data. A copy has also been placed in the Library.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Science of COVID-19 information factsheet [Science of Covid-19 note for House of Lords.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-12/HL4313>

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of the study Socio-demographic heterogeneity in the prevalence of COVID-19 during lockdown is associated with ethnicity and household size, published in the *EClinicalMedicine* journal on 19 July, suggesting COVID-19 cases in Leicester have been concentrated amongst the BAME community. [HL7034]

Lord Bethell: The recent review published by Public Health England concluded that ethnicity is a factor on the impact of COVID-19. The National Institute for Health Research and UK Research and Innovation have commissioned research proposals to investigate the association between ethnicity and COVID-19. This research will complement the wider disparity review on COVID-19, which is led by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Equalities (Kemi Badenoch MP). The study published in the *EClinicalMedicine* journal on 19 July will contribute to the work of the review. The Government welcomes and will continue to consider all relevant evidence on COVID-19.

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the study by researchers from the Universities of Birmingham and Manchester on the

impact of social determinants of health on patients with SARS-COV-2 infection in Birmingham, published on 19 July; in particular its finding that air pollution may have contributed to the impact of COVID-19 on BAME individuals. [[HL7039](#)]

Lord Bethell: Following the publication of the Public Health England review into the risks and outcomes of COVID-19 in June, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Equalities (Kemi Badenoch MP) is leading work to better understand the key drivers of the disparities identified and the relationships between the different risk factors.

Poor air quality is the largest environmental risk to public health in the United Kingdom and the Government is taking robust action to improve air quality and minimise public health impacts, as laid out in the Clean Air Strategy.

We are committed to improving our understanding of the possible links between air quality and COVID-19, to inform policy development. This will be supported by the recent National Institute for Health Research and UK Research and Innovation call for research proposals to investigate emerging evidence of an association between ethnicity and COVID-19 incidence and adverse health outcomes. The Department of Health and Social Care continues to have extensive discussions with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and other departments on the relationship between health and air quality.

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to help tackle the disproportionate effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on BAME communities. [[HL7387](#)]

Lord Bethell: The Government is committed to reducing disparities in health outcomes experienced by black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities during this pandemic and are already taking action to do so. This includes developing effective risk assessment tools for schools and workplaces, expanding and targeting testing in high-contact professions, and working with the Race Disparity Unit to ensure that we have appropriate personal protective equipment reaching the right places. This is in addition to the wider work being taken forward by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Equalities (Kemi Badenoch MP) to understand the drivers behind Public Health England's findings on COVID-19 and BAME communities.

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with each NHS trust in England about the implementation of the recommendations of Public Health England's review Beyond the data: Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on BAME groups, published in June. [[HL7388](#)]

Lord Bethell: The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Equalities (Kemi Badenoch MP) is reviewing the findings from Public Health England's (PHE) reports to better understand the drivers behind the disparities and the relationships between the different risk factors. Her work will take into account PHE's recommendations and help us to improve understanding of the virus and who it affects so we can build on the existing action we are already taking to tackle health inequalities.

Within the health and care sector, all National Health Service employers were directed on 24 June by NHS England and NHS Improvement to make significant progress in deploying risk assessments for staff. NHS England and NHS Improvement have also established a Task and Finish Group, composed of a range of system leaders and voluntary sector partners, to focus on what specific, measurable actions should be taken by the NHS in the next few months. The Group will take account of feedback and ideas already received from black, Asian and minority ethnic organisations, the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector, local systems and others.

Coronavirus: Genetics

*Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that a nomenclature system for the genetic diversity of SARS-CoV-2 is in place. [[HL6972](#)]

Lord Bethell: Public Health England is not the body that defines the nomenclature system for the genetic diversity of viruses. This is undertaken by the international scientific community.

Coronavirus: Hospital Beds

*Asked by **Lord Warner***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the capacity of beds that are fully staffed, funded and available for use by patients in each of the Nightingale hospitals in England; what have been the occupancy levels of these hospitals since their opening; and how many (1) doctors, and (2) nurses, are currently employed in each of these hospitals. [[HL5141](#)]

Lord Bethell: The available capacity and staffing of the Nightingale hospitals is decided locally by National Health Service trusts and varies over time based on demand. At present, the Nightingale hospitals are on standby but are ready to be stood up if needed. The continued future use of the Nightingale hospitals is currently under consideration.

The Government has stated that the NHS will get what it needs in terms of funding during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The number of patients admitted to each of the Nightingale Hospitals is not available in the format requested. Admission data for COVID-19 patients is

published online by NHS England and NHS Improvement at trust level but not for individual hospitals.

Coronavirus: Hospitals

Asked by Lord Scriven

To ask Her Majesty's Government which NHS Nightingale hospitals have admitted patients. [HL3663]

Lord Bethell: The information is not available in the format requested.

Coronavirus: Minority Groups

Asked by Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the statement by the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that "data suggests a disproportionate burden of illness and death among racial and ethnic and minority groups" from COVID-19; and whether the CDC study has direct implications for the control of the virus in the UK. [HL4511]

Lord Bethell: To provide a more comprehensive response to a number of outstanding Written Questions, this has been answered by an information factsheet *Science of Covid-19 note for House of Lords*, which is attached due to the size of the data. A copy has also been placed in the Library.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Science of COVID-19 information factsheet [Science of Covid-19 note for House of Lords.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-14/HL4511>

Asked by Baroness Whitaker

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) reports that 58 per cent of Roma, and 43 per cent of Travellers, who have been tested for COVID-19 in Ireland have had a positive result, and (2), plans by the government of the Republic of Ireland to set up a mobile unit to test and treat marginalised groups in inner cities, with rapid delivery of test results; and whether they have any plans to set up similar facilities in the UK. [HL4544]

Lord Bethell: We are keen to learn from examples of best practice wherever they exist and the Department will continue to work with other countries throughout the crisis and beyond.

We are developing "prototypes" to pilot equal access to testing using existing local authority networks. The learning from these pilots will be disseminated to all local authorities in order to establish a national framework to support groups such as the Roma, Gypsy and Traveller communities.

We are also setting up a series of local testing sites to make testing easier to access for those without digital or vehicle access. 11 are operational as at 14 July 2020.

Coronavirus: Northern Ireland

Asked by Lord Hay of Ballyore

To ask Her Majesty's Government what financial assistance they have made available to the Northern Ireland Executive to address the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL7217]

Viscount Younger of Leckie: The UK Government will provide at least £2.2 billion to the Northern Ireland Executive for 2020/21 to allow the Executive to respond to Covid-19.

This is in addition to the UK-wide measures that the people and businesses in Northern Ireland will benefit from, including the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme and the Bounce Back Loan Scheme. This will give people and businesses the best possible opportunities to bounce back and recover.

Coronavirus: Protective Clothing

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that sufficient personal protective equipment is available for purchase by the general public. [HL4535]

Lord Bethell: To provide a more comprehensive response to a number of outstanding Written Questions, this has been answered by an information factsheet *PPE - note for House of Lords* which is attached, due to the size of the data. A copy has also been placed in the Library.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

PPE information factsheet [PPE - note for House of Lords v2.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-14/HL4535>

Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the supply chain is sufficiently robust enough for non-medical face coverings in the UK. [HL5914]

Lord Bethell: To provide a more comprehensive response to a number of outstanding Written Questions, this has been answered by an information factsheet *PPE - note for House of Lords* which is attached, due to the size of the data. A copy has also been placed in the Library.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

PPE information factsheet [PPE - note for House of Lords v2.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-18/HL5914>

Asked by **Lord Jones of Cheltenham**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the environmental impact of the disposal of single-use face masks once the wearing of face coverings in shops is made compulsory on 24 July. [HL6942]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: We have not carried out an assessment on the environmental impact of the disposal of single-use face masks.

Waste management, including disposal, is regulated through the environmental permitting system in England, which seeks to protect the environment and human health.

Face coverings that will be required in shops are not the same as the single-use surgical masks or respirators used by healthcare and other workers as part of their PPE. These should continue to be reserved for those who need them to protect against risks in their workplace. Instead, the latest Government advice on face coverings provides instructions on how people can make and care for reusable face coverings at home using scarves or other washable textiles, and is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering>.

Reusable cloth face coverings are also available to buy from a wide range of retail outlets, including online.

The Government has published guidance on the disposal of face coverings and other PPE during the coronavirus pandemic. This is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-disposing-of-waste>

Asked by **Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to promote the manufacture of personal protective equipment in the UK. [HL6998]

Lord Bethell: Lord Deighton is leading the Government's effort to unleash the potential of British industry to manufacture personal protective equipment (PPE) for the health and social care sectors. This will maximise opportunities for United Kingdom-based companies to fulfil orders of PPE.

We are building up UK manufacturing with signed contracts to manufacture and supply over three billion items of PPE through UK-based manufacturers, including facemasks, visors, gowns and aprons.

Coronavirus: Quarantine

Asked by **Lord Jones of Cheltenham**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how self-isolation is enforced in England; and what checks are carried out to ensure that those who are required to self-isolate do so. [HL7529]

Lord Bethell: Given the high levels of compliance we have seen to date with the self-isolation guidance, we expect that the majority of people will continue to do the right thing and abide by these measures.

However, we will take enforcement action against the minority of people who endanger the safety of others in breaching the self-isolation requirement for those arriving into England from non-exempt countries. Those who fail to comply with the mandatory conditions could face enforcement action. A breach of self-isolation would be punishable with a £1,000 fixed penalty notice in England or potential prosecution and unlimited fine. Self-isolation is enforced in communities by local police. Border force will undertake spot checks at the border and may refuse entry where the individual is neither a British citizen nor a non-British citizen resident in the United Kingdom and refuses to comply with these regulations. Failure to complete the contact locator form is punishable by a £100 fixed penalty notice.

Coronavirus: Screening

Asked by **Lord Taylor of Warwick**

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will resume publishing the number of COVID-19 tests conducted each day. [HL5119]

Lord Bethell: To provide a more comprehensive response to a number of outstanding Written Questions, this has been answered by an information factsheet *Testing – a note for the House of Lords* which is attached, due to the size of the data. A copy has also been placed in the Library.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Testing information factsheet [Testing - note for House of Lords.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-02/HL5119>

Asked by **Lord Taylor of Warwick**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people were tested for COVID-19 between 21 and 31 May. [HL5120]

Lord Bethell: To provide a more comprehensive response to a number of outstanding Written Questions, this has been answered by an information factsheet *Testing – a note for the House of Lords* which is attached, due to the size of the data. A copy has also been placed in the Library.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Testing information factsheet [Testing - note for House of Lords.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-02/HL5120>

Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bethell on 15 June (HL3889), (1) how many, and (2) what percentage, of postal COVID-19 tests up to 8 May were returned with a valid sample. [HL5825]

Lord Bethell: To provide a more comprehensive response to a number of outstanding Written Questions, this has been answered by an information factsheet *Testing – note for House of Lords* which is attached, due to the size of the data. A copy has also been placed in the Library.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Testing information factsheet [Testing - note for House of Lords.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-17/HL5825>

Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton

To ask Her Majesty's Government on average what percentage of COVID-19 postal tests are returned within (1) seven days, (2) five days, and (3) 48 hours. [HL5826]

Lord Bethell: To provide a more comprehensive response to a number of outstanding Written Questions, this has been answered by an information factsheet *Testing – note for House of Lords* which is attached, due to the size of the data. A copy has also been placed in the Library

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Testing information factsheet [Testing - note for House of Lords.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-17/HL5826>

Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish a table setting out, since rollout of COVID-19 tests, (1) how many COVID-19 postal tests have been dispatched each day, (2) how many COVID-19 tests have been returned each day, and (3) how many COVID-19 tests have been returned with a testable sample each day. [HL5827]

Lord Bethell: To provide a more comprehensive response to a number of outstanding Written Questions, this has been answered by an information factsheet *Testing – note for House of Lords* which is attached, due to the size of the data. A copy has also been placed in the Library

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Testing information factsheet [Testing - note for House of Lords.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-17/HL5827>

Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average length of time it takes (1) for COVID-19 test samples to be processed, (2) for the results to be sent to the person sampled, and (3) for the results to be forwarded to NHS Test and Trace personnel. [HL5828]

Lord Bethell: To provide a more comprehensive response to a number of outstanding Written Questions, this has been answered by an information factsheet *Testing – note for House of Lords* which is attached, due to the size of the data. A copy has also been placed in the Library

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Testing information factsheet [Testing - note for House of Lords.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-17/HL5828>

Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what their current target is for testing people in the UK for COVID-19; and how long they intend to maintain this capacity to address possible resurgences of the pandemic. [HL5830]

Lord Bethell: To provide a more comprehensive response to a number of outstanding Written Questions, this has been answered by an information factsheet *Testing – note for House of Lords* which is attached, due to the size of the data. A copy has also been placed in the Library

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Testing information factsheet [Testing - note for House of Lords.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-17/HL5830>

Asked by Lord Mann

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people have had an antibody test to test for previous COVID-19 infection; and of those, how many had antibodies. [HL5863]

Lord Bethell: On 21 May the Government announced plans for a national roll-out of antibody testing in the National Health Service and social care sector, where, as of 19 July, over 1.31 million COVID-19 antibody tests have been carried out. Information is provided on GOV.UK in an online only format which explains how these tests are counted. Any additional information regarding the results of the results of the tests will be made available at the appropriate time.

Asked by **Lord Campbell-Savours**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether statistics on testing for COVID-19 undertaken by private companies at the home of people being tested are entered into published statistics. [HL6055]

Lord Bethell: To provide a more comprehensive response to a number of outstanding Written Questions, this has been answered by an information factsheet *Testing – note for House of Lords* which is attached, due to the size of the data. A copy has also been placed in the Library

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Testing information factsheet [Testing - note for House of Lords.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-23/HL6055>

Asked by **Lord Freyberg**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what has been the total cost of COVID-19 tests which have been made available but not processed since 1 January. [HL6455]

Lord Bethell: The Department does not hold data in this format. There will be many instances where the National Testing Programme sends kits out that are not used immediately, for example to be held at local sites for when they are needed.

Asked by **Lord Freyberg**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many COVID-19 tests have been made available but not processed; and of those, how many relate to each pillar of the NHS Test and Trace programme. [HL6456]

Lord Bethell: The Department does not hold data in this format. There will be many instances where the National Testing Programme sends kits out that are not used immediately, for example to be held at local sites for when they are needed. Due to the way in which tests are conducted, this will only be a consideration for Pillars 2 and 4.

Asked by **Lord Turnberg**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to extend COVID-19 antigen testing to the entire population. [HL7002]

Lord Bethell: Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms can get a free test and must get tested as soon as their symptoms develop. The swab test takes less than a minute, is pain free and results from test sites are received within a day of the test being administered.

The Government has put in place the largest network of diagnostic testing facilities created in British history. The programme achieved the capacity to deliver 100,000 tests a day by 30 April, 200,000 tests a day by 30 May and is now capable of delivering more than 300,000 tests a day.

We are committed to increasing this capacity to 500,000 by the end of October.

Asked by **Lord Turnberg**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to reports of limited home testing for COVID-19, what plans they have to simplify the requirements involved in taking a test. [HL7003]

Lord Bethell: Everyone with symptoms of COVID-19 is eligible for a test, but we know that certain groups or individuals may find access more difficult or be less likely to want to access a test or feel unable to self-isolate. This could be for a combination of reasons, from capability through to personal circumstance.

We are working on a number of policies to address these barriers, such as:

- the NHS 119 call centre uses the Language Line interpreter service and staff are trained to manage language barriers, including through use of this service;
- we have opened new 'walk in' local testing centres to make it easier for people without cars to get a test; and
- we are also conducting a targeted evaluation of asymptomatic workers in several high contact professions. In a number of these occupations such as taxi drivers, cleaners and retail assistants, there is high representation of black, Asian and minority ethnic groups. This evaluation is intended to help us learn more about who may be at higher risk from COVID-19 and how to help people in professions that come into greater contact with others safe.

We have also created a home testing programme that provides access to testing to anyone, anywhere in the United Kingdom. We are continuously improving the service so that testing is accessible to all. This includes working with a diverse range of organisations to help us making home as easy to access and as user friendly as possible. For example, we are currently working with the Royal National Institute of Blind People to make home testing services more accessible for the visually impaired.

Coronavirus: Vitamin D

Asked by **Lord Watson of Invergowrie**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they plan to take in response to the report by Aging Clinical Experimental Research The role of vitamin D in the prevention of coronavirus disease 2019 infection and mortality, published on 6 May. [HL7574]

Lord Bethell: Public Health England (PHE) supported the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) to review emerging evidence on vitamin D and the prevention and treatment of COVID-19. NICE's review, published in June 2020, concluded that there is currently no evidence to support taking vitamin D supplements to reduce the risk or severity of COVID-19.

PHE re-issued its advice on vitamin D supplementation early in April 2020; whilst stay at home measures were in

place it was recommended that everyone take a daily vitamin D supplement to keep bones and muscles healthy.

A copy of the NICE evidence review *Vitamin D for COVID-19* is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Vitamin D for COVID-19 [NICE_Vitamin_D_for_COVID-19_evidence-review-pdf-877767447.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-29/HL7574>

Council Tax: Arrears

Asked by *Baroness Eaton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the proportion of Council Tax warrants paid at compliance stage, without enforcement visits taking place; and what assessment they have made of the adjusting of inflation in providing an economic incentive for resolving cases at compliance stage. [HL7130]

Lord Greenhalgh: The Government does not routinely collect data on the proportion of council tax arrears paid at compliance stage, without enforcement visits taking place. The Government is considering the operation of the compliance stage, including for council tax, as part of its ongoing review of the Taking Control of Goods regulations and is due to publish its findings in due course. The fees that may be charged by enforcement agents are set down in regulations. The question of whether to increase the fees in line with inflation is kept under review.

Counter-terrorism

Asked by *Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effectiveness of targeted killing as a counter-terrorism strategy. [HL7143]

Baroness Goldie: The Ministry of Defence has not made any assessment as to the effectiveness of targeted killing as a counter-terrorism strategy.

Asked by *Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the targeting of people directly participating in hostilities towards the UK who are located in non-belligerent states. [HL7144]

Baroness Goldie: As the Government has stated previously, it has a policy to defend the UK and its citizens against both armed attacks and imminent threats of armed attack. In doing so the Government may draw on a wide range of tools including, *in extremis*, the use of lethal force where there is no other effective option. Every situation would be considered on its merits and the appropriate course of action would depend on the circumstances prevailing at that time.

Courts: Coronavirus

Asked by *Lord Wasserman*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the present backlog of cases awaiting trial in (1) the Crown Court, and (2) the Magistrates' Court. [HL7120]

Lord Keen of Elie: The table below provides the information requested on the current number of outstanding cases awaiting trial in (1) the Crown Court, and (2) the Magistrates' Courts.

These data are taken from the national statistics on the level of outstanding work in the criminal courts for the first quarter of 2020 which were published on 26 June 2020 and are available at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-court-statistics>. The data for the second quarter will be published in September 2020.

Outstanding cases awaiting trial in the Magistrates' and Crown Court as at 31 March 2020

Magistrates' Court ¹²	77,459
Crown Court ²	31,686

Notes:

¹ The magistrates' court figure represents all those cases outstanding that are categorised as for trial (Indictable-only and Triable-either-way) and not just those awaiting a trial hearing. For example, it will include cases where defendants plead guilty and not guilty, and those where a warrant has been issued.

² Though the figures for both Magistrates' and Crown Court includes for trial cases (Triable-either-way and Indictable Only) which are outstanding for trial we are unable to say at what stage of the court process these are, for example, this may include cases where a trial has started but has not concluded.

Courts: Video Conferencing

Asked by *Lord Wasserman*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether (1) Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service and (2) the judiciary, have evaluated the Video Remand Hearings, Summary and Crown Court trials and Prison to Court Video Links developed by the Video Enabled Justice Programme led by the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner and currently operating in Kent, Norfolk, Suffolk, Surrey and Sussex; and, if so, whether they have concluded that it is suitable to be rolled out nationally. [HL7251]

Lord Keen of Elie: The Video Enabled Justice Programme was a Home Office funded initiative and independent of HMCTS and the Judiciary. The Programme was sponsored by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex. Its focus was on video enabled remand hearings and live links for police witnesses. Researchers from the University of Surrey were

commissioned by the Police and Crime Commissioner to undertake an evaluation of the Programme.

The evaluation looked at the new video and digital equipment installed at Medway Magistrates Court and seven custody suites across Kent together with the impact of the digital equipment and the conduct of participants in video enabled and non-video remand hearings.

The findings were shared with interested parties in the final report published in May 2020. No conclusions were intended to be drawn as to the suitability of scaling the Programme outside of the pilot areas.

Cricket: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Naseby

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the success of the trials of County Cricket games; and when they estimate they will evaluate (1) how, and (2) when, to allow spectators to be physically present at live cricket games. [[HL7543](#)]

Baroness Barran: Evaluation of the cricket fixtures that have taken place to date are underway. As the Prime Minister set out in his roadmap on 17 July, our ambition is to have fans return to all sports who chose to admit them, with social distancing restrictions in place, by October 1st. We will look to expand and phase pilots to build up to and prepare for, a full Covid Secure return in October.

Crime Prevention: Knives

Asked by Lord Farmer

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the success of Violence Reduction Units in preventing gang and knife crime committed by those from families where there is little or no father involvement. [[HL7131](#)]

Asked by Lord Farmer

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the current, and (2) the potential future, role of family hubs in preventing knife crime. [[HL7132](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: This government is investing £70m over two years to support the development of Violence Reduction Units. Some VRUs have commissioned targeted initiatives aimed at parents and families which strengthen family-based decision-making, provide counselling support and support those with incarcerated parents. The impact of VRUs' work will take time to be seen, and evidence from the Glasgow VRU suggests that the effect will be gradual and will accumulate over time.

The Home Office has commissioned an independent process evaluation of VRUs during 2019/20 which will be published later this summer. Evaluation of VRUs during 2020/21 will include both process and impact elements allowing us to investigate how and why any initial impact

is occurring. The Youth Violence Commission has welcomed the Government's commitment to VRUs and the package of challenge and support we have put in place for their success.

Whilst an assessment has not been made of the role of family hubs in preventing knife crime, this government has invested £1.085bn through the Troubled Families programme. The programme, which is delivered by local authorities and their partners, is driving public services to work together to provide effective, coordinated support to our most disadvantaged families. The risk of serious violence is one of the recently added criterion for suitability for the programme.

Similarly, this government has made early intervention and prevention a priority, investing £200 million in initiatives to support young people at risk of exploitation and involvement in serious violence, through the Youth Endowment Fund. We are also investing £500 million through the new DCMS Youth Investment Fund over five years, helping to build 60 new youth centres across the country, refurbish around 360 existing youth facilities, and provide over 100 mobile facilities for harder to reach areas. The YIF will also support the provision and coordination of high-quality services for young people, and an investment in the youth workforce.

Criminal Proceedings: Ethnic Groups

Asked by Baroness Whitaker

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reply by Lord Keen of Elie on 15 July (HL Deb, cols 1659–61), how the situation of Black and other minority ethnic defendants, including those from Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities, will be taken into account in (1) the membership, and (2) the terms of reference, of the Royal Commission on criminal justice. [[HL7036](#)]

Lord Keen of Elie: The Government is committed to a justice system that is fair, open and accessible to all.

In defining the terms of reference and membership of the Royal Commission, we are taking into account the need for the Commission to understand effectively the experiences of all those that engage with the criminal justice system. This will of course need to include taking account issues of race and the experiences of Black and other minority ethnic people, including those from Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities.

Further details will be announced in due course.

Cybercrime

Asked by Viscount Waverley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of cyber attacks by foreign governments against (1) the UK, and (2) its allies. [[HL6911](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Malicious actors, both State and non-State, are conducting activity that is

detrimental to UK interests and those of our allies, whether directly targeted at us or not. Cyber attacks have grown in intensity, complexity and severity in recent years as these actors are becoming bolder and take more risks for economic, strategic, regional or financial gains. The UK Government has demonstrated that it will defend against, counter and identify those who seek to do us harm. The UK works with its international partners and in multilateral fora to call out those who are responsible for malicious and disruptive cyberattacks. Working closely with foreign agency and industry partners, Government agencies identify and mitigate vulnerabilities and manage and resolve incidents if they occur. The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and the Centre for the Protection of Critical National Infrastructure (CPNI) routinely assess the threat from a range of actors to our most critical sectors.

Cybercrime: China

Asked by *Viscount Waverley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impacts of any cyber attacks by the government of China which they consider hostile to trade economy, national security, and critical infrastructure; and what communication strategy they have planned for all stakeholders who would be affected, including the public. [HL6913]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Malicious cyber activity is increasing in sophistication across international boundaries. Both state-sponsored and criminal cyber actors are carrying out hostile operations against governments, critical and national services, financial institutions, businesses and individuals around the world. Government departments work closely with the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and the Centre for the Protection of Critical National Infrastructure (CPNI) to help industries, organisations and individuals protect themselves, their businesses and our critical national infrastructure. Campaigns like 'industry100', Cyber Essentials and Cyber Aware produce guidance and support that sets out protective measures that can be taken against a range of threats and actors, including espionage and cyber attacks.

Cycling: Accidents

Asked by *The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many accidents in England involving (1) pedestrians, (2) motor vehicles, and (3) other cyclists, have been caused by cyclists using mobile phones while cycling (a) in the past 12 months, and (b) in the past five years. [HL7170]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The number of accidents involving where the contributory factor 'Driver using mobile phone' was allocated to a pedal cyclist, by road user involved, in England, between 2013 and 2018 can be found in the below table. 2018 is the latest year for which data is available.

Contributory factors assigned by police officers do not assign blame for the accident to any specific road user, however they do provide some insight into why and how road accidents occur. They give an indication of which factors the attending officer thought contributed to the accident. Officers do not need to carry out a full investigation of the incident before allocating contributory factors; they usually use professional judgement about what they can see at the scene. Not all accidents are included in the contributory factor data; only accidents where the police attended the scene and reported at least one contributory factor are included.

Reported road accidents where the contributory factor (CF)1 of 'driver using a mobile phone' was assigned to a pedal cyclist, by road user involved, England, 2013-2018

Accidents involving road user	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Injured pedestrian	1	0	0	1	1	1
Motor vehicle	12	13	10	13	12	8
Other pedal cyclist (not allocated with CF)	1	1	0	0	0	0

Source: DfT, STATS19

1 Includes only accidents where a police officer attended the scene and in which a contributory factor was reported.

Data Protection

Asked by *Lord Fox*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to amend the data subject rights of UK citizens under the General Data Protection Regulation after the end of the Brexit transition period. [HL7450]

Baroness Barran: As with all policy areas, the UK will control our own data protection laws and regulations in line with our interests, after the end of the transition period.

We want our data protection law to remain fit for purpose, and to support the future objectives of the UK. The UK will continue to operate a high-quality regime that promotes high data protection standards, growth and innovation, and underpins the trustworthy use of data as the UK economy becomes increasingly digital and data-enabled.

Asked by *Lord Fox*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to instruct the Competition and Markets Authority to undertake an anti-trust investigation into the practices of companies providing consumer Internet of Things devices, following reports of restrictive practices regarding data access and interoperability that may be designed to distort competition. [HL7451]

Lord Callanan: The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) is the independent non-Ministerial department responsible for investigating competition issues in the UK. The Government has ensured that the CMA has significant powers to investigate and act if it finds that companies are behaving anti-competitively in a market.

Death: Registration

Asked by **Lord Wigley**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the registered number of deaths of all causes between 1 March and the most recent available date; and what is the figure for deaths per 100,000 population this number represents for (1) England, (2) Scotland, (3) Northern Ireland, and (4) Wales. [HL6919]

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

Dear Lord Wigley,

As National Statistician and Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority, I am responding to your Parliamentary Question asking what was the registered number of deaths of all causes between 1 March and the most recent available date; and what is the figure for deaths per 100,000 population this number represents for (1) England, (2) Scotland, (3) Northern Ireland, and (4) Wales (HL6919).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for publishing numbers of deaths registered in England and Wales. The most recent annual figures published are for deaths registered in 2019. However, we do publish provisional weekly deaths registrations, which are currently published for deaths registered up to 3 July 2020. National Records Scotland (NRS) and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) are responsible for publishing the number of deaths registered in Scotland and Northern Ireland respectively.

Table 1 provides the registered number of deaths from all causes between 1 March 2020 and the most recent available weekly deaths data in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland. Table 2 provides the number of deaths registered and age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 persons using the most consistent date range possible. Table 2 covers deaths registered between 1 March 2020 and 3 July for England, Wales, and Northern Ireland, but between 1 March and 5 July for Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Sir Ian Diamond

Table 1: Number of deaths registered between 1 March and most recent weekly deaths date, by country of usual residence, United Kingdom [1] [2] [3] [4]

Number of deaths

England	Wales	Northern Ireland	Scotland
224,398	13,601	6,227	29,728

Source: ONS

Table 2: Number of deaths registered and age-standardised mortality rates, between 1 March 2020 and 3 July 2020 for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and between 1 March 2020 and 5 July 2020 for Scotland [5] [6]

Country	Deaths	Rates
England	224,398	415.2
Wales	13,601	409.5
Northern Ireland	6,227	385.1
Scotland	28,302	541.5

Source: ONS

[1] Figures are based on deaths registered, rather than deaths occurring in the specified year.

[2] Geographic boundaries correct as of May 2020.

[3] Deaths of non-residents of each country are excluded.

[4] Deaths have been provided for the most up-to-date weekly data available. Deaths for residents of England and Wales are included up to week 27 (week ending 3 July 2020), for Northern Ireland up to week 26 (week ending 3 July 2020), and for Scotland up to week 28 (week ending 12 July 2020). Note: week numbers differ across the countries so dates have been provided for clarity.

[5] Deaths have been included for weeks that are most consistent across the 4 countries, to aid fair comparison. Deaths for residents of England and Wales are included up to week 27 (week ending 3 July 2020), for Northern Ireland up to week 26 (week ending 3 July 2020), and for Scotland up to week 27 (week ending 5 July 2020). Note: week numbers differ across the countries so dates have been provided for clarity.

[6] Rates are age-standardised mortality rates (ASMRs) per 100,000 population, standardised to the 2013 European Standard Population. ASMRs are a better measure of mortality than the number of deaths, as they account for the population size and age structure. They are also better for comparing between areas and over time.

Defence

Asked by **Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the legality of a state taking presumptive self defence under Article 51 of the Charter of the UN. [HL7148]

Baroness Sugg: Article 2(4) of the UN Charter prohibits the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state. Article 51 of the Charter also recognises that a state has the inherent right to use force to defend itself against an armed attack. The UK does not recognise a doctrine of "pre-emptive" self defence. Like many other states, however, the long-standing UK view is that Article 51 of the UN Charter does not require a state passively to await an attack, but includes the inherent right to use force in self-defence against an "imminent" armed attack. The position of Her Majesty's Government was set out in the then Attorney General's speech at the Institute of International and Strategic Affairs on 11 January 2017, available on Gov.uk.

Defence: Coronavirus

Asked by Viscount Waverley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of COVID-19 related deployments on the fulfilment of their standing defence commitments. [HL7261]

Baroness Goldie: Throughout the pandemic, the Department has prioritised the delivery of critical Defence outputs, including standing commitments. The Department assesses that there has been no significant impact caused by its support to COVID-19 activity.

Dementia: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what plans, if any, they have to include dementia on the list of illnesses for which someone should shield themselves during the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL5564]

Lord Bethell: Expert doctors in England have identified specific medical conditions that, based on what we knew about the virus so far, place someone at greatest risk of severe illness from COVID-19. These were signed off by the United Kingdom Senior Clinicians Group, including the four UK Chief Medical Officers and clinical leadership at NHS England and NHS Improvement, NHS Digital and Public Health England. The list of conditions is kept under review and there are no plans at present to add dementia to it.

Dental Services

Asked by Baroness Harris of Richmond

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the first urgent dental care centre in England was established. [HL5997]

Lord Bethell: The information is not held centrally.

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take to provide dental treatment for older people

(1) in receipt of pension credit, and (2) who are unable to afford dental treatment by private sector providers. [HL7211]

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many NHS dental practices there were in England in (1) 1990, (2) 2000, (3) 2015, and (4) 2020; how many NHS dental practices in each of those years accepted people over the age of 65 as NHS patients; and how many towns of more than 10,000 people have no NHS dental facilities for older people. [HL7216]

Lord Bethell: Dentistry is a universal NHS service available to all who are entitled to use NHS services. There are no age restrictions. If anyone of any age is having difficulty finding a National Health Service dentist they should contact NHS 111 for advice on locating a practice able to offer care. There have been no reports that NHS England and NHS Improvement are aware of that older people have more difficulty than younger people in finding an NHS dentist.

Information is not held on the number of practices in England covered by an NHS contract. Information is held on the number of treatment locations there are in England where NHS dentistry is provided. This information is not held for 1990 or 2000 or 2015. As of 1 March 2020, the NHS Business Services Authority advises there were approximately 7,400 treatment locations in England providing some NHS care. Information is not held on which of these saw patients over the age of 65. NHS dentists are expected to treat patients of all ages and it would be very exceptional if a practice happened to have no patients in this age group.

Dental Services: Coronavirus

Asked by Baroness Harris of Richmond

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether it was within the Chief Dental Officer for England's remit to instruct all dental practices to cease face to face consultations when the restrictions for the COVID-19 pandemic were introduced. [HL5995]

Lord Bethell: NHS England and NHS Improvement published guidance on 25 March 2020 instructing all general dental services and community dental services to suspend routine care and all face to face urgent care, unless delivered through an urgent dental centre. As the commissioner of National Health Service dental services, it is NHS England and NHS Improvement's responsibility to make decisions on provision of the NHS services it commissions. Decisions are made by NHS England and NHS Improvement as a whole taking into account both clinical and commissioner advice.

Asked by Lord Alderdice

To ask Her Majesty's Government why NHS dental practices have been closed during the COVID-19 pandemic; and what assessment they have made of

adequacy of the operation of such practices that have now reopened. [HL7065]

Lord Bethell: On 25 March NHS England and NHS Improvement issued guidance advising National Health Service dental practices to suspend all routine dentistry to meet the Government's social distancing measures and to contain the spread of COVID-19. All NHS practices were required to offer telephone advice, triage and if required, painkillers or antibiotics. Practices then triaged patients who needed urgent face to face care into over 600 urgent dental centres set up across England.

All practices were able to open for face to face care from 8 June. Dentists have been free to restart the full range of face to face dentistry as far as they believe they can safely deliver this following Public Health England guidance on infection protection control procedures and appropriate levels of personal protective equipment. The letter offering guidance on this and a subsequent standard operating procedure guidance are attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

PHE infection control guidance [PHE - COVID-19 Infection prevention and control guidance.pdf]

Standard Operating Procedure guidance [C0575-dental-transition-to-recovery-SOP-4June.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-21/HL7065>

Asked by Lord Colwyn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to mitigate the impact of (1) the limited availability of, and (2) the long waiting times for, dental treatments under general anaesthesia due to the COVID-19 pandemic, on children and vulnerable adults. [HL7272]

Lord Bethell: With NHS services under intense pressure as COVID-19 spread, we ensured that we had as many beds available as possible to care for patients with severe respiratory problems during the COVID-19 pandemic peak.

To enable this, every hospital in England suspended non-urgent elective operations to free up additional capacity needed to assist with the COVID-19 response. With the pandemic easing, National Health Service providers are now expected to recover the maximum elective activity possible between now and winter, making full use of available capacity both in the NHS and in contracted independent hospitals.

Elective care activity is now ramping up, and by October we expect the NHS to deliver:

- The same number of outpatient attendances, follow ups, scans and endoscopy procedures as October last year; and
- 90% of the overnight elective procedures and day cases carried out last October.

Dental extractions which require general anaesthesia and therefore are carried out in hospital are included in this recovery by the NHS.

Asked by Lord Colwyn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to increase the NHS dental budget to mitigate any effects resulting from the reduction in routine dental care during the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL7273]

Lord Bethell: National Health Service dentists have been receiving their full funding with minor adjustments throughout the COVID-19 period. They are now open for face to face including routine care and are restarting services in line with the increased infection control required to minimise the risk of transmission. NHS England and NHS Improvement are carefully considering any impact this may have on the overall provision of primary care dental services.

Dental Services: Protective Clothing

Asked by Lord Redesdale

To ask Her Majesty's Government which regulatory body or Department is responsible for approving personal protective equipment specifically for the practice of dentistry. [HL4561]

Lord Bethell: To provide a more comprehensive response to a number of outstanding Written Questions, this has been answered by an information factsheet *PPE - note for House of Lords* which is attached, due to the size of the data. A copy has also been placed in the Library.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

PPE information factsheet [PPE - note for House of Lords v2.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-18/HL4561>

Asked by Baroness Harris of Richmond

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment the Chief Dental Officer for England made of the adequacy of personal protective equipment supplies for dental practitioners before dental practices were closed due to COVID-19. [HL5996]

Lord Bethell: To provide a more comprehensive response to a number of outstanding Written Questions, this has been answered by an information factsheet *PPE - note for House of Lords* which is attached, due to the size of the data. A copy has also been placed in the Library.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

PPE information factsheet [PPE - note for House of Lords v2.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-22/HL5996>

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the additional costs imposed on dental surgeries that will need to purchase personal protective equipment in order to reopen. [HL5594]

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the NHS will cover the additional costs imposed on dental surgeries that will need to purchase personal protective equipment in order to reopen, for (1) NHS practices, and (2) mixed NHS and private practices. [HL5595]

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support is available to dental surgeries to offset any additional costs of personal protective equipment, and to compensate for reduced patient numbers following the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL5596]

Lord Bethell: To provide a more comprehensive response to a number of outstanding Written Questions, this has been answered by an information factsheet *PPE - note for House of Lords* which is attached, due to the size of the data. A copy has also been placed in the Library.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

PPE information factsheet [PPE - note for House of Lords v2.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-11/HL5594>

Detention Centres: Refugees*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had, and intend to have, with UNHCR and other governments and agencies, about (1) the resettlement of refugees and migrants, and (2) preventing existing refugee camps and detention centres becoming permanent. [HL7227]

Baroness Sugg: The UK maintains an ongoing dialogue with UNHCR and a range of other partners, including other governments and agencies, and has a strong and constructive relationship across a range of asylum and resettlement issues.

Our resettlement schemes offer a safe and legal route to the UK for vulnerable refugees in need of protection. We work closely with UNHCR in the operation of our schemes. UNHCR is uniquely placed to identify those living in formal refugee camps, informal settlements and host communities who would benefit most from resettlement to the UK.

Refugee camps provide vital humanitarian assistance including shelter, food, clean water, and sanitation and medical services, but can also limit movement and longer-term options for refugees. As such, they are normally considered temporary measures of last resort. While camps provide a vital lifeline for many refugees a

relatively small number (around 5.3 million refugees) live in them, with the majority in urban areas, informal settlements and out-of-camp individual accommodation.

We actively engaged in agreeing the Global Compact on Refugees, which aims to boost refugees' self-reliance while simultaneously supporting generous host communities and countries – an approach that the UK has helped to develop and champion.

Developing Countries: Food Supply*Asked by Lord Chidgey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme on (1) the availability of food, (2) agricultural production, (3) food supply chains, and (4) governments' capacities to protect vulnerable populations; and what are the expected outcomes of any such discussions. [HL7510]

Baroness Sugg: The UK is concerned about the increasing risk of acute food insecurity, and we engage regularly with the FAO and WFP to discuss the global food security outlook. Recent discussions have focused on the indirect impacts of COVID-19 on food access and availability, agricultural production and food supply chains, and deteriorating trends.

The FAO and WFP regularly update the UK on their responses, in particular under the Global COVID-19 Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP). Efforts have prioritised anticipatory action to safeguard livelihoods and increase access to food, alongside global humanitarian logistics services. These aim to ensure continuity of critical food supply chains, strengthened national social protection systems, and safety of key food supply chain workers. The UK remains among the largest donors to the global COVID-19 response and the GHRP. The UK remains among the largest donors to the global COVID-19 response and the GHRP. We will continue to work closely with key partners to ensure assistance reaches those who need it most.

Developing Countries: Health Services*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of progress towards the Every Woman Every Child goals. [HL7231]

Baroness Sugg: The UK government welcomes the Independent Accountability Panel's recently published report. The report highlights that global progress towards the Every Woman Every Child 2030 targets were already lagging by around 20%, and now with the current COVID-19 pandemic are likely to slip further, with significant impacts for pregnant women, children and adolescents.

The UK Government is committed to work with others to end preventable deaths of mothers, newborns and

children by 2030. We are working to ensure essential health services continue despite the challenges of the pandemic. Our approach covers sexual and reproductive health and rights, maternal and new-born health, nutrition, and water, sanitation and hygiene services, all of which can help prevent mothers, new-borns and children dying unnecessarily.

We are also leading internationally: the UK hosted the Global Vaccine Summit on 4 June and raised \$8.8 billion for GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance's, next five years (2021-2025) of work, including the UK's pledge of £1.65 billion. Using these vital funds, GAVI will immunise a further 300 million children and save up to 8 million lives against vaccine preventable diseases.

Diagnosis

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to establish an industry-wide consultative committee to promote a global-scale UK diagnostics sector. [HL6937]

Lord Bethell: The Government is working with the life sciences sector to strengthen United Kingdom resilience by developing proposals to build a long-term national diagnostics industry, and by exploring how the National Health Service market can make better use of innovative diagnostics.

We have also established the Accelerated Access Collaborative which brings together leaders from across industry, the NHS, regulators and the Government to get innovations, including the best new diagnostics, into the hands of patients and clinicians faster than ever before.

Disability and Special Educational Needs

Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the review of special educational needs and disability, announced on 6 September 2019, will be published. [HL7488]

Baroness Berridge: The government remains committed to completing the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) review, taking into consideration the impact of COVID-19 on the SEND system. We will publish the review as soon as it is practicable to do so, working with children, young people, their families and experts across the education, health and care system to deliver our common goal of improving the SEND system.

Disability: Coronavirus

Asked by Baroness Campbell of Surbiton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) related deaths by disability status, England and Wales: 2 March to 15 May 2020, published by the Office for National Statistics on 19 June, what plans they have to hold an inquiry to

determine (1) the reasons for the deaths of a large number of disabled people during the COVID-19 pandemic, and (2) the lessons which might be learned for the future. [HL6618]

Lord Bethell: We know that many people with long-standing, limiting illnesses or health conditions are at higher risk of poorer outcomes from COVID-19.

We continue to review all available evidence regarding the impact of COVID-19 for disabled people and we are commissioning new research to better understand the specific impacts. This evidence will inform policy development going forwards.

The Government continues to be in the critical phase of responding to COVID-19. There will be opportunities in the future to look back, analyse and reflect on all aspects of COVID-19. And as the Prime Minister has said, this will include an independent inquiry at the appropriate time.

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on disabled people; and what plans are in place to aid recovery from that impact. [HL7389]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The Government is committed to supporting disabled people affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. We continue to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on disabled people using existing and new data sources.

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.

We are ensuring that disabled people continue to have access to disability benefits, food, medicines, essentials, accessible communications, updated guidance, including workplace and transport related guidance, as well as financial and other support during the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Government continues to provide disability employment support through initiatives such as Access to Work, Disability Confident, the Work and Health Programme, Intensive Personalised Employment Support, and other forms of support that disabled people need to retain, adapt and move into employment.

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. We are clear that consideration of equality impacts must be integral in all key policy decisions. All equality and discrimination laws and obligations continue to apply during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We will publish the National Strategy for Disabled People taking into account the impacts of the pandemic

on disabled people. The Strategy will focus on the issues that disabled people say affect them the most in all aspects and phases of life, including employment, housing, education and transport.

Disease Control

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to introduce dedicated periods of time where those who are shielding from COVID-19 can safely use the extra freedoms being introduced from the reduction of the restrictions in place to address the pandemic. [T] [HL5578]

Lord Bethell: To provide a more comprehensive response to a number of outstanding Written Questions, this has been answered by an information factsheet *Science of Covid-19 note for House of Lords*, which is attached due to the size of the data. A copy has also been placed in the Library.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Science of COVID-19 information factsheet [Science of Covid-19 note for House of Lords.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-11/HL5578>

DNA: Databases

Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many DNA profiles of individuals not convicted of any crime have been added to the National DNA Database since 2015. [HL7328]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The National DNA Database system does not maintain the conviction (or otherwise) status for retained DNA profiles of individuals.

Domestic Abuse: Coronavirus

Asked by Baroness Helic

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many women have been killed in the UK as a result of suspected domestic violence in the period in which restrictions have been in place to address the COVID-19 pandemic; and how that number compares to the number of such deaths in the same period in 2019. [HL6475]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Homicide investigations can take some time for the police to complete and official statistics relating to the period since 23 March 2020 will be published by the Office for National Statistics in February 2021.

As policing is a devolved matter, the Home Office does not hold comparable information for Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Asked by Baroness Helic

To ask Her Majesty's Government on how many occasions the National Oversight Group on Domestic Violence met in the period between January and March 2020; and what specific recommendations that group made about preparations for the lockdown put in place to address the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL6477]

Asked by Baroness Helic

To ask Her Majesty's Government on how many occasions the National Oversight Group on Domestic Violence met in the period between March and July 2020; and what specific recommendations that group made about the lessons learned from the restrictions put in place to address the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL6478]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: We are acutely aware of the need to put victims at the heart of our approach to tackling domestic abuse at this time.

The National Oversight Group on Domestic Abuse has not formally met this year but we are working closely with its participants including domestic abuse charities, the Domestic Abuse Commissioner, Police and across government to understand the needs of victims of domestic abuse at this time, and how these can best be supported.

The Government has posted advice regarding national helplines on gov.uk to guide victims to the most appropriate support for their individual needs (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/domestic-abuse-how-to-get-help>). This has been extensively promoted through our awareness raising campaign #YouAreNotAlone.

The Home Office has announced £2m of funding to help bolster helplines at this time; £1.2m of this has already been allocated to provide Covid-19 support. This is in addition to the £750 million funding package announced by the Chancellor, £76 million of which will support survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence and modern slavery as well as ensure that vulnerable children and young people continue to get the help they need. From this funding the Home Office, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government have so far allocated some £24 million to support domestic abuse charities, and further bids are being assessed.

Drugs: Young People

Asked by Lord Hay of Ballyore

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to safeguard young people by preventing the use of controlled drugs. [HL7219]

Lord Bethell: The Government's Drug Strategy is clear that we are committed to reducing the number of young people using drugs. Our approach combines universal action with targeted action for those most at risk or already misusing drugs and includes investing in a range of evidence-based programmes. This includes developing its 'Talk to FRANK' service, continuing to develop and

promote the 'Rise Above' digital hub and developing school-based prevention resources to support the roll out of Relationship, Sex and Health Education from September 2020. This material uses evidence-based approaches to give children and young people the resilience and critical thinking skills needed to support decisions around drug use.

One of the themes of part two of Dame Carol Black's review of drugs will be preventing drug use by young people, in addition to supporting their treatment and recovery.

Eastern Europe: LGBT People

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to provide protection and support for LGBT+ communities in eastern Europe. [HL7104]

Baroness Sugg: The UK is implacably opposed to all forms of discrimination and is committed to promoting and protecting the rights and freedoms of LGBT people in all circumstances. The UK plays an active role in eastern Europe and across the world in support of LGBT rights. The UK became Equal Rights Coalition (ERC) co-chair on 14 June 2019, in partnership with Argentina. The ERC is a group of 42 like-minded States that share best practice and promotes LGBT equality globally. The UK has ambitious plans, including delivery of an ERC Strategy and Action Plan to re-energise the work of the ERC.

We continue to engage with Governments across the region on this agenda. On 30 April, the Minister for Europe and the Americas raised with Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister Magyar our concerns regarding the impact on transgender rights of amendments to the Registry Act. On 17 June, she raised with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Titov the UK's deep concern regarding the deteriorating human rights situation in Russia, including the persecution of LGBT people in Chechnya.

Our embassies across the region work actively to promote LGBT rights, regularly engaging in dialogue on this issue with Governments, local civil societies and our diplomatic partners. They also continue to work with local LGBT communities to identify opportunities to tackle discrimination and promote inclusion by supporting human rights defenders during Pride and anti-discrimination events. Our embassies proudly fly the rainbow flag for International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOBIT) and during Pride month.

Education: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many laptops each (1) local authority, and (2) multi-academy trust has received since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic; and how many vulnerable pupils are educated by each

(a) local authority, and (b) multi-academy trust, in England. [HL7256]

Baroness Berridge: The government has provided laptops and tablets to disadvantaged children who would otherwise not have access and are preparing for examinations in year 10, receiving support from a social worker or are a care leaver. Where care leavers, children with a social worker at secondary school and children in year 10 do not have internet connections, the government has provided 4G wireless routers.

The department has delivered laptops, tablets and 4G wireless routers to local authorities and academy trusts based on the department's estimates of the number of eligible children that do not have access to a device. Local authorities and academy trusts are best placed to identify children and young people who need devices and prioritise their needs.

The department has published data on devices delivered through the programme here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/laptops-tablets-and-4g-wireless-routers-progress-data>. The department will be publishing a breakdown of data on devices delivered to each local authority and academy trust in future.

The closest matching available data on pupil attendance, including the attendance of vulnerable children, in educational establishments in England since 23 March was published on Tuesday 21 July at the following link and covers data up to Friday 17 July:

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/attendance-in-education-and-early-years-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>.

The data is collected from individual education establishments and the published figures include estimates for non-response. Equivalent estimates have not been made at lower level geographies.

While the department is committed to welcoming all children back to school from September we recognise that there will be an ongoing role for remote education in the event a school is required to close temporarily. Schools are being asked to make preparations for this eventuality. We are reviewing the need to provide further support where this occurs.

Electric Scooters: Safety Measures

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether people riding electric and unpowered scooters on the highway are required to display front and rear lights on the same basis as cyclists; and if not, what consideration they are giving to introducing such a requirement. [HL7457]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Ministers have recently agreed a range of technical and safety requirements for electric scooters used during trials on Great Britain's roads. The scooters used in the trials must be fitted with a front position lamp and a red rear position lamp. In

addition, they must be fitted with a red rear reflector and amber or white reflectors on each side of the vehicle. There are no similar lighting requirements for unpowered scooters, and there are no plans to review this position.

Electronic Commerce

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that no one is discriminated against when booking goods and services online from companies based in the UK on the basis of their name. [HL7291]

Baroness Berridge: Domestic anti-discrimination law is contained in the Equality Act 2010 ("the Act").

A person's name may be indicative of their sex and/or their race, both of which are grounds for discrimination covered by the Act.

If a provider of goods or services treats someone unfairly because of their name, for instance because it indicates that they are of a certain colour, nationality or ethnic origin, that may constitute unlawful discrimination under the Act.

If someone believes that they have suffered discrimination for this reason they can contact the Equality Advisory and Support Service, which provides free help and advice to the public. The service can be contacted by a range of means, including by telephone (0808 800 0082) or via its website: <https://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com/>.

Electric Scooters

Asked by Lord Russell of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish (1) the criteria that they will use to determine whether, and on what basis, they will legalise the use of e-scooters following the current trials, and (2) the specification for the data they have required local authorities to collect in association with those trials, to inform their decisions about whether and how to legalise their use. [HL7105]

Asked by Lord Russell of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment was made of the equalities impacts of their decision to increase the speed, power and weight limits of e-scooters involved in trials, as compared with those originally proposed in their consultation on such trials. [HL7106]

Asked by Lord Russell of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will set lower regulatory limits for the maximum speed, power and weight limits of e-scooters if the current trials suggest that these are too high in relation to their impacts on (1) road safety, (2) environmental outcomes,

(3) physical activity levels, or (4) other impacts. [HL7107]

Asked by Lord Russell of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish any assessment made of the legal implications of their advice to local authorities planning to hold e-scooter trials that such authorities should convert cycle tracks to cycle lanes in those areas so that e-scooters can be permitted to use them. [HL7108]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: We have no current plans to publish any criteria. We will use the evidence we gather from rental e-scooter trials, the responses to the Future of Transport regulatory review call for evidence and other research, to consider whether to legalise both rental and privately-owned e-scooters. E-scooters are a new vehicle type; evidence around the benefits and risks of these vehicles is limited and inconclusive. We know there are some risks, and we want to understand these and how to mitigate them. Running on-road trials of rental e-scooters is the best way to assess the safety and wider impacts of this type of vehicle and service. Data will be collected by e-scooter providers. The details of the data to be shared and the process for doing so are still being developed and will be set out in data sharing agreements between the Department and e-scooter providers, and with local authorities where required.

We have carried out an equality analysis for e-scooter trials under the Public Sector Equality Duty (s.149 Equalities Act 2010).

The combination of speed and power limits constrain how an e-scooter can be used and are intended to ensure the vehicles can be used safely, but we recognise e-scooters are likely to have a particular impact on blind and visually impaired people.

To mitigate potentially negative impacts, we have proposed:

- That e-scooters used in trials must have a horn or bell so that users can make themselves heard to pedestrians.
- That e-scooters should not be used on the pavement (except in shared cycle/pedestrian space). Local authorities already have powers to prohibit vehicles from specific spaces (included shared spaces) on a case by case basis using Traffic Regulation Orders.

We will also work with disability groups in monitoring and evaluating the trials and considering the implications for future policy.

We increased the speed, power and weight limits of e-scooters after considering the responses to the recent consultation on e-scooter trials. We balanced these views against the equality analysis. The 15.5 mph for trial e-scooters makes the maximum speed for e-scooters the same as e-bikes and is consistent with the maximum speed for e-scooters in many other countries.

We increased the weight limit to take account of the heavier batteries of some e-scooters. We expect that most e-scooters used in trials will be well below the 55kg maximum.

We increased the power limit to 500W to ensure e-scooters are able to go up steeper inclines and carry heavier users. This was a matter raised with us during the consultation.

We have designed the trials so that e-scooters use is limited and controlled. Speed, power and weight limits constrain how an e-scooter can be used and are intended to ensure the vehicles can be used safely. Local areas are free to set limits below the maximum, but it is important that the evidence gathered in trials is representative of how e-scooters may be used in the future.

We are preparing a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation plan to gather evidence from the trials. This will assess the safety risks presented by e-scooters, the mode shift to e-scooters from other forms of transport, public perceptions around their use and identify other impacts that should be considered for any potential future legalisation of e-scooters.

It is for local traffic authorities to undertake their own risk assessment of the appropriateness of using the powers available to them to permit e-scooters to share road space with pedal cycles. This assessment will be required on a case by case basis.

The Department consulted on the issue of amending the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016 to enable e-scooters to share cycle lanes with pedal cycles. The consultation responses supported this approach. The Government made the necessary regulatory changes to include e-scooters within the definition of vehicles permitted to use cycle lanes and to extend signs that apply to pedal cycles to also apply to e-scooters being used in legal trials. This will be supplemented by traffic regulation orders issued by the local areas.

As the definition of cycle tracks is contained in primary legislation, the Government has not amended this definition in advance of trials starting. Instead, where deemed necessary, local authorities can re-designate cycle tracks using the TRO process as appropriate.

Energy

Asked by Lord Marlesford

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish a Green Paper for public consultation on the energy options available for the UK prior to publishing an energy White Paper. [HL7460]

Lord Callanan: The Energy White Paper will be published in the Autumn. We will engage our stakeholders in the implementation of its policy package, including through formal consultations, where appropriate.

Energy: Meters

Asked by Lord Fox

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to enforce the right of data portability and other

interoperability requirements to ensure that individuals with existing devices and tools such as smart meters can exercise this right. [HL7452]

Asked by Lord Fox

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the ability of consumers to exercise their right to data portability under Article 20 of the General Data Protection Regulation when switching between energy suppliers using smart meters, and (2) whether such switches are being hindered by a lack of compliance by energy companies with this right. [HL7454]

Lord Callanan: Under Article 20 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), consumers have the right to obtain and reuse their personal data, including smart metering consumption data that they have provided to the energy supplier. Energy consumers' rights under the GDPR are not affected by switching energy supplier.

In order to ensure that energy consumers have control over their energy consumption data, the Government established the smart metering Data Access and Privacy Framework, which is implemented through energy licences and codes and complements wider data protection legislation. Energy suppliers are required to make available to domestic consumers with meters in smart mode, upon request, up to 24 months of data relating to consumption in each day, week, month and year. The data must be made available free of charge and in a readily understandable format.

The Information Commissioner's Office is responsible for upholding information rights, while the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets is responsible for regulating energy suppliers' compliance with licence obligations.

Entry Clearances: Israel

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 30 June (HL5815), whether (1) Arab, and (2) Jewish, citizens of Israel are treated in the same way when visiting the UK. [HL7477]

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 30 June (HL5815), whether citizens of Israel living in the occupied territories of Palestine receive the same treatment on entry to the UK as those who live in Israel. [HL7478]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Citizens of Israel require leave to enter the UK and are subject to the requirements of the Immigration Rules. When making an application for entry clearance overseas, or for entry at the border, all Israeli citizens are considered individually under the rules and no distinction is made on the basis of their place of residence.

Citizens of Israel holding a national passport do not require a visa to visit the UK. All visitors to the UK are assessed against a set of suitability and eligibility criteria, under the Immigration Rules. The rules apply to all visitors, whether they are applying for a visa in advance of travel or are applying for entry at the UK border.

Environmental Health: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government what the role is in the COVID-19 testing, tracing and isolating system of local authority Environmental Health Departments and their staff who are ordinarily engaged in such work, particularly in District Councils in two-tier areas. [HL5299]

Lord Bethell: Following a request from NHS Test and Trace, local authorities have produced Local Outbreak Plans that detail how they will manage an outbreak in their area. We would expect that those plans would include the role that Environmental Health Departments take already in outbreak management. Environmental Health Departments also have a role in supporting the need for surge capacity.

Environmental Land Management Scheme

Asked by Lord Teverson

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they will ensure that Tier 2 and Tier 3 Environmental Land Management Schemes are complementary to, and coordinated with, Nature Recovery Networks at a local and regional level. [HL7041]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The Government is committed to establishing a Nature Recovery Network across the whole of England. This will restore habitat, creating an expanded and increasingly connected network of places that are richer in wildlife, more resilient to climate change, and which provides wider environmental benefits.

In the Environment Bill, we are legislating for Local Nature Recovery Strategies to provide the spatial mapping required to direct investment and action locally to help restore and create habitat and establish the Nature Recovery Network.

It is the Government's intention to make the nature measures promoted by the new Environmental Land Management Scheme consistent with Local Nature Recovery Strategies. We are working closely with stakeholders to explore how best to do this.

We are exploring how the scheme could support the Nature Recovery Network through tests and trials. Five of the Tests and Trials are examining the Nature Recovery Network, including how a landscape scale plan could support the delivery of major habitat restoration.

Equal Pay

Asked by Baroness Goudie

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they have provided to businesses to facilitate an improved gender balance in the workplace since February. [HL6626]

Asked by Baroness Goudie

To ask Her Majesty's Government what actions they have taken to reduce the gender pay gap since February. [HL6628]

Baroness Berridge: In recognition of the unprecedented uncertainty and pressure facing employers due to the Coronavirus pandemic, and to ease the burdens on business, the Government and the Equality and Human Rights Commission suspended enforcement of the gender pay gap reporting deadlines for 2019/20. However, employers can still choose to report their data and we have carried on providing support to those who need it. Over 5,500 employers have reported to date and more continue to do so.

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of the research from University College London, published on 20 July, which suggests that teenage boys have more ambitious aims regarding higher education which contributes towards the gender pay gap. [HL7185]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: The government is committed to transforming the lives of children and young people so that they can go as far as their hard work and talent will take them, regardless of their background or where they live. Nowhere is this more important than in how our young people are educated and prepared for a successful future. This is why the government has set out an ambitious agenda and made record investments in opportunities for all young people in this country.

The government wants to ensure that all post-16 students can make an informed choice between high-quality options that support progression, whatever their attainment or aspirations. This includes access to higher education so that university places are available to those who are qualified by ability and attainment to pursue them and who wish to do so, alongside other high-quality options such as further education and apprenticeships. Through the Careers Strategy, we have laid out foundations which aim to develop children's ambitions. Careers guidance is vital in helping to develop talent and opportunities so that people have the skills that we need and that employers require.

In 2017, we introduced regulations requiring large employers to publish the differences in average salaries and bonuses for men and women. The national gender pay gap is at a record low of 17.3% - down from 17.8% in 2018. The full-time gender gap is at a near record low of 8.9%.

We continue to encourage employers to take action to provide equal opportunities for men and women in the workplace but also recognise that employers are facing unprecedented uncertainty and pressure due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Equal Pay: Disclosure of Information

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the suspension of gender pay gap reporting during the COVID-19 pandemic on gender pay gap inequality. [[HL7392](#)]

Baroness Berridge: I refer the noble Baroness to the answer given to [HL6083](#) on 3rd July 2020.

Equality: Coronavirus

*Asked by **Baroness Lister of Burtersett***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the intersection between relevant dimensions of inequality and the impact of COVID-19. [[HL7166](#)]

Baroness Berridge: This Government is learning as much and as quickly as possible about this virus, who it affects and how best to keep everyone safe and protect those who may be more vulnerable to COVID-19.

The Government is committed to supporting all people affected by COVID-19, including those that are disproportionately affected by it. All equality and discrimination laws and obligations continue to apply during the COVID-19 pandemic. We continue to monitor the virus' impact using existing and new data sources.

The Government commissioned Public Health England to review how different factors - including ethnicity, gender and obesity - can impact on people's health outcomes from COVID-19. The review was published on 2 June, and the Prime Minister has asked the Minister for Equalities, Kemi Badenoch, to act on its findings. On 4 June, the Minister for Equalities set out the Terms of Reference for this work, which include commissioning further data, research and analytical work to clarify the scale, and drivers, of the gaps in evidence highlighted by the report.

Equality: Ethnic Groups and Gender

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of the recent Higher Education Statistics Agency statistics which suggest that gender and race inequalities are established immediately after university graduation. [[HL7186](#)]

Baroness Berridge: It is disappointing to see the disparities shown in the HESA Graduate Outcome Data publication, but it highlights why collecting this information is so important. To tackle these gaps the

Government is focused on ensuring equality of opportunity exists for everyone.

To help us do this the Government has established an independent Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities, which will examine ethnic inequalities across the whole population in the UK, and report by the end of this year.

To tackle income and employment disparities we are ensuring more women are equipped to enter STEM careers, where some jobs have higher than average wages, and we are encouraging flexible working, so parents are not held back. The Government is also doubling the number of front line staff at job centres, providing an extra £32m to recruit extra careers advisers and providing £17m for work academies in England to help make sure those looking for employment are offered the support they need to fulfil their potential.

Espionage: Russia

*Asked by **Lord Foulkes of Cumnock***

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to introduce legislation to strengthen their ability to deal with (1) espionage, and (2) illegal behaviour, in the UK by (a) the government of Russia, and (b) people associated with that government. [[HL7210](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: In the Queen's Speech we committed to introduce legislation to provide the security services and law enforcement agencies with the tools they need to disrupt hostile activity by foreign states. The Home Office is considering several measures for introduction via new primary legislation to make the UK a harder environment for adversaries to operate in.

Exercise Cygnus

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government what cross-Government discussions they have had about implementing the recommendations of Exercise Cygnus. [[HL6793](#)]

Lord Bethell: Learning the lessons from preparedness exercises, as well as other sources of expertise, has ensured that the United Kingdom remains well prepared for infectious disease outbreaks.

The Department continues to work across Government and with a range of stakeholders, such as local planners and expert advisory groups, to implement the lessons learned from Exercise Cygnus. These lessons learned have informed our preparedness, such as through development of draft legislation to support the response to a future influenza pandemic and strengthening health sector plans to surge and flex beyond normal operations.

Expert Trade Advisory Groups

*Asked by **Lord Foster of Bath***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Viscount Younger of Leckie on 31

March (HL2935), when they will publish the membership of each of the 17 Expert Trade Advisory Groups; and why the membership has not been published to date. [HL7349]

Asked by Lord Foster of Bath

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many meetings there have been of each of the 17 Expert Trade Advisory Groups, either in person or virtually; on what dates these meetings were held; and what plans there are for further meetings of each group. [HL7350]

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel: Our Expert Trade Advisory Groups (ETAGs) have met 84 times to date. The table below shows how many meetings there have been for each of the 17 ETAGs and the dates on which they were held.

ETAG name	Total number of meetings held to date	Date of each meeting held
Agri-food	9	04/07/2019, 21/08/2019, 25/09/2019, 24/10/2019, 14/01/2020, 12/02/2020, 05/03/2020, 27/05/2020, 06/07/2020
Automotive	8	13/07/2019, 14/08/2019, 26/09/2019, 21/10/2019, 30/01/2020, 12/02/2020, 27/05/2020, 20/07/2020
Chemicals	2	22/08/2019, 10/02/2020
Creative	3	14/01/2020, 14/02/2020, 03/06/2020
Continuity	9	14/08/2019, 11/09/2019, 09/10/2019, 30/10/2019, 17/12/2019, 24/01/2020, 12/02/2020, 29/04/2020, 08/07/2020
Customs	3	08/07/2019, 14/02/2020, 21/07/2020
Digital	4	04.11.2019, 09/01/2020, 12/02/2020, 01/06/2020
Financial Services	7	16/09/2019, 28/10/2019, 10/01/2020, 31/01/2020, 02/03/2020, 29/05/2020, 03/07/2020
IP	4	30/09/2019, 20/01/2020, 08/06/2020, 21/07/2020
Investment	3	05/09/2019, 24/01/2020, 05/06/2020
Life Sciences	4	27/09/2019, 05/02/2020, 04/06/2020, 09/07/2020
PBS	4	03/09/2019, 28/01/2020, 28/04/2020, 03/06/2020
Procurement	4	17/02/2020, 20/03/2020, 12/06/2020, 02/07/2020
SMEs	3	16/08/2019, 13/02/2020, 15/05/2020
Sustainability	5	18/09/2018, 11/12/2018, 18/06/2019, 20/02/2020, 06/07/2020

ETAG name	Total number of meetings held to date	Date of each meeting held
TfD	7	02/02/2018, 24/10/2018, 21/03/2019, 15/07/2019, 09/10/2019, 28/02/2020, 19/05/2020
Transport Services	5	16/09/2019, 28/01/2020, 27/01/2020, 02/06/2020, 12/06/2020

Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, HMG's publication priorities shifted and the planned publication of ETAG membership was delayed in the Spring. The Department is now undertaking a review of the ETAGs, the outcome of which will be communicated in due course.

Families: Disadvantaged

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government what provision is made in the Reducing Parental Conflict programme for welfare rights advice. [HL7165]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC) programme aims to join up services locally to help disadvantaged families to reduce parental conflict, and to embed this support in the local offer for families. If a Practitioner feels that another service is able to help as well as or instead of the RPC programme, such as a welfare advice service then the channels are available to make a referral.

Flexible Working

Asked by Baroness Jolly

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have (1) to strengthen the right of employees to request flexible working, and (2) to ensure that employers prioritise arrangements for staff to work from home rather than in offices, from 1 August. [HL7155]

Lord Callanan: The Government is clear about the benefits of flexible working for employers and their employees. All employees with 26 weeks' continuous service with their employer have the right to request Flexible Working.

In our manifesto we said that, subject to consultation, we would introduce measures to make flexible working the default.

From 1 August, we are giving employers more discretion to make decisions about how their staff can work safely.

This could mean continuing to work from home or it could mean working in a covid-secure workplace. We encourage employers to discuss this with their employees.

The Government has clearly set out how to make workplaces covid-secure in its Safer Workplaces guidance. As we reopen our economy, it's right that we

give employers more discretion while continuing to ensure employees are kept safe.

Flood Control: Yorkshire and the Humber

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the written answer by Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park on 20 July (HL6513), whether (1) the funding allocated for shovel-ready schemes will include the planned work at Earby and the phase 3 scheme at Wentcliffe Beck, and (2) the planned stakeholder roundtable on flood defence schemes will include representatives from Earby. [HL7352]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The work at Earby (phase 2) will be going ahead subject to full business case approval which the Environment Agency hopes to submit by the end of the year. Additional funding allocated for shovel ready schemes was not required for Earby (phase 2) as it does not have any funding gaps based upon current costs estimates, identified partner contributions and the Government's updated partnership funding rules.

Wentcliffe Beck (phase 3) was not allocated funding as it will not be ready to start construction by the required deadline. However the Environment Agency continues to progress the development of the scheme.

We are continuing to work on preparations for a Yorkshire roundtable to discuss the response to the November 2019 flooding. The invitation list will depend on the size of event we are able to arrange. Officials were working to identify a date for this before the Covid-19 restrictions came into effect. In the event that we are not able to hold an in-person meeting, we will make alternative arrangements as soon as possible.

Food

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have a definition of "junk food" for the purposes of policy making; and if so, what that definition is. [HL7431]

Lord Bethell: The Government has published its intention to restrict the promotion and advertising of foods high in fat, salt and sugar (HFSS). The consultations on these policies set out proposals for the definitions of HFSS products. We have listened carefully to the feedback and will be setting out final definitions for the products these policies apply to when we publish the responses to the consultations. We will do this as soon as possible.

Food: Hygiene

Asked by Lord Rooker

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of local authority food hygiene inspections that have been carried out over the

last (1) 12 months, (2) five years, and (3) 10 years. [HL6326]

Lord Bethell: Data for 2019/20, the most recent reporting period, is not yet available. Data for 2010/11 to 2018/19 in provided in the following table. Interventions include hygiene inspections and audits, verification and surveillance, sampling visits, advice and education and intelligence gathering.

The total number of interventions for the period 2015/16 to 2018/19 and for the period 2010/11 to 2018/19 are also shown.

Local authority food hygiene and other interventions - 2010/11 to 2018/19

<i>Year</i>	<i>England</i>	<i>Northern Ireland</i>	<i>Wales</i>	<i>Scotland</i>	<i>United Kingdom total</i>
2018/19	305,483	14,076	25,182	38,753	383,494
2017/18	306,419	16,037	27,892	41,715	392,063
2016/17	306,646	19,425	24,627	43,494	394,192
2015/16	318,461	16,325	25,203	44,562	404,551
2014/15	314,292	13,354*	28,802	46,027	402,475
2013/14	319,072	19,681	30,689	41,635	411,077
2012/13	324,394	18,204	28,822	43,879	415,299
2011/12	327,677	19,989	30,139	45,001	422,806
2010/11	331,915	21,150	31,187	47,600	431,852
2015/16 to 2018/19	1,237,009	65,863	102,904	168,524	1,574,300
2010/11 to 2018/19	2,854,359	144,887	252,543	392,666	3,657,809

Note:

* Based on 9 months data for Northern Ireland.

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bethell on 17 July (HL6182), what is their expected timeframe for introducing the necessary legislation to extend the mandatory display of ratings to England. [HL7038]

Lord Bethell: The Food Hygiene Rating Scheme is operated by the Food Standards Agency in partnership with local authorities across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

We will consider whether mandatory display of ratings should be introduced in England in due course.

Forced Marriage

Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans

To ask Her Majesty's Government in how many cases the Forced Marriage Unit provided advice or support related to possible forced marriage (1) to a person aged

under 16, (2) to a person aged between 16 and 18, and (3) to a person aged between 18 and 20, in (a) 2014, (b) 2015, (c) 2016, (d) 2017, (e) 2018, and (f) 2019. [HL7246]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Information on Forced Marriage Unit statistics, including age breakdowns, can be found at this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/forced-marriage-unit-statistics>. Providing the complete information requested would exceed the word limit for responses to written parliamentary questions so I have attached the following publication from the Forced Marriage Unit Statistics Unit.

I would also like to correct my response to the Lord Bishop's question HL16427, from the 2017-19 session. This stated that in 2018 the Forced Marriage Unit gave advice or support related to a possible forced marriage in 1,764 cases via its public helpline and email inbox. The correct figure was 1,507.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Forced Marriage Stats - 2019
[Forced_Marriage_Unit_statistics_2019.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-23/HL7246>

Forced Marriage: Prosecutions

Asked by *The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many prosecutions were initiated in relation to forced marriage in (1) 2014, (2) 2015, (3) 2016, (4) 2017, (5) 2018, and (5) 2019; and how many such prosecutions were successful in each year. [HL7247]

Lord Keen of Elie: From 2014 to date, CPS data for the number of cases prosecuted and the outcomes is:

	2014- 2015	2015- 2016	2016- 2017	2017- 2018	2018- 2019	2019- 2020
Convictions	29	32	32	37	7	6
Non-Convictions	17	21	12	13	5	2
Total	46	53	44	50	12	8

Between 2014 – 15 and 2017 – 18, this data included cases that included the forced marriage flag on the CPS's case management system as well as cases charged as forced marriage. In 2018 – 19, the CPS conducted quality assurance checks on the guidance for applying the forced marriage flag. The data for that year does not include flagged cases but only cases charged as a forced marriage offence. The most recent data (2019 – 20) includes flagged cases but reflects the updated guidance on applying the flag which has resulted in improved accuracy.

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office: Public Expenditure

Asked by *Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that part of the budget of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office is ring-fenced for the provision of international aid. [HL7100]

Baroness Sugg: We will continue to look at how this money can be spent most effectively in our national interest, including through the Integrated Review – which will inform the priorities of the new Department. Development spending will remain central to the new department's mission. Our commitment to spending 0.7 percent of our national income on aid is enshrined in law and we will continue to be guided by our responsibilities under the International Development Act, including a commitment to poverty reduction.

Foster Care

Asked by *Lord Watson of Invergowrie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they intend to take in response (1) to the report by OFSTED Inspection profiles of the largest private and voluntary providers of children's homes and independent fostering agencies March 2020, published on 23 July, and (2) the reported comment by OFSTED's director of social care that the domination of the fostering market by a small number of operators is "storing up trouble for the future". [HL7489]

Baroness Berridge: The government is clear that the needs of the child are paramount when making decisions about care placements. The child's safety, the suitability and quality of a child's placement in care is our absolute priority. As at 31 March 2020, 93% of independent fostering agencies and 80% of all private and voluntary children's homes were judged good or outstanding by Ofsted. We believe that a mix of provision can provide quality and increase placement options for local authorities. This mix has enabled local authorities to identify much-needed foster homes for children over the past months, providing the flexibility needed to respond to the demands and pressures of the COVID-19 outbreak.

The government understands the concerns of the Ofsted Director of Social Care. The annual Ofsted data is a helpful source of insight into the children's social care market and we continue to monitor it. We have taken action to help local authorities develop strategic approaches to securing enough placements. This includes investing part of our £200 million children's social care Innovation Programme funding in 3 projects to improve the supply of placements. Additional funding for 2 of these projects was confirmed on 24 April as part of the £12.1 million to support vulnerable children who are most at risk during the COVID-19 outbreak. In addition, in September 2019, we funded 7 local authority-led partnerships to test new approaches to commissioning and

sufficiency planning in foster care, worth almost £500,000.

Fracking: Lancashire

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the withdrawal by Aurora Energy Resources of their planning application for fracking at Altcar Moss, Lancashire; and what advice they will give to companies about future fracking projects in the light of this withdrawal. [HL7456]

Lord Callanan: The Government cannot comment on individual planning applications. The Government's position on shale gas policy remains unchanged, as set out in a Written Ministerial Statement on 4 November 2019, Official Report, HLWS68[1]. Planning authorities should continue to take national planning policy and guidance into account in considering any relevant applications.

[1] Energy Policy Update: Written statement - HLWS68:

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2019-11-04/HLWS68/>

Free School Meals

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the recommendation in the National Food Strategy Part One report, published on 20 July, that free school meals should be extended to all children in families receiving Universal Credit. [HL7534]

Baroness Berridge: The government will carefully consider the findings of the National Food Strategy Part One report and will be responding fully in due course.

Free school meals are an integral part of our provision for families on low incomes and our wider actions to promote social mobility. We are supporting around 1.4 million of the most disadvantaged children through free school meals, saving families around £400 a year. It is right that we are targeting our support towards those families that are most in need of it.

Free School Meals: Voucher Schemes

Asked by Lord Rennard

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the response by Baroness Berridge on 17 June (HL Deb, col 2180), when they intend to respond to the proposal to ask supermarkets involved in the free school meals scheme (1) to contribute to the cost of the scheme, and (2) to provide additional benefits to those using the vouchers; and what discussions they have had with supermarket chains about ways to support the poorest families during the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL7550]

Baroness Berridge: Throughout the duration of the free school meal voucher scheme, we have been working closely with supermarkets. We recently wrote to and met with participating supermarkets to ensure their ongoing support and welcome their efforts to support families across the country. The voucher scheme and the COVID Summer Food Fund will shortly be coming to an end as children return to school in September and school kitchens re-open, providing free meals for those that are eligible.

Fuels: Prices

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to recent decisions by the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and the current wholesale cost of fuel, what assessment they have made of the cost of fuel at petrol stations in the UK. [HL7292]

Lord Callanan: Her Majesty's Government monitors the national average retail prices of fuels and these are published on GOV.UK.

BEIS analysis shows that changes in the price of crude oil are the main driver of movements in the national average retail prices of fuels such as petrol and diesel. Other factors include currency exchange rates and the balance of supply and demand for these fuels in the wholesale petroleum products markets. Changes in the price of crude oil feed through to the retail prices over the course of about 6 weeks.

The Government believes that a competitive market is the best way to keep prices low. Retail fuels markets are subject to UK competition law under the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA).

Gastrointestinal System: Diseases

Asked by Baroness McDonagh

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the review by François Trotten of the University of Lille and Harry Sokel of the Sorbonne Université Potential Causes and Consequences of Gastrointestinal Disorders during a SARS-CoV-2 Infection, published in Cell Report on 3 July. [HL6853]

Lord Bethell: Whilst there has not been a specific assessment of the review by François Trotten, we keep all evidence under review and note the work highlighted and the recommendation that more research is needed into gastrointestinal conditions in COVID-19 patients and welcomes funding applications for research into any aspect of human health.

The Department commissions research through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and is the largest public funder of health research in the United Kingdom and has been part of a rolling United Kingdom-wide call for proposals that could make a significant contribution to the understanding, prevention and/or management of the COVID-19 and to better understand

and manage the health and social care consequences of the global COVID-19 pandemic beyond the acute phase.

The NIHR has also published a number of highlight notices to seek research proposals on high-priority areas topics, including on COVID-19 and ethnicity, transmission, and seroprevalence.

Gay Conversion Therapy

Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether their proposed ban on same sex attraction therapy will include a prohibition on talking therapy. [HL6567]

Baroness Berridge: The Government takes this issue of Conversion Therapy very seriously and fundamentally disagrees with attempts to forcibly change someone's sexuality. In order to end conversion therapy practice for good, we are thoroughly considering all legislative and non-legislative options.

My officials are reviewing the current legislative framework to see how certain harmful and abhorrent practices referred to as conversion therapy may already be captured by existing laws and offences. Where these practices are already unlawful, we will ensure that the law is clear, well-understood and enforced. Where dangerous conversion therapy practices are not already unlawful, we are examining the best ways to prevent them being conducted, without sending them underground.

Gaza: Israel

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Israel about the future of Gaza. [HL7118]

Baroness Sugg: We are deeply concerned by the situation in Gaza. We encourage the Palestinian Authority, Israel, regional and international actors to put forward sustainable, long-term proposals for resolving the threat posed to Israel's security by Hamas and for returning the Palestinian Authority to government functions in Gaza. Hamas' ongoing decision to embrace violence lies at the heart of the Gazan tragedy. Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv and our Consulate-General in Jerusalem also frequently urge the Israeli and Palestinian authorities to take steps to improve conditions in Gaza. The UK will continue to urge the parties to take the necessary practical steps to ensure Gaza's reconstruction and economic recovery. We continue to stress to the Israeli authorities the damage that their restrictions on movement, access and trade are doing to the living standards of ordinary Palestinians in Gaza.

Gender Recognition

Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bethell on 17 July (HL5874),

what information they hold on (1) the number of children who have been given GnHR, or any other gender re-assignment treatment, by the NHS, (2) the amount of compensation paid to patients who received such treatments but who were subsequently deemed to have been mis-diagnosed, and (3) the number of compensation claims made following such treatments. [HL7055]

Lord Bethell: The National Health Service currently offers the following medical treatments to under 18-year olds on gender dysphoria pathways: hormone blockers, cross sex hormones and psychological assessment. The service does not offer surgery to under 18-year olds. Information on the number of children who have been prescribed GnHR is not available centrally, as information on prescribing drugs is collected locally. Further, the drugs used in gender identity pathways are not exclusively prescribed for such, meaning records do not reflect total patient numbers on these pathways.

Information on number of treatments and misdiagnosis is not available in the format requested.

Gender Recognition: Children

Asked by Lord Lucas

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford on 31 July 2019 (HL15681), when they estimate that the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust will publish the data collated as part of its study into early pubertal suppression in a group of adolescents with a clinical diagnosis of gender dysphoria. [HL6776]

Lord Bethell: The paper produced from this study was submitted for publication earlier this year and has now been subject to peer review. It is expected to be published shortly.

Gendered Intelligence

Asked by Lord Lucas

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the role Gendered Intelligence plays in filtering communications sent via (1) social media, or (2) web forms, in response to their campaigns. [HL6493]

Baroness Barran: No specific assessment has been made. Gendered Intelligence are an independent charity and the government has no part to play in reviewing whether or not they filter the responses to their campaigns.

Genito-urinary Medicine: Equality

Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure equitable access to sexual health services during the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL6435]

Lord Bethell: Sexual and reproductive health services are open during the COVID-19 pandemic though some are temporarily reducing their face-to-face appointments and may only be able to see emergency or urgent cases in person. The Department and Public Health England (PHE) are working with local commissioners, the National Health Service and professional bodies including the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare, to discuss emerging issues on sexual and reproductive services, including contraception, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

PHE is also establishing a national framework for online sexual and reproductive health services that local areas can choose to commission for their residents. Information for the public on how to access contraception, emergency contraception, abortion, sexually transmitted infections, HIV and sexual assault during COVID-19 is online at the Sexwise and the NHS websites. This includes links to other organisations providing information and support.

Government Departments: Facebook

Asked by Lord Clement-Jones

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the total spent by Government departments on Facebook advertising in the past year; and whether they have plans to join a boycott of major advertisers pending Facebook's change of policy on hate speech and disinformation. [HL7345]

Lord True: The UK Government is a significant advertiser on Facebook. Social media platforms enable departments and agencies to connect with citizens and businesses to communicate about important policies and help drive behaviour change, including in the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Government is in correspondence with Facebook seeking reassurances and action on various points. Individual departments are responsible for their own advertising expenditure delivered in line with a centrally agreed approach coordinated by the Cabinet Office.

Government Departments: Location

Asked by Lord Allen of Kensington

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made toward establishing a government hub in York; which minister has overall responsibility for the project; and how they intend to update Parliament on further developments. [HL7419]

Asked by Lord Allen of Kensington

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many government hubs they are proposing to establish outside of London and the South East; and when they expect each of these to be fully operational. [HL7420]

Lord True: As the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster set out in his [Ditchley Speech](#), the Government

is determined to ensure that the Civil Service is better distributed across the country. The Places for Growth Programme is working with departments and public bodies to firm up relocation plans and further details will be announced in due course.

The Places for Growth programme is exploring opportunities across the whole of the UK. Lord Agnew is the Cabinet Office Minister of State with direct responsibility for this programme.

Green Homes Grant Scheme

Asked by Lord Truscott

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to announce the range of measures that make up the Green Homes Grant Scheme; and how that Scheme will operate. [HL7563]

Lord Callanan: The range of measures has now been announced.

The Green Homes Grants will give homeowners, including owner occupiers and social/private landlords, vouchers to install one or more of the following:

- Solid wall, under-floor, cavity wall or roof insulation;
- Air source or ground source heat pump; or
- Solar thermal.

In addition, households can use their voucher for further energy saving measures. These include one or more of the following:

- Double or triple glazing/secondary glazing, when replacing single glazing;
- Energy efficient replacement doors; and
- Hot water tank/appliance tank thermostats/heating controls.

The new scheme will see the Government fund up to two thirds of the cost of home improvements of over 600,000 homes, supporting over 100,000 jobs in green construction. Consumers in England will be able to claim the new vouchers, which are worth up to £5,000. Households on low income can receive vouchers covering 100% of the cost of the improvements, up to a maximum of £10,000.

Asked by Lord Truscott

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether they have recruited a sufficient number of assessors to launch the Green Homes Grant Scheme in September as previously announced. [HL7564]

Lord Callanan: Retrofit assessors will not form a mandatory part of the Green Homes Grant, although applicants are encouraged to consult an assessor if they wish.

Building the capacity and skills for retrofit assessment, and energy efficiency improvements more broadly, is an important part of the Green Homes Grant and will be

achieved both through direct support and by ensuring the supply-chain has the confidence to recruit and train.

The Government endorsed Simple Energy Advice service is designed to provide households with online advice and recommendations on the energy efficiency and heating improvements which they can make to their homes. Households will be able to apply for a Green Home voucher via the Simple Energy Advice service and will be encouraged to use the service to select the most appropriate measure or measures for their property.

Asked by Lord Truscott

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish a list of approved contractors to operate the Green Homes Grant Scheme. [HL7565]

Lord Callanan: Businesses and Tradespeople must register for TrustMark accreditation to take part in the scheme if they are not already registered.

TrustMark is the Government-endorsed quality scheme covering work a consumer chooses to have carried out on their home. Households will be able to choose from approved tradespeople in their areas to carry out the work, but only approved and accredited installers will be able to be commissioned, ensuring high standards and consumer protection.

Gurpal Viridi

Asked by Lord Singh of Wimbledon

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to conduct an independent investigation into racism experienced by former Metropolitan Police officer Gurpal Viridi. [HL7398]

Asked by Lord Singh of Wimbledon

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they undertook a formal investigation into the conduct of those implicated in racism against former Metropolitan Police officer Gurpal Viridi; and if not, why not. [HL7399]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Investigations into the conduct of police officers are the responsibility of the professional standards departments of police forces and, where appropriate, the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC). Such decision-making is independent of government. Complaints received from Mr Viridi were assessed by the IOPC as suitable for local investigation by the Metropolitan Police Service.

Haftom Zarhum

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that the decision by the Beersheba District Court to acquit two security officers of causing injury with grave intent in relation to the death of Haftom Zarhum, an Eritrean asylum seeker,

was because the judge considered it reasonable for the defendants to have mistaken the deceased for a Palestinian terrorist. [HL7406]

Baroness Sugg: We have not made an assessment of these reports.

Haiti: Overseas Aid

Asked by Lord Chidgey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Department for International Development's involvement in Haiti, given reports by the community and international agencies of the continuing levels of poverty, unrest, sexual exploitation and abuse. [HL7438]

Baroness Sugg: While the UK does not have a bilateral development programme in Haiti, we support Haiti through our contributions to agencies such as the United Nations, European Union and the World Bank Group who have a strong presence on the ground. Our contributions are helping to make sure reconstruction reduces future disaster risks, health facilities are more climate resilient and the economy is better managed and supported. DFID holds itself to the highest standards and UK Aid must be delivered at all times in ways which do no harm. We will not fund any organisation that does not meet our high standards on safeguarding. Evidence suggests that sexual exploitation and abuse increase during crises and we must never be complacent. This is a long-term agenda and DFID continues to drive work to tackle sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment. We are making good progress with initiatives that root out perpetrators and improve support to survivors and victims.

Hamad al-Mahfood

Asked by Lord Scriven

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 17 July (HL6523), what assessment they have made of reports that political prisoner Hamad Al Mahfood has not yet received the urgent medical treatment required for an ongoing tooth infection despite the assurances they have received from the government of Bahrain about the access of prisoners to onsite dental treatment in Jau prison; and what representations they intend to make to the government of Bahrain about the provision of emergency treatment for Hamad Al Mahfood. [HL7248]

Baroness Sugg: I refer the Noble Lord to Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon's answer of 17 July (PQ HL6523). We encourage all individuals with concerns about access to medical, including dental, treatment in detention to raise them directly with the appropriate Bahraini human rights oversight body.

Harry Dunn

Asked by *Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of the United States about the death of Harry Dunn. [HL7102]

Baroness Sugg: The Foreign Secretary has discussed this regularly with the US Government. Most recently, both the Foreign Secretary and the Prime Minister raised it with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on 22 July. They made clear that we believed the US refusal of the extradition request for Mrs Sacoolas amounted to a denial of justice, and that she should return to the UK.

Health and Social Services: Protective Clothing

Asked by *Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the quality of (1) masks, and (2) respirators, distributed to workers in health and social care settings since March from the stockpile established under the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness programme. [HL6863]

Lord Bethell: NHS Supply Chain and Public Health England have worked with manufacturers and/or independent testing houses to quality test masks and respirators held in the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Programme before issuing them to health and social care settings or to extend their shelf life.

Asked by *Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure an adequate supply of personal protective equipment for health, social care and other key workers to prepare for any second wave of COVID-19. [HL6864]

Lord Bethell: We continue to model future demand for personal protective equipment (PPE) to cover a range of possible scenarios, working closely with the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies to ensure it is underpinned by the latest science. Though the global market remains challenging, we continue to sign further deals to make our position more secure. We have now procured over 30 billion items of PPE from United Kingdom manufacturers and overseas suppliers.

We are 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 and are increasingly looking further ahead. We have moved from an emergency situation a few months ago to a stable situation which allows us to prepare with resilience for any second spike or a new wave in the autumn or winter.

Health Education and Sex and Relationship Education

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether all resources recommended or promoted for use by schools by the Department for Education are checked for compliance with (1) safeguarding procedures, (2) the Equality Act 2010, (3) the Public Sector Equality Duty, and (4) the statutory guidance on Relationship Education, Relationship and Sex Education and Health Education. [HL7287]

Baroness Berridge: 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-aged pupils, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) compulsory for secondary school-aged pupils, and Health Education compulsory for pupils in all state-funded schools from 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.

The safety of children is our top priority. We expect all schools to ensure that the materials and teaching resources they use are appropriate, and to ensure that they comply with their statutory duty to safeguard children's welfare. 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, where relevant.

The department does not recommend specific resources but has suggested resources for schools to consider as set out in Annex B of the statutory guidance. We encourage schools to use resources that have been quality assured by reputable organisations, such as the NSPCC on safeguarding issues. The department will be providing further advice to schools on choosing appropriate resources and is developing teacher training modules for these subjects, which the department has quality assured and recommends.

Schools must consult with parents on the school's RSE policy. 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. 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>.

In covering the content of the new subjects, the guidance also sets out schools' duty to comply with relevant requirements of the Equality Act 2010 including the Public Sector Equality Duty. Schools should also be aware of their duties regarding impartiality and balanced treatment of political issues in the classroom to ensure content is handled in an appropriate way.

At the heart of these subjects there is a focus on keeping children safe, and schools can play an important role in preventative education. Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) sets out that all schools and colleges should ensure children are taught about safeguarding, including how to stay safe online, as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum. The guidance can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>.

Health Professions: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Robathan

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many NHS (1) doctors, (2) nurses, and (3) other workers, aged (a) 18–24, (b) 25–29, (c) 30–34, (d) 35–39, (e) 40 or more, years old have (i) contracted, and (ii) died as a result of, COVID-19. [HL6984]

Lord Bethell: The Department does not hold the information on the number of National Health Service staff that have contracted or died as a result of COVID-19 in the format requested.

Health Services and Social Services

Asked by Lord Hay of Ballyore

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have for future (1) funding, and (2) planning, arrangements in the health and social care sector. [HL7220]

Lord Bethell: The Government is delivering on its historic five-year National Health Service settlement. The NHS budget will increase by £33.9 billion a year in cash terms by 2023-24 (compared to 2018-19), reflecting that the NHS is this Government's top domestic spending priority and helping to fund the NHS Long Term Plan.

As regards social care funding, the Government provided councils with access to an additional £1.5 billion for adult and children's social care in 2020/21 on top of maintaining £2.5 billion of existing social care grants. This was to support local authorities to meet rising demand and continue to stabilise the social care system. In addition, we have now made £3.7 billion available to local authorities so they can address pressures on local services caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, including in adult social care.

On 21 July the Chancellor launched the 2020 Comprehensive Spending Review which will set out the Government's spending plans for health and social care for future years.

Health services: Immigrants

Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Immigration Health Surcharge exemption will extend to international volunteers from other countries working, or currently applying to work, in (1) Camphill communities, and (2) other health and social care settings, under Tier 5 visa arrangements. [HL7158]

Lord Bethell: The Department is working to identify those working in the health and care sector, who will be eligible for the reimbursement from 1 October. We will publish further details about how to apply and demonstrate eligibility in the coming months.

Health Services: Pay

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to their announcement on 21 July that public sector workers will receive above inflation pay rises, what assessment they have made of the impact of that announcement on the morale of those public sector healthcare workers who will not be in receipt of such a pay rise. [HL7367]

Lord Bethell: Over one million National Health Service staff continue to benefit from the three-year Agenda for Change pay and contract reform deal agreed in partnership with NHS trade unions and employer representatives. The reforms that were agreed were not just about headline pay but introduced changes to help improve the working lives of dedicated staff. The deal introduced policies to support staff to balance their working lives with family and personal commitments and maintain their physical and mental health and wellbeing.

This deal has delivered year on year pay increases for all Agenda for Change NHS staff and has seen the lowest starting salary in the NHS increase by over 16% and the starting salary for a newly qualified nurse increase by over 12%. The NHS reward offer also includes benefits that go well beyond those offered in other sectors, for instance, a generous holiday allowance and access to the world-class NHS Pension Scheme.

The nature of the multi-year pay deal means that pay rises have already been determined for those public sector healthcare workers employed on the Agenda for Change contract and have been implemented throughout the course of the three years of the deal. The deal has seen the pay of those below the top of their pay band increase by at least 9% and pay for most staff at the top of their pay band increase by 6.5%, resulting in pay increases above Consumer Price Index inflation over the last three years.

The established mechanism for deciding pay increases in the NHS is through the independent Pay Review Body process. The NHS Pay Review Body will make pay recommendations for Agenda for Change staff in 2021 once the current pay deal ends and the Government will carefully consider these recommendations when we receive them.

Health Services: Waiting Lists

Asked by *Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how long they estimate it will take to clear the NHS waiting lists caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL7140]

Asked by *Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to clear the backlog of healthcare cases caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL7141]

Lord Bethell: Guidance has already been issued to the National Health Service on the process of starting to restore urgent non-COVID-19 services. We have now started to reset NHS services that were rightly suspended whilst we dealt with the initial impact of COVID-19. The approach is being flexed at local level according to capacity and demand in different parts of the country, but the reset will be gradual.

Asked by *Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have plans to use the private healthcare sector to help clear the backlog of healthcare cases caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL7142]

Lord Bethell: National Health Service patients are benefitting from an unprecedented partnership with private hospitals in the United Kingdom as we battle the COVID-19 outbreak. The Department and NHS England and NHS Improvement have worked with the independent sector to secure all appropriate inpatient capacity and other resource across England. This has increased NHS capacity and ensured that more facilities are available for patients diagnosed with COVID-19.

Throughout this period, independent providers have continued to provide urgent operations for NHS patients, as well as their private pay or insured patients.

As part of preparing for winter, the Government has provided an additional £3 billion to the NHS. This will allow the NHS to continue to use the extra hospital capacity acquired from the independent sector and also to maintain the Nightingale hospitals until the end of March.

Hearing Impairment: Coronavirus

Asked by *Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they have given to deaf children and young people during the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL7111]

Asked by *Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans are in place to ensure that deaf children and young people can catch-up on missed schooling during the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL7112]

Baroness Berridge: During the COVID-19 outbreak, the department published guidance on online education

resources for home learning, including support for those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), which are available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources>.

To support the hard work of schools in delivering remote education, in April, the Oak National Academy was launched. 40 teachers from leading schools across England formed this brand-new enterprise which provides 180 video lessons each week, across a broad range of subjects from maths to art to languages, for every year group from Reception through to year 10. Oak also launched a specialist curriculum for children and young people with SEND on 4 May, available here:

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/specialist#subjects>.

The government has announced £1 billion of funding to support children and young people to catch up on missed schooling. This is made up of £650 million to be shared across all state-funded mainstream schools, special schools, and alternative provision over the 2020-21 academic year, and a National Tutoring Programme, worth £350 million to provide additional, targeted support for disadvantaged children and young people.

The universal £650 million catch-up premium funding recognises that all pupils, irrespective of their background or location, have lost time in education. Whilst school leaders will decide how it is used, the intention is that this money will be spent on the most effective interventions.

On Monday 20 July, we announced more details about how the funding will be distributed to schools. This confirmed that a primary school of 200 pupils will receive £16,000 while a secondary school of 1,000 pupils will receive £80,000. Special schools, alternative provision and hospital schools will be funded at 3 times the rate of mainstream schools for the 2020-21 academic year.

All schools should use their catch-up premium funding as a single total from which to prioritise support for all pupils, including children with SEND or children who have education, health and care plans, according to their need.

This year, we are also providing £780 million of additional high needs funding across England for children with the most complex SEND. We are providing a further £730 million in 2021-22, which will bring the total high needs budget to over £8 billion. This is in addition to the catch-up premium funding.

Hezbollah: Guided Weapons

Asked by *Baroness Eaton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports by Alma Research and Education Centre indicating that Hezbollah has located at least 28 missile launch sites in residential areas in Beirut, including next to schools, hospitals and places of worship. [HL7205]

Asked by Baroness Eaton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to address at the United Nations Security Council reports that Hezbollah has located missile launch sites in residential areas of Beirut. [HL7206]

Baroness Sugg: The UK remains concerned by reports that Hizballah continues to amass an arsenal of weapons, in breach of UN Security Council Resolutions 1559 and 1701. We condemn the threat this poses to regional stability.

High Speed 2 Railway Line: Wendover

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether a full and independent engineering review has been carried out to assess the (1) construction, and (2) whole life costs, of the (a) Wendover Short Mined Tunnel proposal, and (b) current HS2 Phase One above surface route proposals at Wendover. [HL7326]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: I refer to my answer to Lord Berkeley's question on 30 June. In spring 2018, the Department instructed KPMG to undertake an independent review of the presented options for the Wendover area, both from HS2 Ltd (surface route) and from mbpc Ltd (mined tunnel proposal). The Department asked the review to examine and consider both options, including a comparative assessment of their relative cost, schedule and constructability. The review did not consider whole life costs.

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will place (1) the external consultant review report, and (2) the Infrastructure and Projects Authority review report, on the Wendover Short-Mined Tunnel proposal, in the Library of the House. [HL7427]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Government will not be placing copies of the reports referred to in the Libraries of either House. These reports are internal to the Department for Transport and are not intended for publication.

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the report by the Infrastructure and Projects Authority Annual Report on Major Projects 2019–20, published on 9 July, which categorised the HS2 project as a red risk, what recent assessment they have made of (1) the construction, and (2) the whole life costs, of the consented HS2 Phase One scheme at Wendover. [HL7428]

Lord True: The Infrastructure and Projects Authority (IPA) has not conducted a review of the Wendover area since its dedicated review in 2018. The review in 2018 of the Wendover area was of the process by which HS2 Ltd had considered and rejected the mined tunnel proposal.

However, the IPA was not asked to review either the construction costs or the whole life costs, but whether HS2 Ltd had followed a competent process in making its decision. The review concluded that HS2 Ltd had followed a competent process in reaching its decision.

Hong Kong: Extradition

Asked by Baroness Anelay of St Johns

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the statement by the Foreign Secretary on 20 July (HC Deb, col 1832) that he will not consider reactivating extradition arrangements with Hong Kong "unless and until there are clear and robust safeguards that can prevent extradition from the UK being misused under the new national security legislation", whether (1) revision, or (2) revocation, of Article 38 of the new national security law would be sufficient to reactivate those extradition arrangements; and if not, whether further measures will be required. [HL7072]

Baroness Sugg: The imposition of the National Security Law has significantly changed key assumptions underpinning the UK extradition treaty arrangements with Hong Kong.

The Foreign Secretary expressed concern about Article 38 of the legislation during a statement to Parliament on 1 July, noting that it is not entirely clear how the provision will be applied. He further noted that this is something that tourists and visitors from all around the world would be concerned about.

We are also particularly concerned about Articles 55 to 59 of the law, which gives mainland Chinese authorities the ability to assume jurisdiction over certain cases and try those cases in mainland Chinese courts. The National Security Law does not provide legal or judicial safeguards in such cases.

Hong Kong: Immigrants

Asked by Lord Green of Deddington

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 21 July (HL6842), whether they will now answer the question put, namely, what estimate they have made of (1) the number of holders of British National (Overseas) status in Hong Kong, and (2) their dependants, who are expected to migrate to the UK in the next five years. [HL7139]

Baroness Sugg: As the Foreign Secretary said on 21 July, we constantly assess the numbers of those expected to take up the bespoke immigration route for British Nationals (Overseas) (BN(O)s) and their dependants. We estimate that there are 2.9 million eligible for BN(O) passports. Of those, there are around 350,000 passport holders. Many of those who may be eligible will want to stay in Hong Kong, or relocate temporarily. The UK will honour its historic and moral responsibilities to BN(O)s.

Hong Kong: Judges

Asked by *Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the introduction of new security laws in Hong Kong, what assessment they have made of whether British judges should continue to sit on Hong Kong's courts. [HL7017]

Baroness Sugg: The UK judiciary is independent of the UK Government. Lord Reed, the President of the UK Supreme Court said in a statement on 17 July, that continued service of UK judges needed to be compatible with judicial independence and the rule of law. The Supreme Court will continue to assess the position in Hong Kong as it develops.

Asked by *Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they hold on the (1) recent, (2) current, and (3) planned future, service of British judges in Hong Kong's courts. [HL7018]

Baroness Sugg: The UK judiciary is independent of the UK Government. Lord Reed, the President of the UK Supreme Court said in a statement on 17 July, that continued service of UK judges needed to be compatible with judicial independence and the rule of law. The Supreme Court will continue to assess the position in Hong Kong as it develops.

Hong Kong: Visas

Asked by *Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether they have sufficient powers under the new Hong Kong British National (Overseas) Visa scheme to prevent the benefits of the scheme being enjoyed by individuals who have (1) participated in, (2) planned, or (3) encouraged, the perpetration of human rights abuses in Hong Kong. [HL7317]

Baroness Sugg: The offer we have set out for British Nationals (Overseas), BN(O)s, is a special, bespoke, set of arrangements developed for the unique circumstances we face, and in light of our historic commitment to the people of Hong Kong.

The Home Secretary set out in Hong Kong British National (Overseas) Visa Policy Statement on 22 July. In line with the eligibility requirements for the Hong Kong BN(O) Visa, BN(O)s and their dependants will need to be able to demonstrate that they have no serious criminal convictions, have not otherwise engaged in behaviour which the UK Government deems not conducive to the public good, or be subject to other general grounds for refusal set out in the Immigration Rules.

Honour Based Violence

Asked by *Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on

21 July (HL6592), how many cases of honour based abuse were reported in (1) 2019, and (2) 2020. [HL7481]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: So-called honour-based abuse is unacceptable and the Government is committed to tackling it, through, for example, part-funding the national "honour"-based abuse helpline and working closely with the police and charities.

Statistics on Honour based Abuse have been collected by the Home Office from police forces in England and Wales since April 2019. The data for 2019-20 is expected to be published as official statistics by autumn 2020.

Hopewell Chin'ono

Asked by *Lord Oates*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Zimbabwe about the detention of journalist Hopewell Chin'ono. [T] [HL7381]

Baroness Sugg: The UK is deeply worried by the arrest of Hopewell Chin'ono on 20 July, and by his continued detention. The Minister for Africa tweeted on 23 July to express his concern at the treatment of Mr Chin'ono and to urge the Zimbabwean authorities to uphold the right to freedom of expression, as guaranteed by Zimbabwe's constitution. The British Ambassador to Harare has sought a meeting with the Zimbabwean Foreign Minister, Sibusiso Moyo, to discuss our concerns, and officials at the British Embassy in Harare are closely following developments on his case. When the Minister for Africa spoke to the Zimbabwean Foreign Minister on 8 June, he urged him to ensure the Government of Zimbabwe makes concrete progress on human rights and respects the rule of law.

The UK is committed to the promotion of media freedom and the protection of journalists. Media freedom is an essential quality of any open society. People must be allowed to discuss and debate issues freely, to challenge their governments, and to make decisions informed by a strong and robust media. Zimbabwe is one of the UK's Media Freedom Focus Countries: we have called on the Government of Zimbabwe to commit to the Global Pledge on Media Freedom and to end the harassment of journalists, improve legislation and work with the international community to protect media freedom.

Horizon Europe

Asked by *Lord Allen of Kensington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they remain committed to the UK's continued membership of Horizon Europe; and what plans they have made if an agreement with the EU is not reached. [HL7417]

Lord Callanan: The Government's recently published Research and Development Roadmap sets out our aim to maintain a close and friendly relationship with our European partners and we are in negotiations with the EU

to participate in the next generation of European research and innovation programmes starting in 2021: Horizon Europe and Euratom Research and Training. Negotiations with the Commission are constructive and we are open to participation, but there are still some areas to be agreed – including financial contributions and suspension and termination clauses.

As a responsible government, we are also developing a range of alternative measures to support international research and innovation alongside progressing the Horizon Europe negotiations. If we do not formally associate to Horizon Europe we will implement ambitious alternatives as quickly as possible from January 2021. This includes launching an ambitious new Discovery Fund, making funding available to allow UK partners to participate in European schemes open to third countries, and scaling up our most prestigious domestic research and innovation schemes.

In all scenarios, it is our aim that UK organisations and entities continue to participate in Horizon Europe collaborative projects, as well as in wider international collaborations.

Hospitality Industry: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will take action to protect diagnosed diabetics returning to work in the hospitality industry from the risk of COVID-19 infection. [HL7015]

Lord Callanan: It is for each business to carry out its own risk assessment, in consultation with their workers, to inform the actions they should take to reduce the risks of COVID-19.

The Government has published guidance – specifically, section 3.1 ‘Protecting people who are at higher risk’ – to help ensure workplaces are as safe as possible during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. These guides cover a range of working environments and are available on the Government’s website.

Nothing in this guidance affects employers’ existing responsibilities under employment and equalities legislation. Employers therefore need to bear in mind the particular needs of different groups or individuals, and make sure that the steps they take to address the risk of COVID-19 do not unjustifiably impact on some groups compared with others.

The safer workplaces guidance provides information to employers on how best to meet these responsibilities in the context of COVID-19.

Hospitals: Admissions

Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish a comprehensive strategy to clear the backlog of hospitalisations that are unrelated to

COVID-19; and what plans they have for consultation with stakeholders to achieve this outcome. [HL6873]

Lord Bethell: Guidance has already been issued to the National Health Service on the process of starting to restore urgent non-COVID-19 services. NHS England and NHS Improvement also continue to work with the Royal Colleges and other key stakeholders to ensure that this is done as quickly and as safely as possible within the available capacity.

Hospitals: Coronavirus

Asked by Baroness Masham of Ilton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to use the Nightingale Hospitals for patients with COVID-19 in the event of a second wave of the disease in order to take the pressure off other hospitals. [HL7466]

Lord Bethell: Nightingale hospitals have helped the National Health Service to rise to an unprecedented challenge by providing extra capacity to manage surges in demand due to COVID-19.

All of the seven NHS Nightingale Hospitals in England are currently on standby and are ready to be utilised should they be needed in the event of a further wave of COVID-19.

We continue to work closely with the NHS and partners, and guidance has already been issued on restoring urgent non-COVID services safely, whilst ensuring surge capacity can be stood up again if needed, including through the use of Nightingale hospitals.

Hospitals: Lancashire

Asked by Lord Hoyle

To ask Her Majesty's Government how often staff working at (1) Chorley and South Ribble Hospital, and (2) Preston Hospital, are tested for COVID-19. [HL5367]

Lord Bethell: Testing National Health Service staff who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 has been available from 29 March 2020. The NHS staff groups of both Chorley and South Ribble Hospital, and Preston Hospital are included within this guidance and any other NHS England guidance.

Further guidance is now available on testing non-symptomatic staff groups.

House of Lords: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask the Senior Deputy Speaker what arrangements are in place to ensure that House of Lords staff with pre-existing health conditions are protected from COVID-19 if they return to work in the office after the summer recess. [HL7395]

Lord McFall of Alcluith: The Administration continues to work with Public Health England to maintain Parliament's status as a COVID-19-secure workplace. A risk assessment process has also been put in place to enable the Administration to consider and act on risks to employees who may be returning to the parliamentary estate.

House of Lords: Location

Asked by Lord Young of Cookham

To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the answer from Lord True to Lord Norton of Louth on 14 July (HL Deb, col 1546), when the information referred to will be provided to Lord Young of Cookham and Lord Norton of Louth. [HL7412]

Lord True: Further to the question posed during the debate on 14 July, a letter was sent on 21 July.

Asked by Lord Norton of Louth

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord True on 14 July (HL Deb, cols 1542–6), whether any feasibility study or costings have been undertaken by the Cabinet Office on moving the House of Lords to York; and, if so, which minister authorised the study. [HL7467]

Lord True: As part of the strategic review for the Restoration and Renewal Programme, the Government believes the Sponsor Body should consider decant locations outside London, including York. The location of the House is a decision for a sovereign Parliament.

Housing: Construction

Asked by Baroness Thornhill

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on affordable housing provision of permitted development rules on the conversion of buildings into homes; and what plans they have to review these rules in response to any emerging evidence indicating a detrimental impact on affordable housing. [HL7004]

Asked by Baroness Thornhill

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the quality of homes resulting from permitted development rights to convert offices to residential use. [HL7005]

Asked by Baroness Thornhill

To ask Her Majesty's Government when their review of permitted development rights for the conversion of buildings to residential use in respect of the quality standard of homes delivered will be published. [HL7006]

Asked by Baroness Thornhill

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many homes resulting from permitted development rights meet their nationally described space standard. [HL7008]

Asked by Baroness Thornhill

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the compatibility of the expansion in permitted development rights with the integrity of the locally led planning system. [HL7009]

Lord Greenhalgh: Permitted development rights for change of use to residential are making an important contribution to housing delivery, largely providing windfall housing that may otherwise not have been delivered through the planning system. The rights make effective use of existing buildings and help boost housing density, as part of our broader housing ambitions, without the need to build on greenfield sites.

In response to concerns raised in respect of the quality of some of the homes delivered through permitted development rights we now require adequate natural light to be provided in habitable rooms. The independent research informing our review has been published and is available at the following (attached) link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/quality-standard-of-homes-delivered-through-change-of-use-permitted-development-rights>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

permitted development rights [200731
Research_report_quality_PDR_homes - HL7004.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-20/HL7004>

Asked by Baroness Thornhill

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the implications of their First Homes policy for the locally led planning system in respect of addressing local housing needs. [HL7010]

Lord Greenhalgh: The Government is committed to making the dream of home ownership a reality for everyone. Affordability is the biggest barrier to home ownership, and while this is partly due to a shortage of housing supply, low interest rates and high rents have limited the ability for young people to save the deposit they need to buy a home. We believe that First Homes are a key means of helping local people, especially young first-time buyers, into home ownership and maintaining strong communities.

It is for local authorities to determine how and where to best deliver their housing needs, and as we set out in our consultation on First Homes, which ran between February and May this year, we are supportive of empowering local decision-makers and conscious of reducing discretion to

respond to local circumstances. Our response to this consultation, which will be published in due course, will provide further detail on this.

*Asked by **Baroness Thornhill***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of their proposed First Homes policy on the provision of social and affordable rented homes. [HL7115]

Lord Greenhalgh: The Government recognises the important role of affordable housing and supplying new homes of all affordable tenures. Affordable homes will help support people into home ownership; reduce the impact of high rents in the private rented sector where people struggle to afford it; and mitigate the risk of homelessness.

The Government is mindful of the trade-off between the level of ambition for First Homes, funded through developer contributions, and the supply of other affordable housing tenures. There are many factors that will affect this trade off beyond the level of First Homes delivery through section 106, especially any price/income caps or additional discounts in high value areas to increase affordability. We therefore do not consider it appropriate to make predictions until these factors are better understood through our response to the consultation, which we hope to publish soon.

The proportions of section 106 described in the consultation are illustrative examples and should not be taken as Government intentions at this stage. The lowest proportion at 40% was chosen as it is roughly equal to the current proportion of section 106 which delivers home ownership products (37% in 2018-2019).

Housing: Older People

*Asked by **Baroness Kennedy of Cradley***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the fairness of contract terms associated with retirement villages, particularly in respect of assignment fees or event fees that are levied when the property is sold after the owner passes away or moves into long-term care. [HL7373]

Lord Greenhalgh: In 2017, the Law Commission published a report of their review of event fees on behalf of this Department. This followed concerns raised by the Competition and Markets Authority about the fairness of some retirement property leases that have resulted in leaseholders paying an event fee of between 0.25% and 30% of the sale price of the property when selling or sub-letting. Concerns were also raised about the lack of transparency of event fees for older people and their families when purchasing a leasehold retirement property. The Law Commission made a number of recommendations in its report, which can be downloaded (attached) at <http://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/event-fees-in-retirement-properties>.

The Government responded to the Law Commission in March 2019 and agreed to implement the majority of the recommendations. The Government is further considering two recommendations, on succession rights and a database of leasehold retirement properties with event fees.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Event fees in retirement properties [200804 Event Fees in Retirement Properties _ Law Commission -HL7373.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-27/HL7373>

Huawei

*Asked by **Lord Alton of Liverpool***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in establishing how BT verify Huawei's denials of (1) the use of slave labour, and (2) the use of Huawei technology in oppressing Uighur people. [HL7319]

Baroness Barran: Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 made the UK the first country to require large businesses to report annually on steps taken to prevent modern slavery, including forced labour, in their operations and supply chains. BT are subject to, and comply with, those requirements.

The Act does not require organisations to certify that their supply chains are slavery free but asks businesses to be transparent about their assessment of modern slavery risks and measures taken to mitigate these. To improve reporting quality, we are developing a government-run registry of modern slavery statements to make it easier for consumers, investors and civil society to hold businesses to account. We have also consulted on proposals to strengthen the Modern Slavery Act and increase transparency and improve compliance.

We have been clear that China's approach in Xinjiang is wrong and must stop. We regularly raise our concerns directly with our Chinese counterparts and are playing a leading role to increase international attention to the situation, including leading a Joint Statement at the UN Human Rights Council in June supported by 27 other countries, highlighting arbitrary detention, widespread surveillance and restrictions, particularly those targeting Uyghurs and other minorities, and urged China to allow the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights meaningful access to the region.

Human Trafficking

*Asked by **Lord Hylton***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to promote World Day against Trafficking in Persons on 30 July; and what priority they give to trafficking in person in their serious and organised crime policies. [HL7363]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: To promote World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on 30 July the Government used social media to raise awareness of the global scale of modern slavery and human trafficking and UK missions abroad hosted events to mark the day.

The Government is committed to tackling the heinous crime of modern slavery and bringing those individuals responsible to justice. This is a key part of the Government's overall strategy to tackle serious and organised crime.

In May 2020 at the Prime Minister's Virtual Summit on Hidden Harms, the Government reiterated the absolute priority that we place on preventing and protecting those at risk from hidden harms, including modern slavery.

Humanitarian Aid: Food Supply

Asked by Lord Chidgey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme FAO-WFP early warning analysis of acute food insecurity hotspots, published on 17 July, and in particular of the recommendation to preserve and scale up critical humanitarian food, nutrition and livelihood assistance. [HL7509]

Baroness Sugg: We welcome this joint report and the recommendations made as they promote a comprehensive approach to tackling food insecurity. The FAO-WFP early warning analysis highlights countries that are at risk of significant food security deterioration, including the secondary impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and aims to inform urgent action to safeguard the food security of the most vulnerable communities in these locations.

The UK is working with international partners, including FAO and WFP, to closely monitor the situation and take action. As a leading donor to the COVID-19 response we are supporting our partners to ensure essential commodities and services, and pre-position food supplies for those most in need. We have also adapted our existing social protection, agriculture, and food security programmes, including support to the FAO on locust control, to support the most vulnerable.

Hydrogen Advisory Council

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to expand the Hydrogen Advisory Council as part of the formation of a wider UK hydrogen strategy. [HL7187]

Lord Callanan: We are committed to developing hydrogen as a decarbonised energy carrier and are developing our strategic approach to growing the UK hydrogen economy. In order to support this, we established the Hydrogen Advisory Council, which first met on 20th July 2020. The Council will enable Government to work in partnership with Industry to ensure the UK is at the forefront of low carbon hydrogen

production and supply, which will have a key role to play in supporting clean growth and tackling climate change.

The Council will initially focus on actions to enable the scale up of hydrogen production, and its membership reflects this. The Council will oversee a range of workstreams in support of its objectives. If deemed appropriate, some of the workstreams may be delivered by working groups, membership of which may come from the organisations represented on the Council and/or more widely according to need.

Hydrogen: Renewable Energy

Asked by Lord Oates

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much, in total, they have committed to the development of a green hydrogen economy over the next five years. [HL7548]

Lord Callanan: The Government is committed to exploring the option of hydrogen as a strategic decarbonised energy carrier. This includes business models to support the deployment of, and investment in, low carbon hydrogen production and a £100m Low Carbon Hydrogen Production Fund, announced in August 2019 to stimulate capital investment. In parallel we are currently investing up to £121 million, between 2015 and 2021, in hydrogen innovation, supporting a range of projects exploring the potential of low carbon hydrogen across the value chain. This includes investment in green hydrogen both through innovation funding and other grants. An example is our support for the industrialisation of production processes at the new ITM Power Gigafactory being built in Sheffield which when complete will be the largest electrolyser manufacturing facility in the world.

The Treasury has recently announced the Comprehensive Spending Review 2020, that will allow the government to consider its priorities across all spending over multiple years. Support to develop technologies that will support the government's ambition to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050 is a priority.

Immigration

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any hostile environment policies are still in place; and if so, what areas are covered by these policies. [HL6467]

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the success of hostile environment policies; and what criteria are used to judge the success of these policies. [HL6468]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government is committed to a firm, fair and humane immigration policy which distinguishes effectively between those with lawful status and those here illegally. The term 'hostile

environment' as a description of Home Office immigration policy is incorrect and does not represent our values as a country.

In common with other comparable countries, the UK has in place a framework of laws, policies and administrative arrangements, introduced under successive governments, ensuring access to work, benefits and services is only permitted for those with the right access to them. The measures within this framework are: Right to Work; Right to Rent; and access to healthcare, public funds, financial services and driving licences.

Key measures were the subject of public consultations and/or impact assessments before they were introduced. The measures incorporate important safeguards, including the ability to exercise discretion where there are genuine barriers to persons leaving the UK or there are exceptional compassionate factors.

A full evaluation of the Right to Rent Scheme is underway and the Government accepts the recommendations in the Windrush Lessons Learned Review report in full, including reviewing and evaluating measures designed to regulate access to work, benefits and services. As the Home Secretary said in her statement to Parliament on 21 July, policy and decision making must be rigorously examined to ensure that any adverse impact on any corner of our society is identified and acted on quickly. To ensure that we better understand the groups and communities that our policies affect, we are overhauling the way in which we build up our evidence base and engage with stakeholders across the board.

Immigration Controls

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to revise the Immigration Rules by spring 2021; and what opportunities there will be for parliamentary scrutiny of any changes. [HL7354]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government published its response to the Law Commission's report 'Simplification of the Immigration Rules' in March 2020 and set out its proposed plans for simplifying and consolidating the Immigration Rules in line with the Law Commission's recommendations and contained examples of draft Rules.

We are working with the Simplification of the Rules Review Committee, which represents a number of different stakeholders, to ensure we take into account a range of different views.

Parliament will be able to scrutinise any statement of changes to the Immigration Rules under the normal process in due course.

Immigration: EU Nationals

Asked by Lord Bowness

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the provisions of clause 5 of the Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill are planned to enable Ministers to make regulations which could result in EU citizens with EU settled status receiving less favourable social security benefits than UK citizens. [HL7199]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The Withdrawal Agreement protects the rights of EU citizens living in the UK and UK nationals living in the EU by the end of the transition period.

The Government has been clear that changes made by regulations under Clause 5 of the Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination Bill cannot be used to remove rights guaranteed under the Withdrawal Agreement.

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether people who have been granted pre-settled status can remain in the United Kingdom with this status for five years, or whether they need to apply for settled status as soon as they become eligible; and, if the former, whether it is five years from the date they were granted pre-settled status or from 1 January 2021. [HL7353]

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to inform people with pre-settled status that they must apply for settled status before the end of the five-year period of pre-settled status. [HL7355]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members who have been granted pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme can remain in the UK with this status for five years from the date it is granted.

Once they have completed five years' continuous residence, they can apply for settled status. They can choose when they do this but must do so before their pre-settled status expires, unless there are reasonable grounds for failing to do so.

In line with the Statement of Intent published in June 2018, the Home Office has committed to issuing reminders to those people whose pre-settled status is due to expire and who have not yet applied for settled status. As pre-settled status is valid for five years, the earliest any such reminders will be issued is 2023.

The Statement of Intent is available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/718237/EU_Settlement_Scheme_SOI_June_2018.pdf.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

EU Settlement Scheme - June 2018
[EU_Settlement_Scheme_SOI_June_2018.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-27/HL7353>

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government in what circumstances a person who possesses pre-settled status who re-applies for settled status at the end of their period of pre-settled status can be granted a further period of pre-settled status. [HL7455]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members who have been granted pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme can remain in the UK with this status for five years from the date it is granted. They can apply for settled status as soon as they have completed five years' continuous residence in the UK, or earlier if they qualify under one of the routes to settled status which requires a continuous qualifying period of residence of less than five years.

Where an applicant with pre-settled status has applied for settled status but has not yet completed the required continuous qualifying period of residence to be eligible for settled status, they will be considered for a further grant of pre-settled status, which will enable them to complete the period of residence necessary to be eligible for settled status.

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to protect the rights of EU Citizens resident in the UK who have not yet been granted settled or pre-settled status (1) between now and 31 December, and (2) between 1 January and 30 June 2021. [HL7524]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The UK left the EU on 31 January on the basis of the EU Withdrawal Agreement reached in October 2019. The protections for resident EU citizens provided in the Withdrawal Agreement are now underpinned by the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020 and by the EU Settlement Scheme.

There will be no change to the current rights of resident EU citizens until the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020, at which point free movement law will, subject to its parliamentary passage, be repealed by the Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill.

In line with the Withdrawal Agreement, EU citizens resident in the UK by 31 December 2020 are eligible to apply for UK immigration status under the EU Settlement Scheme. The Government will bring forward secondary legislation under the EU (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020 to protect relevant residence rights under EU law during the grace period which will apply from 1 January 2021 until the application deadline of 30 June 2021. Provided an application to the EU Settlement Scheme is made by 30 June 2021, these rights will continue until the

application is finally determined, including pending the outcome of an appeal against any decision to refuse status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Industrial Health and Safety: Coronavirus

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government what role they expect the Health and Safety Executive to play in (1) breaking transmission chains, and (2) establishing what allowed the transmission of the virus, in respect of workplace outbreaks of COVID-19; and what, if any, extra resources they have provided to enable any such role. [HL7078]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: Public health authorities lead multi-agency outbreak investigation teams and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has a significant role to play when a workplace is involved. HSE contributes information about the extent and effectiveness of infection risk controls in the workplace enabling the team to draw conclusions about likely infection routes.

HSE is also carrying out proactive spot checks of workplaces to ensure that appropriate measures are in place to protect workers from COVID-19, and provides guidance on relevant COVID-19 risk controls for businesses and organisations on its website (www.hse.gov.uk).

Establishing what allowed the transmission of the virus is a priority and HSE engages across government with Public Health England (PHE), the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Food Standards Agency and the devolved administrations; sharing data and learning lessons. HSE's Chief Scientific Advisor (CSA) is on the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies and co-Chairs the Environmental and Modelling group which aims to provide scientific information on transmission in the built environment, which would include many workplaces. This group have been engaging with PHE, the Department for Health and Social Care and others to ensure that environmental considerations have been considered during outbreak management.

The Government has made available up to an extra £14.2 million for HSE to support the provision of advice and regulatory activities. These funds will be drawn down throughout the year to bring in additional inspectors, call centre staff and equipment as required.

Asked by Baroness Jolly

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to provide guidance about (1) employment rights, and (2) COVID-19-related health and safety issues, to all employees and employers in the UK from 1 August. [HL7152]

Lord Callanan: The Government's guidance on work and financial support in relation to coronavirus includes information about employment rights as well as other key issues such as how to access financial support, safe

working and childcare. This can be found on the GOV.UK website.

Acas also offers guidance and advice for employers and employees. This can be accessed through the Acas website or by calling the Acas helpline on 0300 123 1100.

The Government has also provided clear and comprehensive safer workplaces guidance for employers and employees. This guidance has and will integrate, where appropriate, the Department for Health and Social Care's guidance on protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19. The safer workplaces guidance is non-statutory but does not change existing obligations relating to health and safety, employment, or equalities. Employers have a duty under UK law to protect the health and safety of their workers and other people who might be affected by their business. This includes considering the risks that COVID-19 represents.

The Health and Safety Executive website also has specific guidance on the risk assessment process and the steps businesses should take.

*Asked by **Baroness Jolly***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the willingness of employers to comply with Public Health England guidance in relation to COVID-19; and what plans they have to review the current health and safety inspection regime to ensure that (1) employers are following that guidance, and (2) workplaces are safe. [HL7153]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has seen high levels of compliance with the Government's Covid-19 advice for employers (<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>) including guidance published by Public Health England and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). For example, since 1st April 2020 there have been 3,129* investigations of workplace concerns where an outcome has been recorded in HSE's operational database and in only 114 cases (3.6%) has it been necessary to take enforcement action either by formally writing to the employer or by serving an enforcement notice.

HSE has reviewed its health and safety inspection regime and has adopted the following approach to checking employer compliance with guidance to ensure that workplaces are safe:

1) spot checks carried out by contact centre staff, with those assessed as non-compliant or who fail to engage then contacted by operational staff and, if they are still considered non-compliant, a site visit is carried out; and

2) a programme of Covid-19 specific site inspections carried out by health and safety Inspectors.

HSE is providing support to Local Authorities in their role as health and safety co-regulators by delivering a series of targeted webinars and supporting guidance in Covid-19 related topics such as social distancing.

*This information was extracted from HSE's live operational database on 22nd July 2020 and is subject to

change e.g. the administrative process of recording the information in the database can take up to 10 days.

*Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many cases of COVID-19 likely to have been contracted in the workplace have been reported to the Health and Safety Executive under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic for people working in (1) retail and supermarkets, (2) manufacturing, (3) food production, and (4) public transport in (a) England, (b) Wales, (c) Northern Ireland, and (d) Scotland. [HL7532]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) provides the national reporting framework for responsible persons (usually employers in relation to employees) to report certain cases of injury, disease and dangerous occurrences to the Health and Safety Executive.

In relation to the current pandemic, where an individual has contracted COVID - 19 as a direct result of their work, those instances are reportable under RIDDOR either as a disease attributed to an occupational exposure to a biological agent (under Regulation 9 (b)) or as a death as a result of occupational exposure to a biological agent under Regulation 6 (2).

The table below outlines the number of Covid-19 disease cases reported to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) between 10 April and 25th July using standard industrial classification coding to identify the number of cases reported for (1) retail and supermarkets (2) manufacturing (3) food production, and (4) public transport in (a) England (b) Wales and (c) Scotland. This data is "as reported" by employers.

HSE does not hold data in respect of Northern Ireland as this is reported directly to the Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland (HSENI) and is collated by them.

Table: Worker COVID-19 Disease reports made by employers to HSE and local authorities by disease severity, specific industry sector1, and country, 10th April – 25th July 2020

(Source: RIDDOR disease reporting)

Country	Specific industry sector (as reported by employer)1	SIC2 code	Total COVID-19 notifications
England	Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	Division 47	18
	Manufacturing	Section C	67
	Manufacture of food products3	Division 10	43
	Other passenger land transport	Group 49.3	6

Wales	Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	Division 47	0
	Manufacturing	Section C	0
	Manufacture of food products ³	Division 10	0
Scotland	Other passenger land transport	Group 49.3	0
	Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	Division 47	0
	Manufacturing	Section C	0
	Manufacture of food products ³	Division 10	0
	Other passenger land transport	Group 49.3	0

Footnotes

¹Industry as reported by employers.

²Standard Industrial Classification (SIC): The current system used in UK official statistics for classifying businesses by type of activity they are engaged in.

³Manufacturing of food products is a division within the overall Manufacturing section.

Innovation and Research

Asked by Lord Allen of Kensington

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect the UK to meet the OECD average for gross domestic expenditure on research and development. [HL7418]

Lord Callanan: On 1 July, the Government published its ambitious research and development (R&D) roadmap. This builds on the ambitious commitment set out at Budget to increase public spending in R&D to £22 billion per year by 2024 to 2025, putting the UK on track to reach 2.4% of GDP, the current OECD average, being spent on R&D across the UK economy by 2027. We will set out details of this historic investment in due course, giving researchers and innovators confidence through our long-term investment.

Insolvency

Asked by Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to bring forward proposals for the regulation of Prepack Administrations; and if so when. [HL7146]

Lord Callanan: The Government will publish a report in due course of its review of the voluntary measures that were introduced in 2015 to enhance regulation of pre-pack administrations. The report will set out the Government's plans for the future of pre-pack administrations.

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many pre-pack administrations were referred to the Pre Pack Pool in each week since the beginning of February. [HL7299]

Lord Callanan: There were 16 referrals to the Pre-Pack Pool between 1 February 2020 and 24 July 2020. The table below provides a weekly break down of referrals for the period in question.

Referrals made to the Pre-Pack Pool between 1 February 2020 and 24 July 2020

<i>Week commencing</i>	<i>Number of pre-pack referrals</i>
9 March 2020	1
13 April 2020	2
1 June 2020	1
8 June 2020	1
15 June 2020	1
29 June 2020	1
6 July 2020	4
13 July 2020	5

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government, for each of the pre-pack administrations referred to the Pre Pack Pool since the beginning of February, what was the amount owed to unsecured creditors. [HL7300]

Lord Callanan: Applications to the Pre-Pack Pool are made in confidence and the Insolvency Service does not hold this information. However, if a company subsequently enters administration, details of amounts owed to unsecured creditors must be set out in a statement of affairs of the company, which must be filed at Companies House and made available on the company's public record as soon as reasonably practicable by the administrator.

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support the Pre Pack Pool has received from the Insolvency Service; and what plans they have, if any, to enhance this support. [HL7301]

Lord Callanan: The Pre-Pack Pool's operation is overseen by the Pre-Pack Pool Oversight Group, which comprises representatives from the creditor community, the insolvency profession, insolvency regulators and officials from the Insolvency Service. The Insolvency Service also provides secretariat support to the Oversight Group.

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many meetings have taken place between the Pre Pack Pool

and the Insolvency service in (1) 2019, and (2) 2020; and what subjects were discussed. [HL7302]

Lord Callanan: Officials from the Insolvency Service attended three meetings of the Pre-Pack Pool Oversight Group in 2019 and one meeting so far in 2020. The Pre-Pack Pool Oversight Group includes representatives from the Pre-Pack Pool. The meetings attended by officials discussed the operation of the Pre-Pack Pool and the Insolvency Service's review of voluntary measures to reform pre-pack sales in administration.

Integrated Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy Review

Asked by Lord Truscott

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made with the Integrated Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy Review; with whom they have consulted about that Review; and when they estimate that Review to be completed. [HL7566]

Baroness Sugg: The Government paused its Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy in April due to the pressing need to focus on COVID-19. We have formally recommenced the Review, building on the work done since the Review was first launched in February.

Our aim continues to be for an ambitious and bold Integrated Review that is guided by the UK's foreign policy and national security objectives.

We will be engaging with Parliament, the Devolved Administrations, external experts and wider stakeholders with an interest in our nation's security and prosperity. This includes our allies and partners, building on our ongoing dialogue on COVID-19 response and recovery.

The Government will conduct targeted engagement that will bring crucial external voices and expertise to bear in defining our ambition for the UK's role in the world and setting the country on the best possible trajectory for the future.

The Integrated Review will remain closely aligned with the Comprehensive Spending Review, to ensure that departments are equipped with the resources they need to enact the Integrated Review's conclusions. The Comprehensive Spending Review will be published in the autumn.

International Assistance

Asked by Baroness Goudie

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take to ensure that (1) development and humanitarian concerns are heard at the highest levels of the Government, and (2) there is policy coherence in those areas across Departments. [HL7089]

Baroness Sugg: From the 1st September, the Foreign Secretary will lead the new Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. His seat at Cabinet will ensure that

development and humanitarian concerns are at the heart of Cabinet decision-making. The Integrated Review will refresh systems to ensure policy coherence across HMG.

International Cooperation

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they, and international fora, have (1) to address climate change and pollution, and (2) to prevent violent conflict and communicable diseases. [HL7364]

Baroness Sugg: Tackling climate change is a priority issue for the UK, which is why we bid to host COP 26 in partnership with Italy. We have committed to doubling the UK's International Climate Finance funding to at least £11.6 billion between 2021/22 and 2025/26. To ensure ambitious climate action across the world, the UK has around 180 diplomats engaged globally on climate issues, and the Climate and Energy Attaché Network expanded by 50 local staff in FY19/20 to help deliver COP26. The FCO has also recently appointed four Regional Ambassadors to support global engagement.

The UK takes a holistic, coordinated approach to preventing violent conflict bilaterally and in international fora. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, the UK takes its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and the prevention of violent conflict seriously and is active in preventive diplomacy, peacebuilding, and peacekeeping. In addition to ongoing defence, diplomatic and development engagement in key fragile and conflict affected areas, we are monitoring the increased risks as a result of Covid-19.

The Prime Minister hosted the Global Vaccine Summit on 4 June, raising \$8.8 billion to support Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance's work to immunise a further 300 million children and save up to 8 million lives from vaccine preventable diseases by 2025. In June 2019 the UK pledged up to £1.4 billion to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria for 2020-22 to contribute to the distribution of 92 million mosquito nets, treat over 2 million people suffering from TB and provide life-saving anti-retroviral therapy for more than 3.3 million people with HIV. In 2019, the UK announced a £400m commitment to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative to continue efforts towards eradicating the disease. The UK Government will continue to work with all our international partners in global efforts against communicable diseases.

Iran: Israel

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made (1) of reports that recent attacks on military sites in Iran have been authorised by the government of Israel, and (2) of the possible consequences of such attacks. [HL7062]

Baroness Sugg: Following an explosion on 2 July in a building at the Natanz facility, Iran's Supreme National Security Council said they knew the cause but due to "security concerns" further details would be released at an "appropriate time". We will continue to monitor Iran's response to recent explosions, and continue to urge de-escalation in the region.

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the comment by the Foreign Minister of Israel on 5 July that in regard to Iran "we take actions that are better left unsaid"; and when they last discussed with the government of Israel their policy towards the government of Iran. [HL7172]

Baroness Sugg: The UK and Israel share a strong partnership, and we regularly discuss regional issues with the Government of Israel, including their policy towards Iran. We continue to urge de-escalation and dialogue in the region.

Islamic State: British Nationals Abroad

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Daesh fighters are known to have returned to the UK; how many such fighters and individuals assisting Daesh in different capacities have been prosecuted in the UK courts, including anyone who has (1) financed, or (2) recruited for, Daesh; on what charges any such individuals have been prosecuted; and what progress they have made on the proposal to establish an international ad-hoc tribunal for Daesh. [HL7040]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Around 900 people have travelled from the UK to engage with the conflict in Syria and Iraq, against the advice of the Foreign Office. Of these, approximately 20% have been killed in the conflict and around 40% have returned to the UK.

The Government's priority is the safety and security of the people who live here. All of those who have returned, have been investigated and the majority have been assessed to pose no, or a low security risk. Around 40 individuals have been convicted on their return from Syria/Iraq, either because of offences committed overseas or for other activity linked to their involvement in terrorism. Individuals can be convicted in UK courts of offences committed overseas (including preparation of terrorism, encouragement of terrorism and membership of a proscribed organisation). Furthermore, through the Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019, we have extended this to new offences including: inviting or recklessly expressing support for a proscribed organisation and for sharing their propaganda.

The UK continues 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.

Islamic State: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that the influence of Daesh has grown during the COVID-19 pandemic; what is their current assessment of the risk posed by Daesh in the Middle East; and what steps they are taking to address any such risk. [HL6993]

Baroness Sugg: We are concerned by reports that Daesh is using the current COVID-19 pandemic crisis to exert their influence. As the Defence Secretary outlined in the Counter-Daesh Statement on 22 July in the House, we continue to work closely with our allies in the Global Coalition to prevent Daesh from resurging, in particular in Syria and Iraq. The Minister of State for Middle East and North Africa discussed this in a Counter-Daesh Coalition Small Group meeting on 4 June. He also raised the importance of the continued fight against Daesh in his conversations with Iraq's Ambassador to the UK on 16 March and Iraqi Foreign Minister Hakim on 1 April. The UK supports the UN Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire in armed conflicts and we will continue to work closely with international partners towards peace in the Middle East, particularly in light of COVID-19.

Israel: Armed Forces

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what statistics they have on the number of Israeli soldiers who have been charged with crimes of unlawful killing. [HL7116]

Baroness Sugg: The Government is very concerned at the high numbers of Palestinians killed by Israel Defense Forces in the West Bank and Gaza. We have raised the issue with the Israeli authorities, encouraging them to carry out transparent investigations where necessary into whether use of live fire had been appropriate.

Israel: Coronavirus

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about the Supreme Court of Israel's ruling that prisoners in Gilboa prison have no right to social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL7480]

Baroness Sugg: We remain concerned by the impact that COVID-19 could have on prisoners and detainees. The British Embassy in Tel Aviv have a regular dialogue with Israel on legal issues relating to the occupation, including the treatment of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons. This includes the increased risk due to lack of hygiene, proper ventilation, population density and issues of due process. We continue to call for steps to be taken that will reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading in prisons whilst simultaneously respecting fundamental human rights.

Israel: Lebanon

Asked by *Baroness Deech*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of increased tensions along the Israel–Lebanon border and the readiness of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon to mediate effectively between the governments of Israel and Lebanon as well as to diffuse any increase in hostilities. [HL7449]

Baroness Sugg: We are aware of reports of increased tensions along the Israel-Lebanon border. The UK condemns all violations of UN Security Council Resolutions 1509 and 1701, and call for all sides to adhere to the relevant resolutions. We welcome United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon's efforts to mediate between parties and decrease tensions.

Israel: Palestinians

Asked by *Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for using the Royal Navy to protect Palestinian fishermen from attacks by the Israeli Navy. [HL7404]

Baroness Sugg: HMG have not made an assessment on using the Royal Navy in this way.

Asked by *Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the civil rights of Palestinians living in Israel, in particular in Jisr al-Zarqa. [HL7407]

Baroness Sugg: Israel is a thriving democracy with a long-standing commitment to equality for all. It maintains a fine balance between its Jewish identity and its democratic values. We are aware that some Israelis can face additional structural challenges, particularly Arab Israelis including in Jisr al-Zarqa, who experience higher rates of poverty and unemployment and who can face discrimination. As a friend to Israel, we have also expressed our concern in cases where Israeli laws could undermine the equality of members of minority groups, particularly the Nation State Basic Law of 2017. We encourage the Israeli government to do all it can to uphold the values of equality for all enshrined in its laws.

Israeli Settlements

Asked by *Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about reports of the construction of (1) a new settlement near Asira a-Shamaliya on land owned by Palestinians, and (2) earthworks by Israeli armed forces preventing Palestinians from reaching their farmland. [HL7479]

Baroness Sugg: We consistently call for an immediate end to all actions that undermine the viability of the two-

state solution, including settlement expansion and restrictions on freedom of movement within the West Bank, including to and from East Jerusalem. The UK's position on settlements is clear. They are illegal under international law, present an obstacle to peace, and threaten the physical viability of a two-state solution. We urge Israel to halt settlement expansion immediately. We continue to stress to the Israeli authorities the damage that their restrictions on movement, access and trade are doing to the living standards of ordinary Palestinians. We are encouraging both sides to maintain calm and avoid taking actions which make peace more difficult to achieve.

Istanbul: Religious Buildings

Asked by *Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the decision to convert the Hagia Sofia into a mosque, and (2) the impact of that decision on marginalised religious minorities in Turkey and the Middle East; and what steps they are planning to take to ensure that the rights of religious minorities in the region are safeguarded. [HL7421]

Baroness Sugg: While we note the concern that President Erdoğan's decision to turn Hagia Sophia into a mosque has caused internationally, the Government regards this as a sovereign matter for Turkey. However, we would expect that Hagia Sophia - part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site - remains accessible to all, as testament to its global cultural and religious significance and Turkey's rich and diverse historical and cultural legacy, and that its precious artefacts are preserved. We therefore welcome the public statements by Turkish leaders that this historic building will continue to be accessible to people of all faiths and nationalities, which would be consistent with the Turkish constitution's provisions for freedom of conscience and religion for all. We strongly support all minority groups in Turkey and encourage the Turkish authorities to safeguard their welfare and respect their human rights.

The Government is firmly committed to protecting religious minorities in the Middle East region and providing assistance on the basis of need, irrespective of race, religion or ethnicity. We believe that one of the most effective ways to tackle injustices and advocate for respect among different religious and racial groups, is to encourage states to uphold their human rights obligations. The UK is committed to defending Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB), and promoting respect between different religious and non-religious communities.

Iyad Hallaq

Asked by *Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports (1) that the government of Israel does not have sufficient evidence to convict those who killed Eyad Al-Hallaq, and (2) that no footage has

been recovered of the incident from the CCTV cameras or mobile phones in the area. [HL7408]

Baroness Sugg: As the UK Consul General in Jerusalem and the UK Ambassador in Tel Aviv stated on 31 May, we were deeply saddened to hear about the death of Iyad Khairi Hallaq after he was shot by Israeli police in East Jerusalem. We urge restraint in the use of live fire by the Israel Defense Forces. As we outlined at the UN Security Council meeting on the Middle East on 21 July, 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. The perpetual cycle of violence must end.

Journalism: Ethnic Groups

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they intend to take to support young BAME journalists. [HL7559]

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had, if any, with UK newsrooms about addressing racism. [HL7560]

Baroness Barran: Racism or any form of discrimination has no place in the media or society.

The media plays a vital role in British society and it has an important responsibility to reflect modern Britain. This can only be achieved through a representative, and diverse workforce.

The government is committed to working together with industry to support greater diversity, and to ensure that everyone regardless of their background should have the same opportunity to go as far as their talents and hard work take them.

In broadcast journalism, Ofcom, who are the independent communications regulator, publish an annual diversity report which provides diversity monitoring data for the main broadcasters and includes information on the diversity initiatives of their news teams. In the print media a number of national newspapers are running diversity schemes. These include the Daily Mail's Stephen Lawrence Scholarship and BAME internships at the Guardian. The National Council for the Training of Journalists also runs a diversity fund.

The Government does not wish to interfere in any way with editorial freedoms, operations or decision making in news organisations, but we encourage industry to do more to increase diversity in journalism.

DCMS ministers and officials regularly meet with a range of stakeholders to discuss a range of issues and the Government is committed to ensuring that equality and diversity are a key feature in all of our interactions with industry.

Kashmir: Politics and Government

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the situation in Ladakh. [HL7030]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Prime Minister expressed his concern at increased tensions between China and India in the House on 24 June. We welcome recent progress between India and China to manage tensions along their disputed border, and the commitment on 5 July by Indian and Chinese Special Representatives on 'the Boundary Question' to disengage troops along the Line of Actual Control and de-escalate the border areas. We encourage both sides to maintain dialogue and continue to monitor the situation closely.

Leah Sharibu

Asked by Lord Curry of Kirkharle

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they last made representations to the government of Nigeria about the abduction of Leah Sharibu; and what response they received. [HL7348]

Baroness Sugg: The UK Government has repeatedly called for the release of all those abducted by Boko Haram and Islamic State West Africa, including Leah Sharibu. We welcomed President Buhari's statement in February, reiterating his Government's commitment to bring Leah home safely. We will continue to engage with the Government of Nigeria in support of urgent action to secure the return of Leah Sharibu and all abductees.

We regularly raise the issues of insecurity and terrorism in Nigeria and at the highest levels of the Nigerian Government. The Prime Minister discussed UK support for fighting terrorism in Nigeria with President Buhari at the UK Africa Investment Summit in January. The Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB), Rehman Chishti MP, met with the then Chief of Staff to the President of Nigeria in January 2020 to discuss FoRB matters covering Nigeria, which had been raised with him by parliamentarians, and NGOs. In February, Rehman Chishti MP also met Leah's mother to express the UK's continued commitment to help Nigeria secure the release of all abductees.

Lebanon: Neutrality

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the proposal for Lebanon to become a permanently neutral state, as advocated by the Rt Rev Bechara Boutros Al-Rai. [HL7092]

Baroness Sugg: It is for Lebanon to decide on its foreign and security policy. We continue to urge the Government of Lebanon to fully implement its policy of disassociation from regional conflicts, and abide by the provisions of all relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, including 1559 and 1701. The Minister for

Middle East and North Africa stressed this point again to key Lebanese politicians during his virtual visit to Lebanon on 23 July.

Leisure: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to work with local authorities to provide additional leisure facilities, especially for young people, in areas of high unemployment following the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL7181]

Baroness Barran: Sports and physical activity facilities play a crucial role in supporting adults and children to be active. Swimming pools, indoor gyms and leisure centres (including sports halls) should now be able to reopen. These facilities will be able to offer on-site services to customers, provided they are COVID-secure and follow Government guidance.

Sport England have announced a £195 million package of support to help community clubs through this crisis. It recently boosted its Community Emergency Fund by a further £15 million to meet the demand, taking the total up to £210 million.

The income scheme announced on Thursday 2 July by the Secretary of State for Local Government, aims to support local authorities who have incurred irrecoverable loss of income from sales, fees and charge which they had reasonably budgeted for. Further guidance will follow on the principle of the scheme.

The Government is providing local authorities with an unprecedented package of support, allocating £4.3bn of support for spending pressures, including £3.7bn of unfunded grants and the £600m Infection Control Fund.

Leisure: Finance

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the extent to which principal councils are making up the funding shortfalls of town and parish councils resulting from the loss of income from leisure facilities and community centres since the COVID-19 pandemic began; and what guidance they are giving to principal councils on this matter. [HL7212]

Lord Greenhalgh: The Government is very grateful to all parish and town councils and to their members and clerks for the vital work they are doing to support communities.

The Department is working to understand the financial pressures that Covid-19 is placing on all local authorities, including parish and town councils. The Department will also continue to work with DCMS and local government, including with representative bodies for parish and town councils such as the National Association of Local Councils over the coming weeks to ensure the sector as a whole is managing as the pandemic progresses.

The Government does not have powers to offer direct financial support to parish and town councils, which are largely funded through a precept collected from within the overall council tax paid by the residents of the parish or town. We have strongly encouraged all parish and town councils to speak to their principal authority (district or unitary council) and have encouraged those authorities to facilitate those discussions where parish and towns are performing Covid-19 related services.

Libya: IRA

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to publish the findings of the Special Representative on UK victims of Qadhafi-sponsored IRA terrorism. [HL7085]

Baroness Sugg: Ministers have now received the Special Representative's Scoping Report. We remain committed to ensuring the report receives the required Government time and resource. This has been challenging whilst the Government's main effort has been focussed on our response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The issue of UK victims of Qadhafi-sponsored IRA terrorism remains important to Her Majesty's Government. Government ministers will consider the report in detail in due course, including whether to publish any elements of it.

Libya: Peace Negotiations

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have seen recent proposals for ending violence in Libya put forward by (1) some members of the Libyan House of Representatives and (2) the Speaker of that House; and what plans they have to facilitate further negotiations. [HL7150]

Baroness Sugg: We remain deeply concerned by the situation in Libya and we welcome all efforts which support the UN-led peace process. We have been clear that we support an inclusive political settlement for Libya. We welcome the engagement of the Government of National Accord and the Libyan National Army in the UN-led 5+5 military talks. It is essential that both sides engage fully with this process. The UK is actively engaged in diplomatic efforts to end the conflict and we continue to work closely with international partners towards peace in Libya. We continue to call on all parties to de-escalate, commit to a lasting ceasefire and return to UN-led political talks which is the only means of achieving the peace and stability that the Libyan people crave.

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have (1) to support the work of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission towards a ceasefire in Libya, and (2) to take steps to limit any further inflow of weapons to that country. [HL7151]

Baroness Sugg: The UK is playing an active role in international diplomatic efforts to promote a ceasefire, humanitarian access and a return to a UN-led process in Libya. As 'penholder' on Libya at the UN Security Council, we tabled UN Security Council 2510 which demands an end to foreign military interference in Libya. Most recently, at the 8 July UN Security Council meeting, the Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa reiterated that external backers must stop sending arms to Libya, adhere to the Berlin conference commitments made in January, and support the parties to achieve a ceasefire and reach an inclusive political solution. The UK has also continued to urge all Libyan parties and the key international players to engage fully with the UN-led political process, including the 5+5 military dialogue convened in Geneva.

Lobbying

Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to use their powers under section 2(3) of the Transparency of Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Act 2014 to extend reporting requirements to Special Advisors. [HL7359]

Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to adopt the recommendation in the report by the Group of States against Corruption, Fifth evaluation round - evaluation report - United Kingdom, published on the 17 May 2018, that the scope of the registry of consultant lobbyists be extended to include (1) third parties operating with in-house lobbyists, and (2) the lobbying of specialist advisors and senior civil servants involved in policy making. [HL7360]

Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to begin post-legislative scrutiny of Part 1 of the Transparency of Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Act 2014. [HL7361]

Lord True: As the Minister for the Constitution and Devolution set out in a letter to the Executive Secretary of the Group of States Against Corruption (GRECO) Secretariat, the Government will commence post-legislative scrutiny of Part 1 of the Transparency of Lobbying, Non-party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Act 2014 Act (the Act) this year.

The letter is available here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/903767/Letter_of_24_July_from_Chloe_Smith_to_Gianluca_Esposito.pdf

Local Government Finance: Coronavirus

Asked by Baroness Verma

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to allow local authorities to use the remaining funds allocated to support businesses at the start of the COVID-19 lockdown to support businesses that are facing second or local lockdowns. [HL7409]

Lord Greenhalgh: The Government has always been clear that underspend from the initial grants schemes for businesses could not be used for other purposes.

Once all grant monies have been paid out, local authorities will need to carry out a reconciliation exercise with Government to ensure that they receive the correct amount of funding to meet the cost of grant payments to eligible businesses.

Ministers will continue to consider the need for further responses to second or local lockdowns, recognising that significant support has already been provided to businesses through grants, loans and easements.

Local Government: Lancashire

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have held with councillors and officers (1) of Lancashire County Council, (2) of Blackpool Borough Council, (3) of Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, and (4) of Lancashire District Councils since 1 January, on matters relating to proposals for (a) a combined authority, (b) an elected mayor, and (c) reorganisation of local government structures; and what advice they have given to each of those Councils. [HL7521]

Lord Greenhalgh: There have been a number of discussions between councils across the Lancashire area and Ministers and officials about possible local government reforms. The government has set out a clear commitment to level up all areas of the country by empowering our regions through devolving money, resources and control away from Westminster, and will set out its detailed plans in the Devolution and Local Recovery White Paper that will be published this Autumn.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government what advice they have given to local authorities in counties which have both a county council and county districts on (1) the desirability, (2) the criteria, and (3) the preferred timescale, for reorganisation of local government in those areas. [HL7522]

Lord Greenhalgh: The Government has set out a clear commitment to level up all areas of the country by empowering our regions through devolving money, resources and control away from Westminster, and will set out its detailed plans in the Devolution and Local Recovery White Paper that will be published this Autumn.

The Government believes that areas moving to unitary status with more sustainable and efficient councils can have significant benefits for local people and businesses; and a number of councils have requested from the Secretary of State a formal invitation to submit proposals for unitary local government.

London Power Tunnels

Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by Align, Hydrogeological and Surface Water Risk Assessment for Load Test Piling Location 2, approved in January 2019, and, in particular, its conclusion that there are no historic sources of contamination present at the London Power Tunnels phase 2 construction site, despite it being 500 metres away from a Contaminated Land Special Site. [HL7369]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The Environment Agency (EA) has reviewed the Align Report on Hydrogeological and Surface Water Risk Assessment for Load Test Piling Location 2. This report examines activities associated with HS2 and does not reference the 'London Power Tunnels phase 2 construction site', which is a different project south of the river Thames unrelated to HS2.

With respect to the report, the EA is in agreement that there are no historical sources of contamination present at the Load Test Piling Location 2 site. The report does highlight that there are historical sources of contamination present in the wider area of this site, and low-level hydrocarbon contamination was present in groundwater within both the chalk and overlying superficial deposits across the Colne Valley.

Malnutrition: Children

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children in England were admitted to hospital with malnutrition in the first six months of 2020. [HL6803]

Lord Bethell: The information is not available in the format requested.

Manston Airport: Large Goods Vehicles

Asked by Lord Pendry

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Vere of Norbiton on 24

July (HL6859), how much they have spent on preparations for the provision of additional lorry parking capacity at Manston Airport. [HL7305]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: I can confirm that between August 2015 to June 2020, the Department for Transport (DfT) has paid a total of £19.4m for the use of Manston Airfield as a lorry park. DfT paid £10.3m as part of the EU Exit no deal preparation contingency planning and £9.1m for the use of Manston Airfield for business as usual and Operation Stack. This has enabled DfT to use Manston Airfield to hold HGVs for traffic management purposes, in the event of disruption of flow at the short straits crossings.

Marks and Spencer: Labelling

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the report National Food Strategy Part One, published in July, what assessment they have made of the remarks by Henry Dimbleby that the packaging of Marks and Spencer Percy Pigs makes "wilfully misleading" health claims. [HL7503]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: I have noted Henry Dimbleby's comments about M&S's use of the terms 'with natural fruit juice' and 'no artificial colours or artificial flavourings' on Percy Pigs. In terms of the application of the present EU law, it is the responsibility of local authority trading standards, who are responsible for enforcing food labelling, who consider the whole label when making a judgement as to whether or not it is misleading.

These statements do not constitute health claims as defined by current nutrition and health claims legislation. However, Mr Dimbleby's comments used this product as an example of a wider issue where such claims may in some circumstances be viewed as confusing or misleading, in that they might present otherwise unhealthy food if not consumed according to recommended portion sizes with a degree of wholesomeness.

At the end of the Transition Period we will be able to determine how food on our shop shelves is labelled. We are committed to undertaking a wide ranging review of food labelling to ensure that consumers can continue to have confidence in the food they buy. We will ensure that in collaboration with DHSC the issues raised by Mr Dimbleby in his National Food Strategy are evaluated, along with the impact of potential policy options, as part of this labelling review.

Marriage

Asked by Baroness Whitaker

To ask Her Majesty's Government in which circumstances marriages in England and Wales are legally recognised by virtue of (1) the building in which the marriage takes place, (2) the registrar or officiant

conducting the ceremony, and (3) the religion of the marriage. [HL7035]

Lord Keen of Elie: In general terms, the law requires couples to give due notice of the marriage and to marry in the place specified when they gave notice and in the presence of certain people. Marriages are not automatically valid because they involve a certain building, person or religion: on the contrary, they are capable of legal recognition because they follow a route set out in statute. The statute law also sets out circumstances in which a marriage will be void.

As part of its review of the law on how and where couples may marry in England and Wales, the Law Commission will make recommendations regarding what the consequences of failing to comply with all or some of the requirements for a valid marriage should be. The Government looks forward to publication of its consultation paper in September.

Marriage: Humanism

Asked by Baroness Blackstone

To ask Her Majesty's Government what reforms to marriage law they are currently working on; whether they plan to bring forward proposals for legal recognition of humanist marriages; and if not, why not. [HL7031]

Lord Keen of Elie: The Government announced in June 2019 that the Law Commission will conduct a fundamental review of the law on how and where people can legally marry in England and Wales. As part of that review, the Government invited the Law Commission to make recommendations about how marriage by humanist and other non-religious belief organisations could be incorporated into a revised or new scheme for all marriages that is simple, fair and consistent. The Government looks forward to publication of the Law Commission's consultation paper in September and, following the final report, will decide on provision on the basis of the Law Commission's recommendations.

Separately, the Government continues to explore both limited reform and non-legislative options relating to religious weddings, as well as to explore interim reform of the law governing approved premises for marriages and civil partnerships.

Meat and Poultry: Imports

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that meat and poultry imported from overseas has been raised in compliance with UK guidelines on the use of antibiotics in farming; what tests are carried out on imported meat and poultry; and whether the results of such tests are published. [HL7086]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Imported products of animal origin are monitored based on the nature of the products and the risk they represent, as required by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2130, which is part of EU retained law.

The UK Government is committed to working with global partners to improve standards on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), for example through participation in the Codex Alimentarius AMR Task Force revision of the "Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance", as well as by promoting global 'one health' action on AMR through our commitments under the UK National Action Plan for AMR 2019-24.

Medical Treatments

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment has been made by NICE of the suitability of applying the 1.5 per cent non-reference discount rate for one time gene therapies that offer long-term health benefits. [HL7221]

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many times NICE (1) has accepted, and (2) has rejected, a manufacturer request to apply the 1.5 per cent non-reference discount rate as part of a single technology appraisal final appraisal determination in the last five years; in which technology appraisal guidance documents that discount rate was applied; and in each case, what were the reasons for (a) the acceptance, and (b) the rejection, of such a request. [HL7222]

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether NICE applies the recommendations of the HM Treasury's Green Book concerning the application of a 1.5 per cent discount rate for health benefits and costs; and if not, why not. [HL7223]

Lord Bethell: The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) is considering discounting in its ongoing methods review for both technology appraisals and highly specialised technologies. This includes consideration of different discount rates, including reference-case and non-reference-case, and the circumstances in which they might be considered.

As of May 2019, nine pieces of technology appraisal (TA) guidance and three pieces of highly specialised technologies (HST) guidance include discussions about discounting, specifically the appropriateness of using non-reference-case discount rates.

Non-reference-case rates were considered appropriate in one TA (TA538) and partially in one HST evaluation (HST7). Where non-reference-case discounting was not accepted, the committee's considerations varied according to the circumstances of the individual appraisals; common

themes included whether the technology aligned with the intention of the non-reference-case discounting criteria, uncertainties about long-term health effects, and whether the treatment would restore patients to ‘full or near full health’.

The discount rates applied by NICE in its health technology assessments are specified in its methods guides. These specify that the reference case discount rate is 3.5% per year for costs and health effects; a non-reference-case discount rate of 1.5% per year for costs and health effects may be considered in specific circumstances.

Sensitivity analyses using rates of 1.5% for both costs and health effects may be presented alongside the reference-case analysis. In certain cases, cost-effectiveness analyses are very sensitive to the discount rate used, and in these circumstances a non-reference-case discount rate for costs and outcomes may be considered.

NICE is considering whether there is a case for change in discounting in its ongoing methods review for both technology appraisals and highly specialised technologies.

Mental Health Services

Asked by *The Earl of Sandwich*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government how many referrals have been made to Improving Access to Psychological Therapies services in the last six months; how many appointments have been made for Improving Access to Psychological Therapies services in the last six months; and how these figures compare to the same period last year. [[HL5620](#)]

Lord Bethell: The Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) data requested are shown in the following table:

	<i>IAPT Referrals</i>	<i>IAPT Appointments</i>
October 2019 – March 2020	834,978	3,543,965
October 2018 – March 2019	841,006	3,377,787

Source: Psychological Therapies: reports on the use of IAPT services, NHS Digital

Mental Health Services: Young People

Asked by *Lord Hay of Ballyore*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what steps they are taking to improve the treatment of young people with mental health conditions. [[HL7218](#)]

Lord Bethell: We remain committed to investing at least £2.3 billion of extra funding a year into mental health services by 2023-24 through the NHS Long Term Plan. This funding underpins our aim for an additional 345,000 children and young people able to access support through National Health Service-funded services or school and college-based mental health support teams.

We also remain committed to delivering the core proposals of *Transforming children and young people’s mental health provision: a green paper*, including the introduction of senior leads in mental health and mental health support teams in schools and colleges, as well as the piloting of a four-week waiting time for specialist NHS services, so that there is swifter access for those children and young people that need it.

Mental Health: Prescription Drugs

Asked by *The Earl of Sandwich*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government how many prescriptions have been issued for (1) antidepressants, (2) anxiolytics, (3) sedatives and hypnotics, and (4) antipsychotics, in each month from April to June 2020; and how these figures compare with the same month last year. [[HL7475](#)]

Lord Bethell: The information requested is provided by the NHS Business Services Authority in the following tables.

<i>Month and Year</i>	<i>Antidepressants</i>	<i>Anxiolytics</i>	<i>Number of items</i>	
			<i>Barbiturates and Hypnotics</i>	<i>Antipsychotics</i>
April 2019	6,035,028	518,035	679,445	1,010,050
May 2019	6,450,150	553,508	716,259	1,073,853
June 2019	6,017,455	511,088	661,151	1,002,933

<i>Month and Year</i>	<i>Antidepressants</i>	<i>Anxiolytics</i>	<i>Number of items</i>	
			<i>Barbiturates and Hypnotics</i>	<i>Antipsychotics</i>
April 2020	6,481,166	521,162	692,160	1,119,597
May 2020	6,244,952	490,061	659,233	1,051,130
June 2020	Not yet available	Not yet available	Not yet available	Not yet available

Notes:

The time periods covered are April 2020 – May 2020 and April 2019 – June 2019 inclusive for comparison.

The term ‘items’ refers to the number of times a product appears on a prescription form, and not the quantity prescribed. The NHS Business Services Authority does not have enough information to determine if a prescription is ‘new’ for a particular patient.

Any secondary indications or unlicensed uses of any of these medicines will not be apparent from the data.

The data provided is for prescriptions prescribed and dispensed in England only.

The data provided is based on English dispensed prescription that were processed by the NHS Business Services Authority; excluding items ‘not dispensed’, ‘disallowed’ and ‘items referred back to the contractor for further clarification’. Items prescribed but not presented

for dispensing or not submitted to NHS Business Services Authority by the dispenser are also excluded.

Middle East and North Africa: Conflict Prevention

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the case for, and (2) the feasibility of, creating a new institution for détente and dialogue in the Middle East and North Africa; and what plans, if any, they have to make proposals for that purpose. [HL7224]

Baroness Sugg: A stable Middle East and North Africa is in every nation's interests. The UK engages regularly, at all levels, with the countries of the Middle East and North Africa and a wide range of external experts; this includes on regional issues. We are willing to consider any efforts to promote dialogue.

Migrant Workers: Social Services

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they intend to respond to the concerns raised by the Cavendish Coalition, on behalf of UK health and social care groups, that their current immigration proposals would not allow enough overseas workers to be recruited for the care sector; and how they intend to address any shortfall of such workers in the Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill. [HL6655]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government recognises the fantastic contribution made by those working in the social care sector and the need for roles in it to offer rewarding career opportunities. The independent Migration Advisory Committee has been very clear immigration is not the answer to the challenges faced in this sector, a view the Government shares.

The Minister for Future Borders and Immigration has met with the Cavendish Coalition to hear their thoughts about future immigration policy. In response he confirmed the Government would not be creating a migration route to allow some employers in the sector to permanently recruit at the legal minimum wage as an alternative to paying more competitive/rewarding salaries to their staff who undertake such valuable work supporting the most vulnerable.

He also outlined how the groups represented by the Cavendish Coalition should in the first instance seek to engage with the Department for Work & Pensions about how they can work together to encourage more UK based jobseekers into rewarding careers in the Social Care Sector, rather than view immigration as the preferred option for addressing any shortfall in recruitment and as a way to ensure continued recruitment at the legal minimum wage. This is especially relevant when many UK based workers with the ability to make excellent social carer

workers are looking for new employment due to the economic impact of Covid-19.

As we implement the new immigration system, we want employers to focus on investing in our domestic work force and offering rewarding packages to Social Care Workers, rather than view immigration as an alternative to doing this. In relation to roles within the sector where specific training is required the new skilled worker route will provide for a broader range of roles, including senior care workers to come to the UK.

The EU Settlement Scheme means all EU and EEA citizens, and their family members, currently working in social care can stay in the UK and we are encouraging them to do so.

The Government is supporting the Social Care sector in several ways, including through launching a national recruitment campaign and providing councils with access to an additional £1.5 billion for adults and children's social care in 2020-21.

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to lower the income requirement for those from outside the UK seeking employment in the care sector. [HL7028]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: We very much value the role many who have come to this country play in our health and care sector, but we will not be introducing a general route for employers to seek cheaper labour from abroad. This follows advice from the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC).

The MAC is clear a solution to recruitment issues in social care cannot just be solved via the UK's immigration system. Employers need to invest in technology, innovation and their existing workforce, focusing on making jobs more attractive for UK workers, not just looking to the migration system instead.

The Government is supporting the sector in many ways, including through additional funding and launching a national recruitment campaign.

Military Aid: Coronavirus

Asked by Viscount Waverley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with reservist employers about mobilising (1) the Army Reserve, and (2) the Regular Reserves, in the event of any second wave of COVID-19. [HL7258]

Baroness Goldie: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) maintains regular contact with reservist employers (including the Army Reserve) through routine engagement activities. Should there be a requirement to mobilise more reservists for future tasks related to COVID-19, the MOD will engage with employers through the usual, well established channels.

So far, there has been a very positive response from employers to the call-out of reservists as part of the national response to COVID-19. Details of call-out procedures, including the responsibilities of employers and reservists, and the financial compensation packages available, are set out on-line on www.gov.uk.

Asked by Viscount Waverley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for mobilising (1) the Army Reserve, and (2) the Regular Reserves, in the event of any second wave of COVID-19. [HL7259]

Baroness Goldie: As part of our normal contingency planning arrangements, the Ministry of Defence is currently scoping its potential input into the response to any potential second wave of COVID-19. A reserve call-out order is already in place for the use of Reserve forces in the response to COVID-19, which could be used to mobilise Army Reserve and Regular Reserves should a second wave occur. Defence seeks to mobilise intelligently, making the most of the expertise available through its Reserve forces, whilst giving them and their employers flexibility.

Asked by Viscount Waverley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans are in place to mobilise (1) the Army Reserve, and (2) the Regular Reserves, to deal with any (a) second wave of COVID-19, and (b) any unrest following the end of the Brexit transition period. [HL7260]

Baroness Goldie: Reservists undertake a variety of roles within Defence and provide a valuable contribution when called upon. As part of the national response to the Coronavirus pandemic circa 2,300 reservists (circa 1,850 of which were Army reservists) have been mobilised for Covid-19 related activities this year. The authority to mobilise reservists in Covid-19 roles is active until March 2021. This enables reservists mobilised prior to March 2021, under the Covid-19 Reserves Call Out Order to contribute to any Defence response to a potential second wave of Covid-19 if there is a need to do so.

The maintenance of public order is the responsibility of the police. There are no plans to utilise Armed Forces personnel, including reservists, to deal with any unrest following the end of the transition period. Defence remains closely engaged on contingency planning related to the end of the EU Transition Period and remains available to support the civil authorities if necessary.

Ministerial Policy Advisers: Parliamentary Scrutiny

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that anyone appointed to advise them about their policies can be scrutinised by Parliament. [HL7397]

Lord True: Ministers are accountable to Parliament for the policies, decisions and actions of their departments and agencies, as set out in the Ministerial Code. As has long been the case, advisers advise but ministers decide and are accountable for those decisions.

Ministers: Correspondence

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures are in place to ensure that ministerial replies, both oral and written, are fact checked to ensure accuracy. [HL7394]

Lord True: The Government always strives to give accurate and timely responses to both oral and written questions, with guidance on both set out in its Guide to Parliamentary Work.

Ministers: Vetting

Asked by Lord Strasburger

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review the positive vetting procedures for ministers and special advisers; and whether any such plans will include a review of the impact of attending events abroad where foreign intelligence agents were also in attendance. [HL7402]

Lord True: In line with long-standing practice, Her Majesty's ministers are not subject to security vetting. Advice and support is available to ministers on relevant security matters, including when attending events.

All civil servants, including special advisers, are subject to vetting as appropriate. The UK's vetting regime is undergoing review by the Cabinet Office, which of course includes consideration of the threat posed by foreign intelligence activity.

Mobile Phones

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of contract terms in the new mobile phone market, in particular (1) the fairness of such terms for consumers, and (2) company practices relating to such contracts. [HL7294]

Baroness Barran: The telecoms regulator, Ofcom, has a statutory duty to further and protect the interests of telecoms consumers.

Ofcom recently undertook a review of the mobile handsets market. As part of that review it identified concerns that some mobile phone customers were not being treated fairly, in particular where they purchase their mobile handset and airtime together in a bundled contract but continue to pay the same price after the end of their minimum contract period (as these 'out-of-contract' customers can often save money by moving to a SIM-only deal).

Ofcom has put in place a range of measures to address these concerns, including end-of-contract and annual best tariff notifications which will alert customers when they are out-of-contract and advise them of the best deals available from their provider, including SIM-only deals, as well as a commitment from most of the major mobile providers to apply a discount when customers on bundled deals go out-of-contract.

Alongside these measures, last year Ofcom also secured a set of 'Fairness for Customers' commitments from all the major communication providers. These commitments are designed to embed a culture of fairness within the industry. Ofcom will be publishing a report on industry progress against these commitments in Q4 2020/21.

Mobile Phones: Sales

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the safety and security of consumers, and (2) the prevalence of criminal activity, in the secondhand mobile phone market. [HL7293]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: To help keep the public safe from crimes related to their phones, the Government works closely with the police, industry and other partners. As part of this work police forces issue advice to the public on keeping their property safe, including ensuring that the range of security features on devices are activated by consumers to prevent them being used if stolen.

The latest Crime Survey for England and Wales (year ending March 2019) shows that the proportion of mobile phone owners who experienced theft of their devices in the last year continued to follow a downward trend, falling to less than 1% compared with 2.1% in March 2009

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/focusonpropertycrimeappendixtables>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Property Crime Tables - 2018-19
[propertycrimetables201819.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-24/HL7293>

Money Laundering

Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the current steps being taken to tackle money laundering in the UK. [HL7329]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: We have consistently reinforced our ability to crack down on money laundering in the UK and with our operational partners, we continue to bring the full capabilities of law enforcement to bear against serious criminals, corrupt elites, and their assets.

In July 2019 we published an ambitious public-private Economic Crime Plan and Asset Recovery Action Plan, for the first time bringing together government, law enforcement and the private sector to deliver a collective response to the threat from economic crime. We are making good progress, in particular on enabling better information sharing to combat economic crime, reforming the Suspicious Activity Reports system and implementing the 5th Money Laundering Directive to bear down on money laundering.

The Financial Action Task Force completed a landmark review of the UK's regime for tackling money laundering and terrorist financing in December 2018, concluding that we have some of the strongest controls in the world.

Motor Vehicle Type Approval

Asked by Lord Bradshaw

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 9 July (HL5647), which items of equipment related to the prevention or reduction of road accidents have been awaiting type approval for longer than 18 months; and in each case, why such items have not yet been approved. [HL6932]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Six items of equipment originally sought type approval more than 18 months ago (i.e. before 20th January 2019). Of these, four items are awaiting manufacturer information, decision or action as follows:

- Awaiting results to evaluate following supplier testing
- Waiting for the supplier to provide sufficient clarity on the changes made to a currently type approved product
- Outstanding action on supplier to implement necessary changes to comply with the requirements for type approval

In a further case the manufacturer has now made the necessary changes required for type approval and a report to the Home Office is undergoing technical review.

In the final case, a previously withdrawn aspect of an otherwise type approved product was resubmitted with improvements in April 2019 and a report to the Home Office is currently undergoing technical review.

Mubarak Bala

Asked by Baroness Whitaker

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Nigeria about (1) the detention of Mubarak Bala, and (2) reports that the detention has included no contact with the detainee's (a) family, or (b) legal representatives. [HL7495]

Baroness Sugg: The UK Government is monitoring Mr Bala's case closely. We continue to stress to the Government of Nigeria the importance of a transparent

investigation that respects Mr Bala's human rights, the rule of law, and the Nigerian constitutional right to freedom of religion or belief. Our High Commission in Abuja discussed the case with the Nigerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the police after Mr Bala's arrest. James Duddridge (Minister for Africa) raised Mr Bala's case directly with the Nigerian Minister of Foreign Affairs on 21 May.

We welcome the recent magistrate court order instructing the police to allow Mr Bala access to legal representation. We call on the relevant authorities to ensure that the order is followed, and that Mr Bala's family are permitted visiting rights in line with local law and current Covid-19 lockdown restrictions. Defending freedom of religion or belief for all remains a UK Government policy priority and we will continue to use our voice internationally to protect this human right.

Music: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of allowing amateur musical groups the same outdoor and indoor rehearsal opportunities as professional musical groups. [HL7556]

Baroness Barran: The Government continues to advise that non-professional groups should not sing and play wind and brass instruments at this stage and should only do other activities in line with government guidance on social mixing. Singing and playing wind and brass instruments are considered higher risk activities because of the potential for aerosol production.

We understand that people are eager to play brass/wind instruments and sing together, which is why we have commissioned a study specifically looking at C-19 transmission risks associated with singing and playing wind instruments. The PERFORM study involves leading scientists and is working with musicians and representatives from the Royal Opera House and the BBC. Results of further research conducted will lead to updates of the performing arts guidance for both professionals and non-professionals.

Music: Education

Asked by The Earl of Clancarty

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Minister of State for School Standards on 24 July (HC75223), whether new guidance will allow private music educators to resume the teaching of (1) face to face singing, (2) woodwind instruments, and (3) brass instruments. [HL7339]

Baroness Berridge: The teaching of singing, woodwind instruments, and brass instruments, including one-to-one instruction can take place in school and home environments, as long as the relevant guidance is followed.

The department published detailed guidance on 2 July for schools for all children and young people to return to full-time education from September 2020. This guidance provides schools, colleges and nurseries with the details needed to plan for a full return, as well as reassuring parents about what to expect for their children, this guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>.

The department has also published guidance for providers of community activities, holiday and after-school clubs as well as other out-of-school provision for children over the age of five, which sets out the protective measures that need to be in place to ensure that such settings can open as safely as possible, this guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/protective-measures-for-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>.

Relevant organisations and individuals should note that there may be an additional risk of infection in environments where people are singing, chanting, playing wind or brass instruments or shouting. This applies even if individuals are at a distance.

As the risk of transmission is considerably lower outdoors, organisations and individuals who normally run sessions indoors should consider whether they are able to do so safely outside. However, if this is not possible then private music teachers working from their own home should consider whether a specific, well-ventilated room could be designated for lessons.

Organisations and individuals should also be aware that at this time they should not be permitting live performances, including music, to take place in front of a live audience.

Further more detailed Department for Education guidance on music will be published shortly.

The government has also published specific guidance for people working out of the home, this can be found here:

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

Musicians: British Nationals Abroad

Asked by The Earl of Clancarty

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that a future agreement with the EU on mode 4 (temporary entry for business purposes) is extended under a free trade agreement to enable touring musicians, their crew, technical staff and entourage to travel between the UK and the EU for short periods of time. [HL7344]

Lord True: I refer the Noble Lord to the answer given to [HL5418](#) on 22 June 2020.

National Railway Museum

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to intervene in the National Railway Museum's decision to move Locomotion No. 1 from Darlington to Shildon. [[HL6923](#)]

Baroness Barran: The historic locomotive, Locomotion No.1, is owned by the Science Museum Group, and it is up to the Museum itself to determine where and to whom it loans objects from its collection. The Science Museum Group operates independently, at Arm's Length from Government. We will not become involved in, or seek to influence, curatorial decisions.

Neurology

Asked by Baroness Masham of Ilton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have (1) to improve the prioritisation of inpatient services for neurological conditions, and (2) to promote the delivery of treatment in outpatient settings where that is clinically preferable. [[HL6789](#)]

Lord Bethell: The National Neurosciences Advisory Group, supported by NHS England and NHS Improvement, has been working with the Neuro Intelligence Collaborative (NIC) on projects which include investigating the hospitalisation of people with acute neurology and establishing a profile of their interactions and length of stay in hospital. The NIC's aim is to identify gaps in neurological service and develop recommendations for change.

In addition to this, NHS England works with national bodies such as Public Health England and patient organisations such as the Neurological Alliance, to raise awareness and support improvement in outcomes for people living with neurological conditions. NHS England supports local transformation through their national programmes - NHS RightCare has published a number of intelligence tools and resources to support reduction in unwarranted variation in neurology services.

Asked by Lord Rennard

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the findings of the recent survey by the Neurological Alliance, Restarting services for people with neurological conditions after the COVID-19 pandemic and planning for the longer term, published on 7 July, that (1) 47 per cent of those surveyed had had their appointments with a neurologist delayed because of COVID-19, and (2) almost 39 per cent of those who were due to see a neurologist were not given a future date for their delayed appointment;

and when all NHS services for people with neurological conditions will reopen. [[HL7244](#)]

Lord Bethell: The Neurological Alliance report, *Restarting services for people with neurological conditions after the COVID-19 pandemic and planning for the longer term*, was published on 7 July 2020 and surveyed the views of over 1,600 people. Although no specific assessment of that survey has been made, the Department and NHS England and NHS Improvement are of course aware that the need to take pressure off NHS services, to enable it to respond to pandemic, did have an impact on the provision of routine patient care.

Early in the pandemic NHS England and NHS Improvement advised that in-person consultations should only take place when absolutely necessary. As a result, providers have been rolling out remote consultations using video, telephone, email and text message services as a priority, including for those with neurological conditions.

New Businesses: Remote Working

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to assist and support new small independent businesses to start up to cater for the needs of the increasing numbers of home workers across the UK. [[HL7325](#)]

Lord Callanan: In the context of supporting employers during Coronavirus as the economy reopens, from 1 August Government will give employers more discretion on how their employees carry out their roles. We would expect employers and employees to discuss their working arrangements and the best way that roles can be carried out safely. Working from home is one way to do this, but workplaces can also be made COVID-secure using Government guidance if employers wish their workforce to return to the workplace.

Regarding wider support for new businesses who wish to start up, or existing businesses wishing to scale up, all advice, guidance – including employee support, tools to identify the right finance, and checklists for setting up the business in line with regulations – is provided nationally on the gov.uk website, via the government-backed British Business Bank (BBB) online Finance Hub and in England through the network of 38 government-backed growth hubs.

In England, small and medium-sized businesses that are adversely affected by coronavirus will have access to grants of between £1,000 - £5,000 (typical grant £3,000) to help them access new technology and other equipment as well as professional, legal, financial or other advice to help them get back on track. This will be available through the existing network of growth hubs, or where there is no growth hub in the area, via an existing ERDF business support provider.

NHS and Social Services: Parking and Public Transport

Asked by *Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the cost of granting (1) free parking, and (2) free public transport, to (a) NHS, and (b) care workers. [HL6634]

Lord Bethell: An assessment has been made of the cost of granting free parking to the National Health Service. The assessment has been done using the most current figures available from the ERIC Estates Return Information Collection data 2018-19 with this figure being £86.2 million per annum.

No assessment has been made by the Department on the cost of providing free parking to care workers and free public transport to NHS and care workers. This does not fall under our remit.

NHS: Computer Software

Asked by *Lord Strasburger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will publish the most recent contracts between NHS England and (1) Palantir, (2) Faculty, (3) Google, and (4) Amazon, which relate to the NHS COVID-19 Data Store. [HL6734]

Lord Bethell: The contract with Palantir will be published in the usual way in due course. The Faculty contract is being negotiated for extension and the contract will be published in the usual way in due course. NHS England does not own a contract with Google or Amazon regarding the NHS COVID-19 Data Store.

Asked by *Lord Strasburger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to establish an ethics board to oversee the NHS COVID-19 Data Store. [HL6736]

Lord Bethell: NHS England is the sole controller of data held within the NHS COVID-19 Data Store and for any data legally shared with them under the notice issued by the Secretary of State under the NHS Control of Patient Information (COPI) Regulations 2002. The notices allow permitted organisations, under Regulation 3(3) of the COPI regulations, to process data only for COVID-19 related purposes. The Department has no plans to establish an ethics board for the NHS COVID-19 Data Store.

NHS: Coronavirus

Asked by *Baroness Finlay of Llandaff*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on NHS services which must be available on a 24 hour basis and which are dependent on a small number of specialist staff, including those working in transfusion services, of the

requirement to quarantine for a 14 day period under the COVID-19 track and trace policy; and what steps they are taking to introduce a COVID-19 testing process for any such staff to reduce the time they spend quarantined. [T] [HL5992]

Lord Bethell: To provide a more comprehensive response to a number of outstanding Written Questions, this has been answered by an information factsheet *Testing – note for House of Lords* which is attached, due to the size of the data. A copy has also been placed in the Library

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Testing information factsheet [Testing - note for House of Lords.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-22/HL5992>

Asked by *Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of the cost to the NHS of the long-term health effects caused by COVID-19. [HL6092]

Lord Bethell: COVID-19 is a new disease and therefore it is not yet clear what the medical, psychological and rehabilitation needs will be for those experiencing long-term effects of the virus.

The UK Research and Innovation-National Institute for Health Research Rapid Response Rolling Call has funded a large post-hospitalisation study. The study, announced in July, will establish a national consortium and a research platform embedded within clinical care to better understand and improve long-term outcomes for survivors following hospitalisation with COVID-19. It will also help to ensure future treatment can be tailored as much as possible to the person.

NHS: Data Protection

Asked by *Lord Freyberg*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to consult key stakeholders and external experts on future Data Protection Impact Assessments for the management, storage and handling of NHS controlled data. [HL6153]

Lord Bethell: Under the General Data Protection Regulations 2016, data controllers are under a legal obligation to complete Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs) particularly where it involves high risk processing. All National Health Service organisations processing patient data as data controllers are therefore required to complete DPIAs and where necessary, to consult with key stakeholders to ensure risks to privacy are identified and mitigated as far as possible.

A DPIA for the NHS COVID-19 Data Store has been completed and is published on the NHS England website.

The data held in the Data Store has gone through a process of pseudonymisation. Identifiable data is not held or made available to users and nor are they permitted to remove the data from the controlled area.

Asked by Lord Freyberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to carry out a Data Protection Impact Assessment on the rights and freedoms of the people whose health data is collected by the NHS; and whether any such data is protected against access by intelligence services. [HL6156]

Lord Bethell: Under the General Data Protection Regulations 2016, data controllers are under a legal obligation to complete Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs) particularly where it involves high risk processing. All National Health Service organisations processing patient data as data controllers are therefore required to complete DPIAs and where necessary, to consult with key stakeholders to ensure risks to privacy are identified and mitigated as far as possible. It would be inappropriate for the Government to undertake a DPIA in relation to the health data held by those organisations. It is the responsibility of each of these organisations to protect the confidentiality of patients and to ensure that there is a legal basis for the disclosure of any personal information.

NHS: Dental Services

Asked by Baroness Gardner of Parkes

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to increase the availability of National Health Service dental treatment for patients of all ages. [HL7517]

Lord Bethell: National Health Service dental practices were able to restart face-to-face care from 8 June, with the aim of increasing levels of service for all patients, as fast as is safely possible, taking into account Public Health England guidance and continued infection risks.

Urgent dental care centres remain open to support the provision of urgent and emergency face-to-face care for dental patients and patients will be referred to urgent dental care centres, where needed locally.

NHS: Legal Costs

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the £143.5 million for NHS legal costs listed on page 18 of the report by NHS Resolution, Annual report and accounts 2019/20, published on 16 July, includes staff costs and office costs incurred in connection with clinical negligence cases. [HL7362]

Lord Bethell: National Health Service legal costs do not include staff and office costs incurred in connection with clinical negligence cases.

NHS: Negligence

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they can provide the information set out in figure 5 on page 50 of the NHS Resolution annual report and accounts 2019/20, published on 16 July, in respect of clinical negligence cases only. [HL7091]

Lord Bethell: NHS Resolution handles clinical negligence claims on behalf of National Health Service organisations and independent sector providers of NHS care in England.

NHS Resolution has provided information on the number of clinical negligence claims settled in 2018/19 and 2019/20 with or without damages, which is attached due to the size of the data.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Clinical negligence claims data 2018-2020 [FORMATTED HL7091 table.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-21/HL7091>

NHS: Pay

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the government of France's decision to allocate eight billion euros for a pay increase for healthcare workers who have worked during the COVID-19 pandemic; whether they plan to do the same; and if not, why not. [HL6943]

Lord Bethell: This Government has already invested the largest cash settlement in the National Health Service's history by backing the NHS Funding Act 2020 as well as clearing billions of pounds worth of NHS debt for NHS trusts, and the Government is committed to ensuring the NHS will continue to receive whatever it needs to respond to COVID-19.

Over one million NHS staff are already benefitting from multi-year pay and contract reform deals which have seen the starting pay for a nurse rise by over 12% and the lowest paid in the NHS increase by over 16%.

On 21 July, the Government announced that it had accepted in full the recommendation of the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration for a 2.8% pay rise, back dated to April 2020 for consultants, specialty doctors, salaried general practitioners and dentists.

For 2020/21 we expect to rely on the independent Pay Review Bodies. The Review Body process is the established independent mechanism for pay recommendations for public sector workforces. The NHS Pay Review Body will return to making pay recommendations for NHS staff within its remit group in 2021 and the Government will carefully consider these recommendations when we receive them.

NHS: Waiting Lists

Asked by *Baroness Masham of Ilton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will next publish data on (1) NHS waiting lists, and (2) cancelled surgeries; and in what form. [HL7465]

Lord Bethell: Data on National Health Service waiting lists is published by NHS England on a monthly basis, with the next publication due on 13 August 2020. NHS England's collection and quarterly publication of cancelled elective operations, along with its collection and monthly publication of cancelled urgent operations were both paused as part of the initial response to COVID-19. A date to restart collection and publication of this data has not yet been decided.

Nigeria: Christianity

Asked by *Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the statement by the Rt Rev Abiodun Ogunyemi, the Anglican Bishop of Zaria, on 24 July, that the campaign against Christians in Nigeria is a "genocide", and (2) the responsibilities of (a) the government of Kaduna State, (b) the government of Nigeria, and (c) the international community, under the 1948 Convention on the Prevention of Genocide; what plans they have to reassess the causes of the attacks against Christians in Nigeria; and whether any such plans will discount climate change as the major cause of such attacks. [HL7425]

Baroness Sugg: We are aware of the statement made by the Right Reverend Abiodun Ogunyemion on 24 July. The UK Government condemns all incidents of intercommunal violence in Nigeria, including the recently reported attacks in Kaduna State referred to in the Bishop's statement. Intercommunal violence in Kaduna State and Nigeria more widely affects communities of all faiths. We have made clear to the Nigerian authorities, at the highest levels, the importance of protecting civilians and human rights for all.

It is UK Government policy not to unilaterally determine whether genocide has occurred, in line with the Genocide Convention. This is a matter for competent courts and tribunals, including the International Criminal Court, after consideration of all the evidence, rather than governments or non-judicial bodies.

The UK Government's assessment remains that climate change is one of the drivers of intercommunal violence in Nigeria because of the resulting competition for natural resources. The Bishop of Truro also considered the effects of climate change on intercommunal violence in Nigeria in his independent report on the global persecution of Christians.

Nigeria: Homicide

Asked by *Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports (1) that at least 80 people have been killed in July in southern Kaduna, and (2) that 620 Christians have been killed in the region in the last 18 months; and what they consider to be the major reason for these attacks. [HL7424]

Baroness Sugg: The UK Government condemns all incidents of intercommunal violence in Nigeria, including reported attacks in southern Kaduna State. We are concerned by a recent increase in attacks in the state. These attacks have had devastating effects on communities of all faiths, including Christian communities. We have made clear to the Nigerian authorities at the highest levels the importance of protecting civilians and human rights for all. There are many underlying causes to intercommunal violence in Nigeria, which include disputes over natural resources and competition over land exacerbated by climate change and population growth. Religious identity is also a factor in some incidents of intercommunal violence, but we do not assess it to be the principal driver of the violence.

Nigeria: Non-governmental Organisations

Asked by *Lord Curry of Kirkharle*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Sugg on 29 June (HL5836), what progress they have made in identifying NGOs who are running effective programmes to deter attacks on (1) farming communities, and (2) religious minorities, in Nigeria. [HL7347]

Baroness Sugg: We are concerned by intercommunal violence in Nigeria, which has had a devastating impact on many communities. We engage regularly with NGOs and a wide range of stakeholders working to address this violence. For example, in December 2019, the British High Commissioner to Nigeria visited Plateau State to meet with NGOs working on reconciliation. In February of this year, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Wilton Park hosted a joint conference on 'Fostering Social Cohesion in Nigeria' with participation from NGOs and civil society. The discussion focused on the complex causes of conflict and explored solutions: a full report from the conference has now been published.

The UK Government has provided technical support to the Nigerian Government for the development of the National Livestock Transformation Plan. The plan aims to promote cattle-rearing in one place, rather than the traditional nomadic practice, to limit competition over land and resources leading to violence. We are also designing our own programmes to address the high incidence of intercommunal violence in Nigeria. For example, a DFID programme to help address natural resource conflicts between farmers and herders, referred to in answer HL5836, is currently in development.

Nigeria: Violence

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the killing of ten people, (2) the injury of others, and (3) the destruction of homes, during an attack by armed assailants on Zikpak, Nigeria, on 24 July; and how (1) UK aid, and (2) diplomatic influence, is being used (a) to protect vulnerable minorities, and (b) to address any escalation in attacks in Nigeria. [HL7423]

Baroness Sugg: The UK Government condemns all incidents of intercommunal violence in Nigeria, including a recently reported attack in Zikpak, Kaduna State on 24 July. There are many underlying causes to intercommunal violence in Nigeria, which include disputes over natural resources and competition over land exacerbated by climate change and population growth. The British High Commissioner and her team are increasing their diplomatic engagement with states affected by intercommunal violence, including Kaduna state. Officials from the British High Commission are engaging with State Governments, faith and community leaders, peacebuilding organisations, the Federal Government and others. The FCO co-hosted a conference at Wilton Park in February on Fostering Social Cohesion in Nigeria, which brought together a wide range of stakeholders to discuss the complex causes of intercommunal violence. Discussions helped to form recommendations to tackle intercommunal violence in affected states in Nigeria. The Minister for Africa discussed intercommunal violence with the Nigerian President's Chief of Staff in June.

The UK is also providing technical support to the Nigerian Government for the development of the National Livestock Transformation Plan. The plan aims to promote cattle-rearing in one place, rather than the traditional nomadic practice, to limit competition over land and resources leading to violence.

We will continue to encourage the Government of Nigeria to take urgent action to protect those at risk of intercommunal violence, to bring perpetrators to justice and to implement long-term solutions that address the root causes and meet the needs of all communities.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Nigeria about the prosecution of those responsible for (1) killings of, and (2) violent attacks against, Christians in Nigeria; how many Fulani people have been prosecuted for any such attacks; and what steps they are taking, through UK aid programmes, to assist with (a) upholding the rule of law, (b) the protection of minorities, and (c) supporting affected communities in Nigeria. [HL7499]

Baroness Sugg: The UK Government condemns all killings and incidents of violence against innocent Nigerian civilians, including terrorist attacks in North East Nigeria and incidents of intercommunal violence in

the Middle-Belt. These attacks have had devastating effects on communities of all faiths, including Christian communities. We continue to encourage the Government of Nigeria to take action to bring the perpetrators of these attacks to justice. Prosecutions of those responsible, who come from a range of ethnic and religious backgrounds, is primarily a matter for the Nigerian State.

In the North East of Nigeria, the UK is supporting efforts to tackle the terrorist threat and providing a comprehensive package of security, stabilisation and humanitarian assistance to support communities affected by the conflict. In the Middle Belt, the British High Commissioner and her team are increasing their diplomatic engagement with states affected by intercommunal violence. The UK Government is also providing technical support to the Nigerian Government for the development of the National Livestock Transformation Plan. The plan aims to promote cattle-rearing in one place, rather than the traditional nomadic practice, to limit competition over land and resources leading to violence.

The Prime Minister discussed insecurity in Nigeria with President Buhari at the UK Africa Investment Summit in January. More recently, the Minister for Africa discussed intercommunal violence in Nigeria with President Buhari's Chief of Staff, on 29 June. We have made clear to the Nigerian authorities, at the highest levels, the importance of protecting civilians, including ethnic and religious minorities, human rights and upholding the rule of law.

Nitrous Oxide: Young People

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the adequacy of restrictions on the supply of nitrous oxide to young people; and what plans they have to strengthen those restrictions. [HL7052]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 ('the 2016 Act') provides the legislative framework for restrictions on supply of psychoactive substances, which includes nitrous oxide. The 2016 Act makes it an offence (with limited exemptions) to intentionally supply psychoactive substances, where the person knows, or is reckless as to whether, the psychoactive substance is likely to be consumed by a person for its psychoactive effects. A review of the Act was published in November 2018, concluding that it had been effective in addressing the open sale of psychoactive substances. Further action in relation to addressing online harms, including online supply of psychoactive substances for their psychoactive effect, is set out in the Online Harms White Paper which aims to make companies more responsible for their users' safety online, especially for children and other vulnerable groups.

Northern Trains: Fares

Asked by *Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to allow off-peak tickets on Northern Rail services into Leeds, Sheffield, Bradford or Manchester to be used between 4.00pm and 6.30pm. [HL7077]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: There are no planned changes to Northern's off-peak travel requirements. In the current COVID-19 crisis, Northern has prioritised running a service for customers that is both resilient and reliable, rather than ramping up services too quickly or introducing measures that may lead to increased passenger demand and thereby exceed restrictions on social distancing.

Northern Transport Acceleration Council

Asked by *Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the membership of the Northern Transport Acceleration Council; what powers and role that Council will possess; what is its operational budget; how often it will meet; and whether its meetings and papers will be publicly accessible. [HL7213]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The membership of the Northern Transport Acceleration Council will comprise key leaders from across the North, including Mayors and council leaders and will be chaired by the Secretary of State. The Council will give leaders from the North direct access to Ministers to discuss priority transport projects and make sure they are being progressed at pace, providing a mechanism for speeding up decision making.

The Council's first meeting is expected to take place in September when the details of its role and working arrangements will be agreed.

Northern Transport Acceleration Council: Transport for the North

Asked by *Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consultation took place with Transport for the North about the establishment of the Northern Transport Acceleration Council; what the relationship between Transport for the North and the Northern Transport Acceleration Council will be; and whether members of the Northern Transport Acceleration Council will also sit on the board of Transport for the North. [HL7214]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Secretary of State and his Ministers consulted with the Mayors and Council Leaders in the North, who are Transport for the North members, prior to the establishment of the Northern Transport Acceleration Council.

The membership of the Northern Council will comprise key leaders from across the North, including Mayors and Council Leaders and will be chaired by the Secretary of State.

The Transport for the North Board will continue its role of bringing together Northern stakeholders and developing strategic transport advice for the Secretary of State.

Nuclear Power Stations: Construction

Asked by *Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with ACU Strategic Partners about the future construction of nuclear power stations. [HL7058]

Lord Callanan: The Government engages in discussions with numerous companies in the nuclear sector. I am unable to comment on any specific discussions due to commercial sensitivities.

Oak National Academy: Finance

Asked by *Lord Watson of Invergowrie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much funding has been allocated to the Oak National Academy in the 2020–21 financial year; and whether there will be an independent assessment of the educational value and value for money of the contract awarded to Oak National Academy. [HL7253]

Baroness Berridge: The department made £500,000 in grant funding available to the Oak National Academy to underwrite additional start-up costs associated with their operation over the course of this summer term. A further £4.34 million grant funding has been made available to the Oak National Academy for the 2020-21 academic year, split over the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years.

The payment profile across the two financial years remains subject to confirmation. A requirement of this funding is that the Oak National Academy records and makes available the vast majority of their lessons for each subject by September, to give schools maximum flexibility to align the lessons and topics with their own curriculum planning. The funding provided to the Oak National Academy is to enable teachers to supplement their remote education contingency plans.

The department is currently considering approaches to evaluating the Oak National Academy's effectiveness.

Obesity

Asked by *Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to implement (1) the proposals contained in Childhood obesity: a plan for action - Chapter 2, published in June 2018, and (2) the recommendations relating to childhood obesity outlined in the Green Paper Advancing our health: prevention in the 2020s, published in July 2019. [HL7200]

Asked by *Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to reports of the disproportionate impact COVID-19 has on

people living with obesity, what plans they have to develop a campaign to encourage people to make healthy choices; with whom they have engaged on the development of any such plans; and whether they intend to publish those plans. [HL7201]

Lord Bethell: We published *Tackling obesity: empowering adults and children to live healthier lives* on 27 July. The strategy demonstrates an overarching campaign to reduce obesity, takes forward actions from previous chapters of the childhood obesity plan and sets our measures to get the nation fit and healthy, protect against COVID-19 and protect the National Health Service.

In addition, Public Health England has launched the Better Health campaign, which will call on people to embrace a healthier lifestyle and to lose weight if they need to, supported by a range of evidence-based tools and apps providing advice on how to reduce the waistline.

A copy of *Tackling obesity: empowering adults and children to live healthier lives* is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Tackling obesity strategy [Tackling obesity. Empowering adults and children to live healthier lives 27 7 20.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-23/HL7200>

Asked by Baroness Walmsley

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they will (1) measure, and (2) report on, the success of the policies outlined in their strategy *Tackling obesity: empowering adults and children to live healthier lives*, published on 27 July. [HL7567]

Asked by Baroness Walmsley

To ask Her Majesty's Government which government departments will be accountable for the implementation of their strategy *Tackling obesity: empowering adults and children to live healthier lives*, published on 27 July. [HL7569]

Lord Bethell: We are committed to reducing obesity. The National Child Measurement Programme and Health Survey for England provide prevalence data which will be important in understanding the levels of obesity in England. Importantly, alongside reports such as the National Diet and Nutrition Survey which enables us to measure changes to the population's diet, we will also be putting in place evaluation of our legislative action so we can understand its impact.

Government departments work very closely on reducing obesity and have shared responsibility in delivering these policies.

Asked by Baroness Walmsley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what will be (1) the process, and (2) the timeline, for the expansion of weight management services available through the NHS

announced in their strategy *Tackling obesity: empowering adults and children to live healthier lives*, published on 27 July; and whether this will include expansion of (a) tier 3, and (b) tier 4, weight management services. [HL7568]

Asked by Baroness Walmsley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to involve people with relevant lived experiences in (1) the campaign, and (2) the implementation of policies, associated with their strategy *Tackling obesity: empowering adults and children to live healthier lives*, published on 27 July. [HL7570]

Lord Bethell: Through the new obesity strategy, published on 27 July, we are delivering a range of measures on weight management including a National Health Service 12-week weight loss plan app, expanding weight management services to help more people get the support they need, accelerating the expansion of the NHS diabetes prevention programme and making conversations about weight in primary care the norm. Further details about these measures will be available later in the year and we will engage stakeholders throughout this process.

A copy of *Tackling obesity: empowering adults and children to live healthier lives* is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Tackling obesity [Tackling obesity. Empowering adults and children to live healthier lives 27 7 20.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-29/HL7568>

Obesity: Children

Asked by Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to convene a meeting with the Members of Parliament who represent the constituencies with the highest levels of child obesity to consider the Government's proposals for reducing obesity. [HL6761]

Lord Bethell: Ministers have regular conversations with hon. Members on measures to reduce obesity.

Obesity: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish the evidence that informed their decision to include people with a BMI over 40 on the list of those most at risk of worse outcomes from COVID-19; and why people with a BMI lower than 40 who are overweight or obese were not included in that category. [HL7203]

Lord Bethell: Having a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 40 or above is not one of the specific medical conditions that expert doctors in England identified as placing someone at greatest risk of severe illness from COVID-19

(clinically extremely vulnerable) and requiring them to shield.

It is, however, one of the health conditions identified as putting someone at a higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 (clinically vulnerable). Those with BMI over 40 were eligible for a free influenza vaccination last winter, and that is the basis for including them in the clinically vulnerable cohort.

Obesity: Digital Technology

Asked by Lord Fox

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to their obesity strategy which recommends the use of digital technologies for the monitoring of weight loss and lifestyle improvements, what steps they will take to protect personal data collected by fitness trackers and apps. [HL7453]

Lord Bethell: Public Health England (PHE) digital products complete a Data Protection Impact Assessment. This assessment is reviewed by their Data Protection Officers prior to launch to ensure the processing complies with the requirements of data protection law.

PHE stores information such as weight, age, sex and ethnic group in the Weight Loss App but PHE does not store any personally identifiable information.

On Monday 27 July, PHE launched an adult health campaign, 'Better Health', encouraging adults to kick start their health by losing weight, eating better and getting active.

The campaign directs people to a variety of free tools and apps including the 12-week NHS Weight Loss Plan, Couch to 5k, Active10 and Easy Meals. These tools were reviewed ahead of the campaign launch and approved by PHE Data Protection Officers.

Offenders: Females

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Gloucester

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they estimate the Female Offender Strategy will be fully implemented. [HL7520]

Lord Keen of Elie: The Female Offender Strategy (2018) set out our vision to see fewer women entering the justice system and reoffending; fewer women in custody, particularly on short custodial sentences, with more managed successfully in the community; and a custodial environment that enables rehabilitation. The strategy launched an ambitious programme of work to improve outcomes for female offenders and make society safer by tackling the underlying causes of offending and reoffending. This will take several years to deliver, with our planned pilot of a residential women's centre in at least five sites in England and Wales likely to last until the latter part of this decade.

Some two years on from publication of the Strategy we are making good progress. We have already invested £5.1

million Strategy funding in 30 different women's services across England and Wales, helping to sustain and enhance existing services, fill gaps in provision, and provide properties for new women's centres. Other achievements include publication of a new Women's Policy Framework; roll-out of new training for staff working with women in custody and the community; improvements to the preparation of pre-sentence reports; publication and ongoing implementation of the recommendations in Lord Farmer's review into family ties for female offenders; undertaken a review of police forces' responses to our guidance on working with vulnerable women; piloting a new offender management model for women under supervision in the community; commissioning research to inform our policy on BAME female offenders; and publication of our review of the operational policy on Pregnancy, Mother and Baby Units, and Mothers separated from children under the age of 2 in prison.

On 5 May 2020, we announced the investment of a further £2.5m in women's community services in England and Wales in 2020/21, supporting them to tackle the root causes of offending and help women to turn their lives around. We also announced that the first site of our residential women's centre pilot will be located in Wales. This will provide accommodation for vulnerable women with complex needs who would otherwise be sentenced to custody, enabling them to stay closer to home and maintain important family ties, and will directly tackle the issues which often underlie offending, like substance misuse and mental health. We will now work with Welsh Government and partners in Wales to identify a provider and site.

Older Workers: Redundancy

Asked by Baroness Jolly

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to protect people over the age of 60 who may be made redundant as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and what steps they are taking to assist those who have been made redundant to return to work. [HL7154]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: We are providing £1.2bn to enhance work search support service in Great Britain and doubling the number of frontline Work Coaches in Jobcentre Plus before the end of the financial year.

In addition, support for older workers also includes:

- The Department's work with employer organisations – including CIPD, British Chambers of Commerce, ACAS, Local Enterprise Partnerships and Business Champion for Older Workers – to reach small and medium enterprises;
- work with Local Enterprise Partnerships to support employers with statistical data and practical support. In particular, for local small and medium enterprises we provide information and resources for an ageing workforce; and

- our Work Coaches will work with older claimants to ensure that commitments are tailored to allow them to adhere to public health advice, while engaging with the labour market;
- in addition, Jobcentre Plus Older Claimants Champions work with Work Coaches to deliver Jobcentre Plus's commitment to support older people to find work and stay in work. Champions liaise with employers and providers to promote and raise the profile and benefits of employing older workers.

The online service Find a Job (www.gov.uk/find-a-job) has many of these jobs and can be used to search and apply.

Oneweb

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Callanan on 8 July (HL Deb, col 1119), how long they estimate it will take OneWeb to provide the UK with sovereign-controlled satellite capabilities. [HL7013]

Lord Callanan: We are working with the company and our partners, and the capability will be available once the constellation reaches minimum viable service.

Asked by Lord Stevenson of Balmacara

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the statement by Lord Callanan on 8 July (HL Deb, col 1119) that OneWeb "has many applications that the UK can leverage, including defence applications" and the Written Answer by Baroness Goldie on 14 July (HL6644) which stated that "the investment in OneWeb is not a Defence matter", whether OneWeb has any current defence applications; if so what those applications are; and if not, when they became aware that OneWeb could not be applied to defence matters. [HL7046]

Lord Callanan: The current OneWeb offering does not include any defence specific applications. The investment in OneWeb is not a defence matter. Moving forward, OneWeb's capabilities around its second-generation satellite offering will be reviewed in the context of the UK's evolving civil and military space requirements.

OneWeb

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government how governance of the UK's equity investment in OneWeb will be structured to maintain the competitive market and level playing field for all UK satellite operators. [HL7493]

Lord Callanan: The Government is mindful of its responsibility to the Space sector. The commercial operation of OneWeb will be kept separate from the Government's duties to ensure the transparent and effective operation of markets.

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the current generation of OneWeb satellites are solely for communications services; and what plans they have for a second generation of satellites capable of providing secure positioning data. [HL7494]

Lord Callanan: The current generation of OneWeb satellites deliver satellite communications services. We are currently assessing the wider use of their capabilities.

Dedicated work is ongoing across Government to determine the UK's positioning, navigation and timing requirements and assess options for meeting them.

OneWeb: Investment

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to utilise OneWeb in their future defence and commercial strategies; and how many jobs they estimate will result from their investment in OneWeb in the UK. [HL7011]

Lord Callanan: OneWeb and its capabilities will be considered as part of the Space Strategy under the direction of the National Space Council. As the OneWeb offering matures, we will monitor its utility to critical national infrastructure, as we do with a variety of capabilities and providers.

The agreement we have secured with Bharti secures 70 existing UK jobs in OneWeb, and we will be looking to expand the company and its supply chain in the UK.

Oneweb: Investment

Asked by Lord Birt

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Callanan on 15 July (HL6348), how they propose to be publicly accountable for their investment in OneWeb. [HL7197]

Lord Callanan: The deal is subject to certain regulatory clearances and is expected to close before the end of the year.

We will have strong representation on the board, fully involved in setting the strategic direction of the business and developing the company's business plan.

Mechanisms will be implemented for the continued monitoring and evaluation of the investment.

Asked by Lord Birt

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the letter from the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on 26 June, what assessment they have made of the accuracy of the statement "there is a possibility that the entirety of the investment is lost and no wider

benefits accrued” in relation to the investment into OneWeb. [HL7198]

Lord Callanan: The Government carried out a detailed examination of the business which demonstrated a commercial case for investment.

The fact that we are investing alongside a private commercial investor indicates a rational commercial case for investing. The deal will support the UK to be a pioneer in the research, development, manufacturing of novel satellite technologies, whilst boosting UK manufacturing.

Ophthalmic Services: Standards

Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the quality of service provided by optometrists; and what plans they have to review regulations regarding the provision of such services online and on the high street. [HL7374]

Lord Bethell: Optometrists in England are regulated by the General Optical Council (GOC). The GOC also regulates some optical businesses. We are aware that as part of the GOC's current Strategic Plan, they are undertaking a project to consider reform of business regulation. The aim is to offer more consistency of regulation of businesses, both online and on the high street, across the United Kingdom and greater control of the quality of optical care delivered in the UK, which may lead to a request for legislative reform.

Out-of-school Education: Registration

Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether all unregistered education settings are required to register with Ofsted. [HL7257]

Baroness Berridge: Any education setting which provides full-time provision to 5 or more pupils of compulsory school age (or one or more pupils of compulsory school age who is also looked after or has an education, health and care plan) is required to register with the department. The registration process involves a pre-registration inspection by Ofsted to confirm that the setting is likely to meet the independent school standards on opening.

The department is considering changes to the registration requirement for schools. 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, set out proposals to extend the registration requirement to full-time institutions that are not currently required to register. 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.

Ovarian Cancer: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Clement-Jones

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by Target Ovarian Cancer Voices of women with ovarian cancer: the coronavirus pandemic and its impact, published on 13 July; and what steps they are taking to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the diagnosis and treatment of, and support for, women with ovarian cancer. [HL6839]

Lord Bethell: No assessment has been made.

On 8 June 2020, the National Cancer Director and the National Clinical Director for Cancer issued a further letter of guidance to National Health Service cancer services on *Second phase of NHS response to COVID-19 for cancer services*. The letter notes that the work for local systems and Cancer Alliances to identify ring-fenced diagnostic and surgical capacity for cancer should now be well advanced, so that referrals, diagnostics and treatment can be brought back to pre-pandemic levels at the earliest opportunity to minimise potential harm, and to reduce the scale of the post-pandemic surge in demand. The new guidance is based on three key principles: capacity, fairness and confidence. Cancer Alliances should work with their regional teams to provide such services.

Overseas Aid

Asked by Baroness Goudie

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take (1) to maintain standards of independent scrutiny of the UK aid budget, and (2) to ensure accountability for that expenditure. [HL7090]

Baroness Sugg: The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office will be accountable to parliament for how it spends UK aid. We remain committed to full transparency in our aid spending and there will continue to be parliamentary and independent scrutiny of the aid budget – the form this takes following the merger will be set out in due course.

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the letter from the First Secretary of State to the Chair of the House of Commons International Development Committee on 22 July, whether the decision to reduce the international aid budget by £2.9 billion this year will affect their commitment to maintain the international aid budget at 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income when the Department for International Development is merged with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. [HL7245]

Baroness Sugg: This Government is committed to spending 0.7% of GNI on Official Development Assistance which is enshrined in law. The future funding of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

will be subject to the conclusions of the upcoming Integrated Review and the Spending Review.

*Asked by **Baroness Goudie***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to their announcement that they have identified a £2.9 billion package of reductions in their planned Official Development Assistance spend, what plans they have to publish a breakdown of those reductions, including (1) underspends, (2) activity delays, and (3) spending cancellations. [HL7283]

Baroness Sugg: Revised ODA allocations for 2020/21 will be published by HM Treasury at Autumn Budget, and the Statistics for International Development published in 2021 will provide a full breakdown of the UK's ODA spend for 2020. Currently we are discussing specific savings with suppliers and partners and we will publish the revised ODA allocations in due course after this process has been completed.

*Asked by **Baroness Goudie***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to their announcement that they have identified a £2.9 billion package of reductions in their planned Official Development Assistance spend, whether the budgets of other Government departments will be affected by those reductions; if so, which; and in each case, what will be the value of such reductions. [HL7284]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: Official Development Assistance (ODA) spending departments have identified changes to their budget to make sure we meet, but do not exceed the 0.7% commitment. This package includes underspends, delaying activity and stopping some activity to maintain our flexibility in managing our ODA spending against an uncertain 0.7% position.

As normal, there will continue to be adjustments in-year to individual departmental ODA spend to meet the 0.7% commitment. Revised ODA allocations for 2020/21 will be published by HM Treasury at Autumn Budget and the Statistics for International Development to be published in 2021 will provide a full breakdown of the UK's ODA spend for 2020.

*Asked by **Baroness Goudie***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to their announcement that they have identified a £2.9 billion package of reductions in their planned Official Development Assistance (ODA) spend, what plans they have to publish the arrangements in place to reduce ODA spending in 2020. [HL7285]

Baroness Sugg: Revised ODA allocations for 2020/21 will be published by HM Treasury at Autumn Budget, and the Statistics for International Development published in 2021 will provide a full breakdown of the UK's ODA spend for 2020. Currently we are discussing specific savings with suppliers and partners and we will publish the revised ODA allocations in due course after this process has been completed.

*Asked by **Baroness Goudie***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to their announcement that they have identified a £2.9 billion package of reductions in their planned Official Development Assistance (ODA) spend, by what process they came to their decision to reduce their planned ODA spend. [HL7286]

Baroness Sugg: The First Secretary of State, supported by the International Development Secretary and ministers from ODA spending departments, led a cross government review to identify reductions in this year's ODA budget needed to meet the 0.7% commitment. The careful review process looked at every strand of the ODA budget and assess the impacts of spend. Several review sessions were held in which Ministers prioritised programmes based on strategic objectives such as poverty reduction for the 'bottom billion', tackling climate change and reversing biodiversity loss, championing girls' education, and the global response to Covid-19.

*Asked by **Baroness Sheehan***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what savings will make up the £2.9 billion package of reductions to the Government's planned Official Development Assistance spend for 2020 announced by the First Secretary of State on 22 July, including (1) forecast underspends, (2) delays to planned activity, and (3) cancellation of planned spending. [HL7307]

Baroness Sugg: The First Secretary led a careful review process to look at every strand of the ODA budget and assess the impacts of spend. Ministers prioritised programmes based on strategic objectives such as poverty reduction for the 'bottom billion', tackling climate change and reversing biodiversity loss, championing girls' education, and the global response to Covid-19. Currently we are discussing specific savings with suppliers and partners and we will publish the revised ODA allocations in due course after this process has been completed.

*Asked by **Baroness Sheehan***

To ask Her Majesty's Government which departmental budgets will be affected by the £2.9 billion package of reductions to the Government's planned Official Development Assistance spend for 2020 announced by the First Secretary of State on 22 July; and what is the value of each department's reduction in spending. [HL7308]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: Official Development Assistance (ODA) spending departments have identified changes to their budget to make sure we meet, but do not exceed the 0.7% commitment. This package includes underspends, delaying activity and stopping some activity to maintain our flexibility in managing our ODA spending against an uncertain 0.7% position.

As normal, there will continue to be adjustments in-year to individual departmental ODA spend to meet the 0.7% commitment. Revised ODA allocations for 2020/21 will be published by HM Treasury at Autumn Budget and the

Statistics for International Development to be published in 2021 will provide a full breakdown of the UK's ODA spend for 2020.

*Asked by **Baroness Sheehan***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the First Secretary of State's announcement of a £2.9 billion package of reductions to the Government's planned Official Development Assistance (ODA) spend for 2020 on 22 July, what arrangements they have put in place to tailor ODA spending further during the remaining months of the year. [HL7309]

Baroness Sugg: The Department, working with HM Treasury and other Government departments, is continually planning to ensure the UK meets its Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment. As normal, there will continue to be adjustments in-year to individual departmental ODA spend to meet the 0.7% target. DFID has been preparing for this by working with our Ministers and other aid spending Departments to prioritise our lifesaving aid, stop the spread of coronavirus and ensure our aid delivers the best value for money for the British taxpayer.

*Asked by **Baroness Sheehan***

To ask Her Majesty's Government by what process they reached decisions on the £2.9 billion package of reductions to the Government's planned Official Development Assistance spend for 2020 announced by the First Secretary of State on 22 July. [HL7310]

Baroness Sugg: The First Secretary of State, supported by the International Development Secretary and ministers from ODA spending departments, led a cross government review to identify reductions in this year's ODA budget needed to meet the 0.7% commitment. The careful review process looked at every strand of the ODA budget and assess the impacts of spend. Several review sessions were held in which Ministers prioritised programmes based on strategic objectives such as poverty reduction for the 'bottom billion', tackling climate change and reversing biodiversity loss, championing girls' education, and the global response to Covid-19.

*Asked by **Lord Chidgey***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made, if any, of the proportion of the UK aid budget now spent outside of the Department for International Development. [HL7335]

Baroness Sugg: In 2019, 27% of UK ODA was spent outside of the Department for International Development. This includes spend by other government departments and funds as well as non-departmental spend such as debt relief and the proportion of gift aid used on ODA eligible activities.

*Asked by **Lord Chidgey***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what management and oversight precautions, if any, they are putting in

place to (1) increase accountability of aid spending; and (2) prevent non-attributable day-to-day spending being re-badged as aid. [HL7336]

Baroness Sugg: The Government is committed to ensuring that every pound spent on Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) achieves maximum value for money for taxpayers based on the same high standards of accountability and effectiveness as all areas of public expenditure. Individual departments are responsible under public spending rules for monitoring all public money including their UK aid programming and ensuring that they deliver value for money. Robust parliamentary and independent scrutiny of the aid budget will continue – the form that Parliamentary scrutiny takes is for Parliament to decide. UK ODA continues to be spent in accordance with international rules on what constitutes aid as set by the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

*Asked by **Lord Chidgey***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the letter from the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of 22 July regarding Official Development Assistance, (1) what analysis and evaluation techniques will be deployed in prioritising the various streams of development projects across the Sustainable Development Goals spectrum, and (2) what measures will be taken to establish the non-recoverable costs of cancelled or reduced programmes as a result of (a) the reduction in funding, (b) the impact of COVID-19, and (c) the merger of the Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. [HL7435]

Baroness Sugg: DFID's evaluation approach is underpinned by the principles of transparency, rigour and independence, achieved with skilled analytical staff that have a deep and extensive evaluation experience.

Every DFID programme is subject to an annual review which looks at the performance of partners and DFID, including consideration of Value for Money. These reviews are published. Controls are in place to ensure that costs will be identified and recorded in line with Managing Public Money, including where necessary any write-offs or losses. The anticipated decline in GNI and hence ODA, the impact of covid-19, alongside all other key issues will be disclosed as necessary within the department's 2020/21 Governance Statement.

We will continue to look at how money can be spent most effectively against our priorities, including through the Integrated Review, and the Spending Review – both of which will inform the priorities of the new Department.

*Asked by **Lord Chidgey***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the diversion of 30 per cent of Official Development Assistance budget to departments other than the Department for International Development on (1) support for the poorest people, (2)

the maintenance of transparency and effectiveness procedures, and (3) maintaining focus on poverty reduction. [HL7436]

Baroness Sugg: The 2015 Aid Strategy set out the Government's new approach to aid where we embraced an integrated approach to delivering Official Development Assistance (ODA). This recognised the role of aid in tackling poverty and global challenges such as insecurity and that this serves our national interest. The delivery of ODA programmes by departments other than DFID has enabled us to leverage knowledge, skills and expertise from across government, delivering programmes that contribute to achieving the sustainable development goals and addressing the diversity of today's development challenges. This collective effort has allowed our ODA programmes to deliver both strong development impact. The Government remains committed to ensuring that every pound spent on ODA is spent transparently and achieves maximum value for money for taxpayers.

Overseas Aid: Africa

Asked by Lord Chidgey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the extensive flooding across East Africa and the Horn of Africa in the context of the UK aid programme. [HL7338]

Baroness Sugg: Across East Africa and the Horn of Africa, 25.8 million people are severely food insecure and 1.3 million have been affected by floods since March. The UK has responded to localised flood impacts through the START Network, including provision of relief items and recovery programming.

We are deeply concerned about the food security situation. Heavy rains in the region have provided conditions conducive to the unprecedented locust outbreaks, which will affect the food security situation even further. The UK is supporting the Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) emergency appeal to help to control the increase of locusts across East Africa, as well as reduce the risk of swarms spreading into the Sahel.

The humanitarian situation will be exacerbated by the impact of COVID-19. We are urgently redirecting UK aid programmes right across Africa to respond to these compound risks.

Overseas Aid: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Chidgey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made, if any, of the reduction in the annual UK aid budget as a result of the reduction in the UK Gross National Income due to the economic impact of COVID-19. [HL7334]

Baroness Sugg: Given the likely decrease in the size of the economy this year, and therefore a decrease in the value of the 0.7% commitment, a package of £2.9bn of

reductions in the Government's planned ODA spend has been agreed. This package includes underspends, delaying activity and stopping some spend. The package will see some reductions made now, with arrangements in place to tailor spending further during the remaining months as we start to gain a clearer economic picture. As normal, there will continue to be adjustments in-year to individual departmental ODA spend to meet the 0.7% commitment.

Overseas Aid: Females

Asked by Lord Collins of Highbury

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Adolescent Girls' Education and Empowerment programme planned by the Department for International Development will still take place. [HL7346]

Baroness Sugg: The UK Government remains committed to delivering 12 years of quality education for all girls. Education, particularly girls' education, will remain a top priority in the new Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, and a priority for the Prime Minister personally. In my role as Special Envoy for Girls' Education, I am working to accelerate progress towards getting marginalised girls into schools, staying there and staying safe, and benefitting from quality learning. I am working closely with international partners to encourage greater global ambition, coordination, and investment on girls' education.

Overseas Aid: Poverty

Asked by Baroness Goudie

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take to ensure that the merger of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development enables the maintenance of good quality, poverty-focused aid. [HL7087]

Baroness Sugg: This Government is unashamed in believing that its job is to promote British influence around the world, to try to change the world for the better, and to get best value for the British taxpayer who spends so generously to help others. This change will help us do that.

Our reputation as a world leader on development issues comes from three things: our thought leadership; the scale and quality of UK development programmes; and excellence of our analysis, long term perspective and staff. None of these will change with the creation of the FCDO, but our development work will now be better aligned with foreign policy and the broad UK national interest. It should make our development work even more effective. DFID has been a more effective spender of aid than any other Government department – that expertise must be brought into the centre of the new department.

The work of UK Aid to reduce poverty will remain central to the new department's mission and we will continue to be guided by our responsibilities under the International Development Act.

Asked by Baroness Goudie

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to their announcement that they have identified a £2.9 billion package of reductions in their planned Official Development Assistance spend, what steps they are taking to ensure that reductions in such spend are made to programmes that have been found to be less effective at poverty alleviation. [HL7282]

Baroness Sugg: The First Secretary led a careful review process to look at every strand of the ODA budget and assess the impacts of spend. ODA spend for 2020 was prioritised to focus on key strategic objectives including poverty reduction for the 'bottom billion', tackling climate change and reversing biodiversity loss, championing girls' education, UK leadership in the global response to Covid-19, and protecting the UK's science base. These priorities will help the government to deliver our manifesto commitments and ensure that the UK is a global force for good.

The work of UK Aid to reduce poverty will remain central to the new department's mission and we will continue to be guided by our responsibilities under the International Development Act.

Asked by Baroness Sheehan

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that cuts made as part of the £2.9 billion package of reductions to the Government's planned Official Development Assistance spend for 2020 announced by the First Secretary of State on 22 July will focus on programmes that have been found to be less effective in achieving poverty reduction. [HL7311]

Baroness Sugg: The First Secretary led a careful review process to look at every strand of the ODA budget and assess the impacts of spend. ODA spend for 2020 was prioritised to focus on key strategic objectives including poverty reduction for the 'bottom billion', tackling climate change and reversing biodiversity loss, championing girls' education, UK leadership in the global response to Covid-19, and protecting the UK's science base. These priorities will help the government to deliver our manifesto commitments and ensure that the UK is a global force for good.

Overseas Students: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Allen of Kensington

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of COVID-19 on the number of international students wishing to study at UK universities; and what steps they will take to counter the effects of a long-term reduction in international student numbers. [HL7416]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: The government recognises that the COVID-19 outbreak will have an unparalleled impact on all elements of the global and UK economy. The higher education sector, including student recruitment, is no exception. We have been working

closely with the sector to monitor possible impacts of COVID-19 on international student numbers, including restrictions on travel.

We have been clear that our world-leading universities, which thrive on being global institutions, will always be open to international students. Engaging closely with other government departments and the higher education sector, the Department for Education is working to reassure current and prospective international students that UK higher education is 'open for business' and remains world-class, and that the UK is a safe and welcoming place to study. This engagement includes continued work with Study UK (the government's international student recruitment campaign, led by the British Council), support for the sector-led #WeAreTogether campaign, and a package of communications targeted directly at international students, making clear our world-leading offer.

My hon. Friend, the Minister of State for Universities, wrote an open letter to current international students in April, setting out flexibilities that HM Government and higher education providers were introducing to ensure that international students could continue or resume their studies. With her counterparts in Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Wales, she also wrote on 22 June to prospective international students to outline the support and guidance available to those considering studying in the UK from this autumn. This letter reiterates a number of flexibilities that the government has already announced for international students. These include allowing for the switching of visa categories within the UK, confirmation that distance/blended learning will be permitted for the 2020/21 academic year (provided that international students' sponsors intend to move to face-to-face learning as soon as circumstances allow) and steps further to promote the new graduate route, which will be introduced from summer 2021.

The graduate route will be simple and light-touch: it will permit graduates at undergraduate or Masters level to remain in the UK for 2 years and PhD graduates to remain in the UK for 3 years after they have finished their studies in order to work or look for work at any skill level. This represents a significant increase in the generosity of our offer to international students and will help ensure the UK higher education sector remains competitive internationally. On 16 June, the government also confirmed that international students present in the UK before 6 April 2021 will be eligible for the graduate route if they meet the other requirements of the route when it is introduced.

My hon. Friend, the Minister of State for Universities, also announced that Sir Steve Smith would act as the UK's new International Education Champion. He will assist with opening up export growth opportunities for the whole UK education sector, which will include attracting international students to UK universities. In addition, our review of the International Education Strategy this autumn will respond to the challenges posed by COVID-19 across all education settings.

Palestinians: Archaeological Sites

Asked by **Baroness Tonge**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for providing protection for archaeological artefacts in Palestine to ensure that any such artefacts remain under Palestinian ownership. [HL7405]

Baroness Sugg: The UK acknowledges the importance of protecting archaeological artefacts in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. In our meetings with the Israeli authorities we regularly raise the need to respect the status quo of the holy sites in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. We continue to urge the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships to avoid actions that make it more difficult to achieve a negotiated solution to the conflict.

Palestinians: Electricity

Asked by **Baroness Tonge**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about reports that rolling blackouts are being implemented in Palestine as a result of a contested accusation that electricity bills have not been paid. [HL7060]

Baroness Sugg: During the period of September to December 2019, we were aware that the Israel Electric Corporation implemented power cuts to parts of the West Bank, citing outstanding payments from Palestinian power distributors. We understand that that the Government of Israel and Palestinian Authority were able to reach an agreement to end the power cuts.

Parkinson's Disease: Coronavirus

Asked by **Baroness Gale**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to include people with Parkinson's disease on the list of those clinically extremely vulnerable to COVID-19. [HL5661]

Lord Bethell: Expert doctors in England have identified specific medical conditions that, based on what we knew about the virus so far, place someone at greatest risk of severe illness from COVID-19. These were signed off by the United Kingdom Senior Clinicians Group, including the four UK Chief Medical Officers and clinical leadership at NHS England and NHS Improvement, NHS Digital and Public Health England. The list of conditions is kept under review and there are no plans at present to add Parkinson's disease to it.

General practitioners and hospital specialists are able to add individual people with Parkinson's disease onto the shielded patients list on a case by case basis if it is their clinical judgement that the person is clinically extremely vulnerable.

Peers: Allowances

Asked by **Lord Marlesford**

To ask the Senior Deputy Speaker how much has been paid in financial support, excluding travel costs, to members of the House of Lords in each of the last 12 months. [HL7236]

Lord McFall of Alcluith: The total amount of Daily Allowance paid to Members of the House of Lords in relation to each of the last 12 months was as follows;

Month	Amount £000s
July 2019	2,122
August 2019	-
September 2019	994
October 2019	2,219
November 2019	252
December 2019	241
January 2020	2,134
February 2020	1,642
March 2020	1,382
April 2020	79
May 2020	223
June 2020	624

Information as at 31 July 2020

Asked by **Lord Balfe**

To ask the Leader of the House, further to her answer on 22 July (HL Deb cols 2227–8), what plans she has to initiate a discussion in the House of Lords Commission on the establishment of a select committee with backbench representation to (1) consider, and (2) report to the House on, the allowance system. [HL7500]

Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: I have no plans to initiate a discussion on this matter.

Peers: Russia

Asked by **Lord Balfe**

To ask the Senior Deputy Speaker, further to the report by the Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament Russia, published on 21 July, what plans the Conduct Committee has to respond to the recommendations of that report. [HL7426]

Lord McFall of Alcluith: I have consulted the Chair of the Conduct Committee, Lord Mance, who reports that the Committee had an initial discussion on 23 July about the ISC recommendation aimed at the House of Lords. The Committee requested a detailed paper on the rules around members working with foreign governments and the wider question of whether members should be

required to disclose the amounts of money that they earn. The Committee will consider the paper in September.

Performing Arts: Coronavirus

Asked by The Earl of Clancarty

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that there is full consultation across the performing arts sector on any Government-commissioned research into managing risks arising from COVID-19 in the performing arts. [HL7340]

Baroness Barran: It is a priority of my department to work with the arts and cultural sectors to address the challenges of reopening. We are committed to getting the performing arts sector fully back up and running as soon as it is safe to do so. We have published guidance to support the performing arts to engage in activity safely. This guidance was extensively consulted upon and can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/performing-arts>. We continue to work closely with the sector to understand further measures that can be used to help the safety of all who engage in the performing arts.

PestFix: Protective Clothing

Asked by Lord Strasburger

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the reported award of a £108 million contract for personal protective equipment to PestFix, where and when the contract was advertised for tender; whether the contract was awarded under Regulation 32(2)c of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/102) which covers Direct Award due to reasons of extreme urgency; if so, how the Direct Award met the requirement under Regulation 32(2)(c) that the events were unforeseeable, given the contract was awarded on 10 April and the UK had reportedly been warned about a shortage of PPE supplies at a meeting with the World Health Organisation on 4 February; why a 12-month contract was awarded; whether they have supported PestFix's cashflow, and if so, by how much; and why the contract has not yet been published. [HL5806]

Lord Bethell: The award of this contract is the subject of a Judicial Review which has been brought against the Department. The Department is taking legal advice and considering its response. In these circumstances it would be inappropriate to respond to the issues and points raised in this question as this might prejudice the Department's legal position.

Pestfix: Protective Clothing

Asked by Lord Strasburger

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to Question for Written Answer HL5806, tabled on 16 June and due for answer on 30 June, how many contracts they have entered into with Pestfix Ltd; on

what dates those contracts were entered into; and when they will publish the contract award notices. [HL7014]

Lord Bethell: The Department has awarded 11 contracts to PestFix Ltd. One Contract Award Notice has been published which shows that the contract was awarded on 13 April 2020. The other Contract Award Notices will be published shortly. These will contain the dates of the contract award which, as with all the information to be published, is subject to a validation process.

Pesticides: Trade Agreements

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that there will be no change to current pesticides protections resulting from any trade deals negotiated; and what plans they have to ensure that pesticides that are currently banned from use in the UK will remain so. [HL7289]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: We will maintain our high human health and environmental standards when operating our own independent pesticides regulatory regime, after the Transition Period. We will ensure decisions on the use of pesticides are based on careful scientific assessment and will not authorise pesticides that may carry unacceptable risks. The statutory requirements of the EU regime on standards of protection will be carried across unchanged into domestic law. Decisions on standards are a matter for the UK and will be made separately from any Free Trade Agreement.

This Government stood on a clear manifesto commitment that in all of our trade negotiations, we will not compromise on our high environmental protection, animal welfare and food standards. The Government will stand firm in trade negotiations to ensure any future trade deals live up to the values of farmers and consumers across the UK. We will not lower our standards nor put the UK's biosecurity at risk as we negotiate new trade deals.

Pets: Sales

Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to stop scams that aim to defraud customers with the sale of non-existent pets. [HL7370]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: We are aware that some criminals are seeking to exploit the present demand for pets.

The Government launched a new campaign in March 2020, raising awareness of the dangers associated with buying pets online and deceitful sellers. The campaign, including advice for potential owners to follow, can be found at: <https://getyourpetsafely.campaign.gov.uk/>.

In parallel, City of London Police, as the National Lead Force for fraud, has been raising awareness about the

specific risk of pet fraud. They publicised a story focused on this issue in May 2020 through social media. Their advice was highlighted by a number of news outlets, including the BBC.

We would encourage those who have been victimised to report their case to Action Fraud.

Pharmacy: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that there have been no reports under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 for COVID-19 from community pharmacies. [HL7530]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: For dispensing chemists, there have been 6 notifications of COVID-19 disease (non-fatal) made under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) to HSE and Local Authorities between 10 April and 25 July 2020.

No assessment has been made of the number of reports received.

Pharmacy: Industrial Health and Safety

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the level of compliance by community pharmacies with health and safety rules and regulations, in particular since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL7531]

Lord Bethell: Standards to safeguard the health, safety and wellbeing of patients and the public are set by the General Pharmaceutical Council. In addition, pharmacy businesses, like all others, are subject to health and safety legislation that aims to protect the health, safety and welfare of staff and the public. During the COVID-19 pandemic, community pharmacies would need to comply with the guidelines published by Public Health England for the relevant business and healthcare setting.

Pharmacy: Prescription Drugs

Asked by Baroness Gale

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much NHS England has saved since over the counter medicines were taken off the prescription list in 2018. [HL7133]

Lord Bethell: In March 2018, NHS England and NHS Improvement and NHS Clinical Commissioners published *Conditions for which over the counter items should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: Guidance for Clinical Commissioning Groups*.

Since publication of this guidance, there has been a reduction in spend of £32 million on over the counter items. This reduction includes spending on over the counter items for conditions that are self-limiting and

conditions which lend themselves to self-care, as well as vitamins, minerals and probiotics. This estimate is correct as at 10 July 2020.

The list of over the counter products is updated as new products become available.

Pharmacy: Prescriptions

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to introducing a scheme for prescriptions to be supplied by pharmacists in England similar to Pharmacy First Scotland. [HL7501]

Lord Bethell: The NHS Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) was launched by NHS England and NHS Improvement in October 2019. As for Pharmacy First Scotland, the CPCS encourages patients who might otherwise go elsewhere to visit a community pharmacy first. Under the CPCS, patients referred from 111 phone or online and who have a minor illness or have run out of a repeat medicine and need an urgent supply, can have a consultation with a pharmacist. The pharmacist will provide self-care advice and support for the patient and/or carer and the subsequent supply of medicines. For the emergency supply of previously prescribed medicines, these are supplied free on the National Health Service, subject to the payment of a prescription charge, as appropriate. In keeping with general NHS prescribing policy in England, the supply of 'over the counter' medicines are paid for by the patient.

Plastics: Seas and Oceans

Asked by Lord Pendry

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the amount of ocean plastic debris globally; and what steps they are taking to prevent any increase in the volume of plastic waste entering oceans, in particular as a result of discarded face masks used during the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL7304]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: In 2017, the Government published its 'Future of the Sea: plastic pollution' report which supported the estimate that between 4.8 and 12.7 million tonnes of plastic enter the ocean globally each year. The Government has introduced a ban on microbeads in rinse-off personal care products and a charge on single-use carrier bags. From October there will be a ban on the supply of plastic straws, cotton buds, and stirrers, with exemptions, and the Environment Bill includes powers to charge for single-use plastic items.

The Government has not carried out an assessment of the environmental impact of the disposal of single-use face masks. Waste management, including disposal, is regulated through the environmental permitting system in England, which seeks to protect the environment and human health. The latest Government advice on face coverings is available at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering

Police and Crime Commissioners

Asked by Lord Wasserman

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will invite the public to submit evidence to their Review of Police and Crime Commissioners; and, if so, what will be the deadline for submissions. [HL7483]

Asked by Lord Wasserman

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to invite (1) the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, (2) the National Police Chiefs Council, (3) the College of Policing, and (4) Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services, to submit evidence to their Review of Police and Crime Commissioners. [HL7484]

Asked by Lord Wasserman

To ask Her Majesty's Government who will lead their Review of Police and Crime Commissioners. [HL7485]

Asked by Lord Wasserman

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to hire independent consultants to assist with their Review of Police and Crime Commissioners. [HL7486]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: This review delivers on the Government's manifesto commitment to strengthen and expand the role of PCCs. It will also ensure voters can hold PCCs accountable for performance – giving the public a stronger voice in matters of crime and justice.

The review will take place in two parts – the first part, to be conducted over the summer, will focus on raising standards and improving accountability.

Part one of the review will be internal and is being led by the Home Office's Director of Policing as the Senior Responsible Officer, reporting to Ministers. It will not invite public evidence at this stage, but through its research the review team will seek a range of views on the model, including from the public and victims' groups.

Police: Finance

Asked by Baroness Greengross

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that financial pressures on local authorities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic do not lead to cuts to local police force funding. [HL6970]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government has been clear that the police will get the financial support they need to keep our communities safe through the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Government took immediate steps to increase the availability of funding for forces to meet cashflow pressures caused by the pandemic. We flexed half of the

£168 million Police Uplift ringfenced grant to include expenditure on COVID-19 related pressures for the first six months of the financial year. We also brought forward payment of the £142.6 million police pensions grant, which forces received in April this year.

The Government also recently announced that council tax and business rates collection fund deficits accumulated 2020-21 can be phased over three years rather than paid off in 2021-22. This will give police and other local authorities in England a breathing space when setting their budgets for next year.

The Home Office continues to gather evidence of forces' additional Covid-19 related expenditures since the introduction of social distancing measures, developed in close consultation with policing sector finance leads. We will use this evidence base to inform cross-Government decisions on the police's future funding needs.

Police: Training

Asked by Baroness Greengross

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with police forces in England and Wales about ensuring that all police officers undertake unconscious bias training. [HL6969]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The public rightly expect police officers to meet high standards of professional conduct. In this country, the power of the police to fulfil their duties is wholly dependent on public approval of their existence, actions and behaviour and on their ability to secure and maintain this public respect.

The College of Policing, which sets and maintains training standards for policing, published the Code of Ethics in 2014. This includes a set of principles for policing, including that all officers and staff should take active steps to oppose discrimination and make their decisions free from prejudice. This is a cornerstone of police training and development.

The College of Policing's foundation training for all those entering the service includes substantial coverage of police ethics and self-understanding, including the effects of personal conscious and unconscious bias. Initial training covers hate crimes, ethics and equalities, and policing without bias.

Forces also provide local training and development at several different levels ranging from initial entry, leadership and ongoing development to reflect and reinforce organisational values.

Ports: Wales

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to arrange, in conjunction with the Welsh Government, training for local people to undertake any additional jobs needed at the Welsh ports following the UK's departure from the EU. [HL6954]

Baroness Berridge: Skills training and education is devolved and therefore any training delivered in Wales to support employment opportunities in Wales are matters for the Welsh Government.

In England we want to make the skills systems more responsive to employer skill needs both locally and nationally and we have been working with employers to jointly design and deliver policies and programmes to do this.

This includes key reforms to apprenticeships, making them longer, better, with more off-the job training and proper assessment at the end. With employers in control of developing standards, they can be assured that apprentices will get the skills employers need.

We are also making technical education more responsive to the needs of communities and employers, with the introduction of T levels this September, proposals to reform higher technical education and investment in Institutes of Technology.

Poverty

Asked by Baroness Goudie

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the merger of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development on the world's poorest people. [HL7088]

Baroness Sugg: Spending 0.7 per cent of our national income on aid is enshrined in law and we will continue to be guided by our responsibilities under the International Development Act, including a commitment to poverty reduction.

Pregnancy Tests

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have received (1) from the Association for Children Damaged by Hormone Pregnancy Tests on behalf of families affected by Primados, and (2) following the report of the Independent Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Review First do no harm, published on 8 July; and when they intend to respond to any such representations. [HL7126]

Lord Bethell: On behalf of affected families, the Chair of the Association for Children Damaged by Hormone Pregnancy Tests (HPTs) attended every meeting of the Commission on Human Medicines' Expert Working Group on HPTs and was invited to discuss their draft recommendations and give a statement to the Commission on the draft report of the Group. In addition, 13 affected families gave their personal experiences with Primados to the Expert Working Group. Since publication of the report of the Independent Medicines and Medical Devices

Safety Review, we have received a letter from the Chair of the Association for Children Damaged by Hormone Pregnancy Tests and will be responding shortly.

The Independent Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Review published its report on 8 July and all of its recommendations will be considered carefully. The Government will provide an update in due course.

Pregnancy: Sodium Valproate

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the statement by Lord Bethell on 15 July (HL Deb, col 1738) that "the Primodos case is subject to legal dispute, so I cannot comment on it from the Dispatch Box", which aspects of that legal dispute prevent an independent re-examination of the contested conclusions of the report by the Expert Working Group of the UK's Commission on Human Medicines' Report of the Commission on Human Medicines' Expert Working Group on Hormone Pregnancy Tests, published on 15 November 2017. [HL7066]

Lord Bethell: The Commission on Human Medicines Expert Working Group on Hormone Pregnancy Tests was an independent group convened to conduct a scientific review of the evidence for an association between the use of hormone pregnancy tests and adverse outcomes of pregnancy.

The report and all the evidence that was reviewed by the Group has been publicly available since November 2017. We cannot discuss specific issues regarding the litigation, but this does not prevent any re-examination of the report or evidence. Any relevant new evidence would be reviewed as it becomes available.

We are carefully considering the recommendations of the Independent Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Review and will respond in due course.

Pre-school Education: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many early years settings are registered in England; and of those, what proportion were open in the week beginning 13 July. [HL7572]

Baroness Berridge: There are approximately 69,000 Ofsted-registered early years childcare providers and school based early year providers in England. In the week beginning 13 July, it was estimated that 43,000 settings were open based on data supplied by local authorities. This represented 62% of all settings, with 30% closed and the status of 9% unknown. See <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/attendance-in-education-and-early-years-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>.

Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to support the re-opening of all registered early years settings in September. [HL7573]

Baroness Berridge: In order to control the spread of COVID-19, early years providers were initially only open for children of critical workers and vulnerable children.

From 1 June, early years providers have been able to welcome back children of all ages and since 20 July, they have been able to return to their normal group sizes. This paves the way for more children to transition back to their early education and support parents to return to work.

The department has provided detailed guidance for early years providers to support them to welcome back more children and implement the required protective measures:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>.

On 20 July, we announced our commitment to continue paying local authorities for the childcare places they usually fund throughout the autumn term. This means that providers who are caring for fewer children can continue to be funded at the same levels as before the COVID-19 outbreak. Local authorities will also continue to fund providers which have been advised to close, or left with no option to but close, for public health reasons. These measures give another term of secure income to nurseries and childminders who are open for the children who need them.

Throughout the COVID-19 outbreak, the early years sector has also been able to access a wider package of government support in the form of a business rates holiday, business interruption loans and the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. Full details of the support available can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures#funding>.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Asked by Baroness Gale

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people paid for a prescription each year in (1) 2015, (2) 2016, (3) 2017, (4) 2018, and (5) 2019. [HL7135]

Asked by Baroness Gale

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people have benefitted from the NHS low income scheme (HC2 certificate) each year in (1) 2015, (2) 2016, (3) 2017, (4) 2018, and (5) 2019. [HL7136]

Lord Bethell: The information requested on the number of people who have paid for prescriptions is not collected centrally. The NHS Business Services Authority collects data on the number of prescription items dispensed and paid for but does not hold data on the number of people who have paid for their prescriptions.

The NHS Business Services Authority processes the NHS Low Income Scheme and issues HC2 certificates. It does not hold data on how many people have used their certificate after it is issued; and multiple people in a household in addition to the applicant might be covered by a certificate, including partner and children. However, data is supplied on the number of HC2 certificates issued in 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19. This is shown in the following table:

<i>Period</i>	<i>Number of HC2 certificates issued</i>
2014-15	214,975
2015-16	225,239
2016-17	214,867
2017-18	206,599
2018-19	182,661

Note: Data is recorded April-March. Data provided is recorded on a monthly basis and recorded in the NHS Low Income Scheme Annual Statistics Report. This data relates to the number of certificates issued, not the number of people supported by the NHS Low Income Scheme.

Prescription Drugs: Fees and Charges

Asked by Baroness Gale

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people have had to pay for an additional prescription each year if their medication has been recalled due to safety concerns in (1) 2015, (2) 2016, (3) 2017, (4) 2018, and (5) 2019. [HL7134]

Lord Bethell: If a prescription item is recalled, the patient is issued with a new prescription for an alternative product which will then be dispensed as a separate item. The prescriptions data systems are unable to identify this as a replacement product; therefore, this information is not held centrally.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Asked by Baroness Gale

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to suspend prescription charges with immediate effect for all people with long-term conditions in England. [HL7137]

Asked by Baroness Gale

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to conduct a review of the current system for prescription charges and exemptions in the light of COVID-19 and its impact. [HL7138]

Lord Bethell: The Department has no plans to suspend or conduct a review of the current system for prescription charges and exemptions, including for those people with long-term conditions in England. Extensive arrangements are already in place to help people access National Health

Service prescriptions. These include a broad range of exemptions from the prescription charge for which someone with a long-term condition may qualify, including for people on low incomes through receipt of specific benefits and through the NHS Low Income Scheme.

To support those with the greatest need who do not qualify for an exemption, prescription pre-payment certificates are available for three months or 12-month periods. A holder of a 12-month certificate can get all the prescriptions they need for just over £2 per week.

Preventive Medicine: Screening

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to extend preventative health care testing. [HL6936]

Lord Bethell: The UK National Screening Committee advises Ministers and the National Health Service in all four countries on all aspects of screening and routinely considers new conditions when evidence becomes available or when proposed through its annual call for topics. The annual call runs from September to December and allows members of the public and stakeholders to submit new conditions for the UK National Screening Committee to consider and assess against internationally recognised criteria.

Prison and Probation Service: Finance

Asked by Lord Bradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the total budget allocated to the HM Prisons and Probation Service Payment Plus scheme for the current financial year. [HL7050]

Asked by Lord Bradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of the budget allocated to the HM Prisons and Probation Service Payment Plus scheme has been spent so far in the current financial year. [HL7051]

Lord Keen of Elie: Payment Plus is funded through Her Majesty's Prisons and Probation Service's staff pay budget from savings arising from any staff vacancies, which are then re-invested by each prison to fund the Payment Plus (PP) needed to cover operational staff vacancies.

Prison governors have always had the authority to use PP to allow for additional staff time to cover vacancies. They are given an annual budget for staff costs based on agreed staffing levels and are expected to manage PP within this.

In the first quarter of this financial year, the total spend on PP was £20.4m, which includes additional overtime cover in response to the impact of COVID-19.

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a high risk of increased staff absence and to mitigate this, staff were asked to volunteer for additional PP hours in advance of need. Since the start of the scheme in mid-March, to end June, about 60% of the total extra PP hours volunteers had committed to work were used and the remainder are being used as prisons move into recovery.

Prisoners' Release: Older People

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government by how much the prison population of England and Wales would decrease if prisoners (1) over 65 years old, (2) over 70 years old, and (3) over 75 years old, were released. [HL7149]

Lord Keen of Elie: Based on prison population data as at 30 June 2020, the prison population of England and Wales includes (1) 2,660 prisoners over 65 years old, (2) of whom 1,497 prisoners are over 70 years, and (3) 671 prisoners are over 75 years old.

Prisons: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Bradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to their announcement on 24 March that 900 secure phone handsets were to be provided to prisons to support family contact during the COVID-19 pandemic, how many minutes prisoners have spent on calls to date (1) in total, and (2) in each prison in which such phones have been allocated. [HL7081]

Lord Keen of Elie: In recognition of the importance of maintaining family ties, since 24 March the Government has rolled out 1297 secure mobile phones across the prison estate in England and Wales. This is in addition to existing wing phones and in-cell telephones. As of the 21 July 2020, 153,918 minutes of calls have taken place from secure mobile PIN phones since 2nd April when this service was deployed.

We do not routinely record the number of calls that take place over long periods of time, however our most recent data shows that on 21 July, 2803 calls took place across all mobile phones. This equates to 14,783 minutes across the estate. For comparison, 222,889 minutes of calls took place across the non-mobile based PIN network. There has been a 52% increase in calls across pin phone calls from the average call number in February, we do not currently have the equivalent data for just mobile phones.

We do not record figures for minutes that prisoners have spent on calls by prison across the time period mentioned.. We have access to daily call figures across the entire secure mobile network and also individual prison figures on a given day. We are working with our supplier to identify whether we can report on cumulative figures for individual prisons.

Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont

To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) how many prison staff have been tested for COVID-19; and (2) how many prisoners in all prisons have been tested for COVID-19. [HL7333]

Lord Keen of Elie: A testing programme is being conducted to help understand the spread of Coronavirus in prisons and how it is transmitted within individual establishments and across the wider estate began on Monday 20 July.

The testing study is taking place across 28 prisons in England and is being carried out in collaboration with the University of Southampton, Public Health England, Department of Health and Social Care and National Audit Office.

Every one of the 20,000 prisoners and 10,000 staff at the 28 sites will be invited to carry out an antigen test, consisting of mouth and nose swabs, to see if they currently have the virus. Participation is completely voluntary but we encourage as many as possible to carry out the test. The test will be repeated two more times with a gap of three weeks between each test.

This testing study follows a pilot of voluntary testing of both staff and prisoners at HMP Littlehey. This consisted of over 1,000 tests being undertaken and pleasingly no positive results were found.

This testing study runs for 9 to 12 weeks to allow all three testing rounds to be completed.

Currently, the establishments which have started undertaking this COVID-19 prevalence Testing Programme are: Bure, Coldingley, Drake Hall, Frankland, Gartree, High Down, Leeds, Lewes, New Hall, Norwich, Send, The Mount, Wandsworth and Wealstun.

As of 5pm 30th July 2020, there have been 2542 prisoner tests with four positive results. There have been 1571 staff tests with three positive results.

With HMPPS staff being able to self-refer for testing the complete number of staff who have been tested for COVID-19 is unknown by HMPPS. While the total number of tests carried out on prisoners since testing began is also unknown, the Ministry of Justice has started publishing a weekly release of Covid-19 related statistics, which includes confirmed COVID-19 cases in prisoners and children in custody. These statistics provide total numbers across England and Wales.

The statistics release can be found here each Friday: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hm-prison-and-probation-service-covid-19-statistics>

Prisons: Crimes of Violence*Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many adjudications related to incidences of violence against prison staff there were in each year since 2014; and how many of those incidences resulted in additional days being added to a prisoner's sentence. [HL7332]

Lord Keen of Elie: The prisoner discipline system upholds justice in prisons and ensures incidents of prison rule-breaking have consequences. Only Independent Adjudicators, who are District Judges or Deputy District Judges, can make an award of additional days to a prisoner's custodial time left to serve.

Where an act of violence amounts to a criminal offence, prisoners should be investigated by the police and face serious sanctions. The Assaults on Emergency Workers (Offences) Act 2018 has increased sentencing powers for offences of common assault and battery committed against an emergency worker. This provides Courts with the powers to punish those who commit violent crime against prison staff.

The information requested can be found in the table attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Excel Spreadsheet [Data for PQ HL7332-FOR PUBLICATION.XLSX]

The material can be viewed online at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-27/HL7332>

Prisons: Hepatitis*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that (1) testing, and (2) treatment, for hepatitis C continues in prisons during the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL6722]

Lord Bethell: We recognise that the need to focus on COVID-19 response across prison establishments has had an adverse impact on the number of people in prisons tested and able to access treatment for hepatitis C.

NHS England and NHS Improvement are currently working proactively with Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service partners and other key stakeholders on a programme of restoration and recovery of key services. As Blood Borne Virus testing forms part of the Public Health Section 7a agreement with Public Health England, this work is being prioritised.

It is anticipated a full resumption of the hepatitis C elimination programme will take place from October 2020.

Property Development: Isle of Dogs*Asked by Lord Strasburger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government sought advice from officials as to whether the Westferry Printworks scheme would proceed if the Community Infrastructure Levy was applied to it; and, if so, what advice he received on this matter. [HL7007]

Lord Greenhalgh: All the advice requested and received from officials on this case, other than personal

information and that subject to legal professional privilege, was placed on gov.uk and in the Libraries of the House. The Planning Inspector's report noted that if the decision was taken after the adoption of the new Local Plan and CIL schedule, the viability of the scheme might be compromised.

Property: Energy

Asked by **Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in rolling out Property Assessed Clean Energy programmes in the UK. [HL6924]

Lord Callanan: Our ambition is for as many UK homes as possible to be EPC Band C by 2035, where practical, cost-effective and affordable. We have launched a Green Home Finance Innovation Fund, which will provide £1.8 million to support three organisations to produce new green lending products for owner-occupiers to install energy efficiency improvements. We have also committed to a consultation on the merits of setting requirements for lenders to help the households they lend to improve their energy performance. Finally, we are working closely with the Green Finance Institute's Coalition for the Energy Efficiency of Buildings to further develop the green finance market.

Protective Clothing

Asked by **Lord Taylor of Warwick**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken and are taking, if any, to produce personal protection equipment for all non-NHS workers who cannot work from home in the UK. [HL4372]

Lord Bethell: To provide a more comprehensive response to a number of outstanding Written Questions, this has been answered by an information factsheet *PPE - note for House of Lords* which is attached, due to the size of the data. A copy has also been placed in the Library.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

PPE information factsheet [PPE - note for House of Lords v2.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-12/HL4372>

Protective Clothing: Manufacturing Industries

Asked by **Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in processing offers from UK manufacturers to produce personal protective equipment. [HL4791]

Lord Bethell: To provide a more comprehensive response to a number of outstanding Written Questions, this has been answered by an information factsheet *PPE -*

note for House of Lords which is attached, due to the size of the data. A copy has also been placed in the Library.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

PPE information factsheet [PPE - note for House of Lords v2.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-20/HL4791>

Public Health: Coronavirus

Asked by **Lord Greaves**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the role of local authority Public Health Directors and Departments in the COVID-19 testing, tracing and isolating system in (1) drawing up plans, (2) data sharing of positive cases, and (3) tracing contacts (a) in Lancashire, and (b) generally. [HL5298]

Lord Bethell: To provide a more comprehensive response to a number of outstanding Written Questions, this has been answered by an information factsheet *Testing - note for House of Lords* which is attached, due to the size of the data. A copy has also been placed in the Library.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Testing information factsheet [Testing - note for House of Lords.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-04/HL5298>

Public Health: Finance

Asked by **Lord Rennard**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for increasing public health funding in the light of the COVID-19 crisis; and whether future statements to Parliament on COVID-19 will address any such increase of that funding. [HL7241]

Lord Bethell: The public health grant to local authorities is £3.279 billion in 2020-21. This is in addition to what the National Health Service spends on public health, which included over £1.3 billion in 2019-20 on national public health programmes such as immunisations and screening.

The Government has also provided £4.3 billion of additional funding for local government to help them respond to COVID-19 pressures across the services they deliver. Local authorities will take spending decisions based on local priorities, and the Government is keeping the position under review.

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

Public Lavatories: Coronavirus

Asked by *Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they last updated the guidance to local authorities and other providers of public toilets on additional hygiene precautions required during the COVID-19 pandemic; what organisations they consulted before drafting that guidance; and where that guidance is publicly available. [HL7386]

Lord Greenhalgh: Government has made clear through COVID-19 guidance that public toilets, portable toilets and toilets inside premises should be kept open and carefully managed to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. To support this, Government, with input from Public Health England, has produced guidance principles on the additional hygiene precautions that should be considered to effectively manage public toilet provision and help everyone maintain good hygiene during the COVID-19 pandemic. Suggested measures include using signs to promote good hand hygiene, providing suitable handwashing and hand drying facilities, and increasing the frequency of cleaning of facilities.

These principles were included in *The Safer Public Places - Urban Centres and Green Spaces* guidance on 26 June for the owners and operators of public spaces as well as other COVID-19 Secure guidance such as *Working Safely during Coronavirus*. These are published on gov.uk. In addition, on 28 June, I wrote jointly with the Environment Minister to local authorities setting out the Government's position that public toilets should be open wherever possible. This letter included advice on COVID-19 secure measures.

As the situation is constantly evolving, we will keep guidance under review to ensure it provides the information needed.

Public Transport: Greater London

Asked by *Lord Watson of Invergowrie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to reimburse local authorities in London for any additional costs incurred as a result of the loss of free public transport for people under the age of 18 living in that city. [HL6960]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The £1.6 billion Extraordinary Funding and Financing Agreement to enable Transport for London (TfL) to continue operating services contained a series of conditions to facilitate safe travel on public transport in London, including the temporary suspension of free travel for under 18s.

The Department is working closely with TfL, the Department for Education and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on how the temporary suspension can be operationalised.

Qassem Soleimani

Asked by *Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the UN Human Rights Council Report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, published on 29 June, which found that the killing of Iranian General Soleimani by a US drone strike violated international law, what representations they have made to the government of the United States. [HL7147]

Baroness Sugg: We are aware of the report presented by the UN Special Rapporteur, Agnes Callamard. Article 51 of the UN Charter recognises that all States have an inherent right of self-defence. The strike against Soleimani was not a UK operation. The United States set out the basis for its action in a letter to the UN Security Council of 8 January.

Racial Discrimination

Asked by *Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the study by Number Cruncher Politics, published on 16 July, which stated that 55 per cent of ethnic minorities said that racism has stayed the same or has got worse during their lifetimes. [HL7561]

Baroness Berridge: This Government is committed to tackling prejudice, racism and discrimination - and to improving the quality of data and evidence about the types of barriers faced by people from different backgrounds to help drive effective and lasting change.

That is why we have established a new Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities. This cross-government commission will examine all aspects of continuing racial and ethnic inequalities in Britain. The Commission aims to set out a new, positive agenda for change - balancing the needs of individuals, communities and society, maximising opportunities and ensuring fairness for all.

It will build on the work of the Race Disparity Unit. The Commission will carry out a deeper examination of what the causes of these disparities are, and seek to establish what works to address them effectively.

Ragwort: Weed Control

Asked by *Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effectiveness of the Ragwort Control Act 2003 in preventing and controlling the spread of ragwort on (1) privately owned property, and (2) publicly owned land, such as roadside verges. [HL7468]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Defra's injurious weeds policy aims to balance a variety of different interests in the countryside. We have not made an assessment of the effectiveness of the Ragwort Control Act 2003, as this

Act amends the Weeds Act 1959 by inserting a provision enabling the Secretary of State to produce statutory guidance in the form of a 'code of practice' on how to prevent the spread of ragwort.

The Secretary of State published a code of practice in 2004, which aims to define the situations in which there is a likelihood of ragwort spreading to neighbouring land where it will then present an identifiable risk of ingestions by vulnerable animals, and to provide guidance on the most appropriate means of control, taking into account both animal welfare and environmental considerations. This is available on the GOV.UK website.

Natural England is the responsible authority for investigating complaints about injurious weeds under the Weeds Act 1959 in England and collects data on injurious weeds complaints to monitor the number of complaints in each season. This data is reviewed annually by Defra and Natural England, and from the 2018 season this data is available on data.gov.uk.

Rania Elias and Suhail Khoury

Asked by The Earl of Sandwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about the detention of Rania Elias and Suhail Khoury; and what plans they have to raise those detentions with international partners. [[HL7555](#)]

Baroness Sugg: Our Consul General in Jerusalem has publicly expressed his concern. We continue to call on the Israeli authorities to comply with their obligations under international law and either charge or release detainees. We also continue to support the Palestinian cultural presence and identity in East Jerusalem, as well as Palestinian physical presence there.

Refugees

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will extend the Mandate Refugee Resettlement Scheme to include having siblings in the UK as a key factor for resettlement in cases where separation has occurred because of persecution caused by religion or belief; and if not, why not. [[HL7422](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The UK has a proud history of providing refuge to those seeking sanctuary. There is already provision for wider family members (including adult siblings) to be considered for resettlement to the UK under the Mandate scheme, where there are exceptional circumstances.

This applies in all cases, including where UNHCR identifies that persecution because of religion or belief is a contributing factor in their protection needs.

Refugees: Families

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the report by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration into family reunion was delivered; and when they plan to publish it. [[HL7163](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Secretary is considering the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's report on Family Reunion Applications and it will be laid in Parliament as soon as possible.

ICIBI reports can only be laid before Parliament when both houses are sitting.

Registration of Births, Deaths, Marriages and Civil Partnerships

Asked by Baroness Blackstone

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made on plans to (1) move to an electronic system of marriage registration, (2) add mothers' names to marriage certificates, (3) allow conversions between opposite-sex marriages and civil partnerships, and (4) bring into force reforms to divorce, dissolution, and separation. [[HL7029](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office is currently working on implementation plans to introduce the provisions in the Civil Partnership, Marriages and Deaths (Registration Etc) Act 2019. This will facilitate the move to an electronic system of marriage registration and the update of the marriage entry to include the names of both sets of parents of a couple.

The Government Equalities Office ran a six-week consultation on the future of conversion rights in summer 2019. We are analysing the responses and will publish the government response and bring forward any necessary legislation in 2020.

The Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act received Royal Assent in June. The Government has been clear implementing its reforms will be a significant and complex task. Given the scale of the work needed, we are working to an indicative timetable of Autumn 2021.

Remittances

Asked by Lord Jones

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the amount in remittances sent abroad from the UK in (1) 2018, and (2) 2019. [[HL7160](#)]

Baroness Sugg: Based on available data it is estimated that the UK sent remittances overseas in 2018 totalling \$10.4 billion and that in 2019 the estimated total of remittances sent overseas from the UK was \$10.5 billion.

Recognising the importance of remittance flows to developing countries, the UK, together with the Swiss government, launched a Call to Action in May to highlight and address the significant predicted fall in remittances caused by the COVID-19 crisis. We are working hard to improve the flow of remittances by improving price transparency, supporting digitisation and working across Government to address issues of money transfer operators de-risking.

Remote Education

Asked by Lord Aberdare

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to simplify tender processes for education establishments to procure cloud-based virtual learning environments. [HL7414]

Baroness Berridge: The department has published user tested procurement guidance on GOV.UK as well as approved frameworks as part of our Buying for Schools guidance. At present this does not currently provide a recommendation for virtual learning environments, but approved frameworks are regularly reviewed to ensure they meet the current and future buying needs of schools.

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, we are funding support for school to get set up on one of two free-to-use digital education environments: Google's G Suite for Education or Microsoft's Office 365 Education.

Remote Education: Arts

Asked by The Earl of Clancarty

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to expand the provision of communications technology and broadband so that children will have access to online music education regardless of their socio-economic background or special educational needs. [HL7341]

Asked by The Earl of Clancarty

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to encourage all schools, regardless of management or funding, to maintain their commitment to music education (1) through the COVID-19 recovery and catch-up period, and (2) in the long term. [HL7342]

Asked by The Earl of Clancarty

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to further update the list of online education resources for home learning published on 7 April to include arts subjects, such as art and design and music. [HL7343]

Baroness Berridge: The arts form a vital part of children and young people's education, and access to these important areas should not just be the preserve of the elite. Music is compulsory in all maintained schools from the age of 5 to 14, and academies are also required

to provide a broad and balanced curriculum, which Ofsted consider in their inspections.

The department has invested nearly £500 million of funding from 2016-20 in a diverse portfolio of music and arts education programmes, and in January, we announced a further £80 million investment in Music Education Hubs for 2020-21 to ensure all children, whatever their background, have access to a high-quality music education.

The department is committed to the continuation of high-quality education for all pupils during this difficult time and it is supporting schools and parents through a number of initiatives. On 2 July 2020, the department published detailed guidance to support the full opening of schools from the beginning of the autumn term. The guidance made it clear we expect all schools to teach an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects from the start of the autumn term – including art and music. Furthermore, detailed guidance on music provision will be published shortly.

Resources may also be found through subject associations and professional bodies, such as BESA's LendEd website and the EdTech Impact website for example, which include varied resources that teachers already use and rate within the websites. These resources have not been verified by the department's educational experts, but we are signposting to them because they also cover other areas of the curriculum that are not covered in our list.

The department has announced £4.34 million of funding for the Oak National Academy for the 2020-21 academic year to provide online video lessons covering a variety of subjects, including music. The purpose of this funding is to enable Oak to provide support to schools in developing the ability to switch from classroom teaching to remote provision immediately in case of local lockdowns or self-isolation.

To help children to access education, including music, at home, we have provided laptops and tablets for disadvantaged children who would otherwise not have access and are preparing for examinations in Year 10, and to those receiving support from a social worker, including pre-school children, and care leavers. As of 30 June, over 200,000 laptops and tablets and over 47,000 4G wireless routers had been delivered or dispatched to local authorities and academy trusts.

Where care leavers, children with a social worker at secondary school and children in Year 10, do not have internet connections, we have provided 4G wireless routers to them so that they can learn at home. In partnership with BT, the department has also launched a service to provide children and young people free access to BT Wi-Fi hotspots. 10,000 families are initially able to access the scheme. This offer is currently being piloted and will be rolled out across England in the coming months. We are currently working with BT to expand this offer to allow more children to access the internet through their network of BT Wi-Fi hotspots.

We are also working with the major telecommunications companies to improve internet connectivity for disadvantaged and vulnerable families. For families who rely on a mobile internet connection, mobile network operators are working to provide temporary access to free additional data offering them more flexibility to access the resources that they need the most.

Remote Education: Finance

Asked by Lord Aberdare

To ask Her Majesty's Government what funding they will make available to education establishments to invest in virtual learning environments. [HL7413]

Baroness Berridge: In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the department is investing £14.3 million to fund expert technical support for schools to get set up on an accredited digital education environment. Using this funding, schools and multi academy trusts can apply to get set up on one of two free-to-use digital education environments: Google's G Suite for Education or Microsoft's Office 365 Education.

Further information is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-help-with-technology-for-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19#get-help-using-online-education-platforms>.

Republic of Ireland: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Baroness Sugg on 15 June (HL4960), 29 June (HL5655) and 22 July (HL6669), whether they will now answer the questions put, in particular, on what date they were informed by the government of Ireland of its plans for passengers travelling from Great Britain to the Republic of Ireland to be subject to quarantine restrictions in Ireland; and how those plans were communicated. [HL7207]

Baroness Sugg: We had a number of conversations with the Irish Government, including at Ministerial level, discussing our responses to the Covid-19 pandemic ahead of their decision to introduce a fourteen-day quarantine for all travellers coming into Ireland from 26 April.

Republic of Ireland: Shipping

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consultation they have undertaken with the government of the Republic of Ireland to assess the impact of any increase of direct shipping routes between the Republic of Ireland and mainland Europe. [HL6955]

Baroness Sugg: We have a close and constructive relationship with the Government of Ireland including on transport matters. During the Covid-19 crisis we were pleased to issue a statement with Ireland and France of

our joint commitment to support the vital supply routes between our nations and to share information on our supports to freight routes. The introduction of new shipping routes between Ireland and mainland Europe are a matter for the Irish Government and the commercial operators of those routes.

Retail Trade: Taxation

Asked by Lord Allen of Kensington

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will take into account the multi-channel nature of retail sales when (1) undertaking their fundamental review of business rates, and (2) considering the introduction of any form of online sales tax. [HL7415]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: On 21 July, HM Treasury published a Call for Evidence for the fundamental review of business rates. The Call for Evidence invites stakeholders to contribute their views on ideas for reform on all elements of the business rates system and on alternative taxes.

As set out in the Call for Evidence, the fundamental review will have an interim report in Autumn 2020, ahead of concluding in Spring 2021.

The Government will consider all relevant evidence submitted to the review.

Revenue and Customs: Finance

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to their announcement on 12 June of an additional £50 million being made available for customs agent recruitment, training and IT, what that money is intended to cover; and what assessment they have made of the statement by the Road Haulage Association that the amount of money allocated is insufficient. [HL7549]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The Government has already injected £34 million into growing the intermediary sector, in order to encompass EU trade after 2020. Thousands of agents, freight forwarders and parcel operators have taken advantage of this funding to make improvements, from IT hardware to staff training. To date, this funding has supported over 20,000 training courses, nearly 15,000 units of IT, the recruitment of an additional 600 new customs agents, and the online customs academy training centre (where Government has procured training capacity directly) which has delivered 1,139 courses so far.

The new £50 million support package will further boost the capacity of the customs intermediary sector to help provide businesses with support ahead of the new processes taking effect in July 2021. Having listened to industry feedback, the focus of support will continue to be on IT, recruitment, and training. This new investment will provide a significant boost to the sector and build on the success of the grant scheme to date.

This additional funding is one element of the wider package of measures announced in June to help lay the

foundations for a diverse, innovative and competitive intermediary sector. The Government also intends to change rules which will remove the financial liability from intermediaries operating on behalf of their clients, and allow parcel operators to continue declaring multiple consignments in a single customs declaration.

Revenue and Customs: Staff

Asked by Lord Wills

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the statement on COVID-19 by the Prime Minister on 17 July, what plans they have for the return of staff of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs to work in offices. [HL7188]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: HMRC follow Government guidelines on social distancing and safe workplaces. HMRC's current estate capacity is therefore reduced. Use of that space is prioritised for the delivery of services that cannot be completed effectively at home, or for staff who are unable to work at home for personal reasons.

About 5,000 colleagues have been working in HMRC offices throughout the COVID-19 response. Within the limited capacity available, HMRC expect to increase the number of colleagues safely using their offices from August in order to deliver their full range of tax and customs functions and support a returning economy.

River Wharfe: Swimming

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to be able to respond to the application by river users and residents to turn part of the River Wharfe in Ilkley into a bathing water area; and by what process they are considering that application. [HL7019]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: We received an application from the Ilkley Clean River Group in October 2019 for a stretch of the River Wharfe to be designated as a bathing water area. After reviewing further evidence, we are now preparing to proceed to a public consultation. Given the ongoing situation with Covid-19, we will schedule a date to begin the consultation as soon as it is appropriate to do so. This was confirmed by Minister Pow in a letter to the Ilkley Clean River Group on 13 May, following a meeting with Robbie Moore MP to discuss the application.

We have considered the application in line with our usual process for applications for bathing water designation, the details of which are available on the GOV.UK website.

Roma Holocaust Memorial Day

Asked by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to mark Roma Holocaust Memorial Day on 2 August. [HL6994]

Lord Greenhalgh: Every year we honour the memory of the Roma and Sinti population murdered by the Nazi's at the annual Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations on 27 January. The 2nd of August marks the liquidation of the Gypsy Family camp' at Auschwitz-Birkenau and this year due to the restrictions on gatherings brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic we will be honouring the memory of the Roma and Sinti men, women and children murdered by the Nazi's on social media.

Asked by Baroness Whitaker

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to mark Roma Holocaust Memorial Day on 2 August. [HL7411]

Lord Greenhalgh: Every year we honour the memory of the Roma and Sinti population murdered by the Nazi's at the annual Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations on 27 January. The 2nd of August marked the liquidation of the Gypsy Family camp' at Auschwitz-Birkenau and this year due to the restrictions on gatherings brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic I honoured the memory of the Roma and Sinti men, women and children murdered by the Nazi's by releasing a short film on social media.

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew: Coronavirus

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what financial support they plan to give to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew to help it to address any deficit arising as a result of the restrictions put in place to address the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL7403]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Defra has regular meetings with Kew Gardens about the impacts of the Covid-19 outbreak. There are significant impacts on Kew's operations and finances, mainly as a result of having to close the Kew and Wakehurst Place sites to the public for a period during lockdown, and a staggered return to full operations is anticipated through 2020/21.

Kew has reopened to the public under a carefully planned approach and is now able to generate visitor income as a result, although at a significantly lower level than would normally be anticipated. The operational facilities are being kept under review with a view to maximising visitor access within social distancing guidelines.

Kew has taken financial mitigation measures to offset in part the loss of income, including reducing costs, postponing investment plans and use of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. Under optimistic scenario planning of steady growth in visitor numbers and associated income and no second lockdown or related restrictions, Kew's in-year operating deficit would result in a 25% reduction in total income for 2020/21, which will be funded by Kew drawing down its unrestricted reserves.

We continue to work with Kew to monitor the situation and assess any future challenges.

Royal Ordnance: Royalties

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they receive royalty payments for equipment manufacture by Sage Control Ordnance under licence from Police Ordnance Co Ltd in Canada where the equipment was originally designed by Royal Ordnance. [[HL7268](#)]

Baroness Goldie: The Ministry of Defence does not receive royalty payments for equipment manufactured by Sage Control Ordnance under licence from Police Ordnance Co Ltd in Canada, where the equipment was originally designed by Royal Ordnance.

Rugby: Females

Asked by Lord Addington

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the professional playing opportunities available to women's rugby sevens teams; and what plans they have to ask UK Sport to provide financial support for the Great Britain Women's Olympic Rugby Sevens programme. [[HL7498](#)]

Baroness Barran: The Minister for Sport met with sport bodies including the RFU and RFL and Women in Sport in June 2020 to explore the new challenges COVID-19 has brought and discuss what can be done to address these. There was a shared commitment amongst sports to protect investment in women's sport and promote its growth.

Decisions on elite Olympic and Paralympic funding allocations are for UK Sport, but we are committed to helping women's sport come out of the current crisis stronger than ever and will be working closely with the sector to ensure that happens.

Rugby: Finance

Asked by Lord Addington

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ask UK Sport to provide financial support for rugby sevens teams ahead of the rescheduled Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games after their RFU funding expires in August. [[HL7497](#)]

Baroness Barran: Decisions on elite Olympic and Paralympic funding allocations are for UK Sport. Having delivered our greatest Olympic performance in a century at Rio in 2016, It is crucial that funding is invested strategically in the right sports, the right athletes and the right support programmes.

We continue to work with UK Sport and sports bodies to support our athletes and sports in the run-up to the Tokyo Games in 2021. We want the Tokyo Games to be a

success and will work alongside everyone involved to help achieve this.

The Chancellor announced a host of measures to help businesses, with £330 billion worth of government backed and guaranteed loans to support businesses across the UK. In addition, Sport England, has also announced £210 million of funding to help sport and physical activity organisations deal with the short and long term effects of the pandemic.

Shipping: Charities

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the role of (1) the Apostleship of the Sea, (2) the Mission to Seafarers, and (3) other UK based maritime worker welfare charities. [[HL7385](#)]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Department recognises the role charities can play in addressing the hardships currently impacting transport workers, however the DfT does not conduct assessment of any charities, including those in the maritime sector.

Shipping: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Vere of Norbiton on 20 July (HL6506), what is the median length of time that foreign national crew have spent stranded in UK ports; what is the cost of the repatriation programme; and whether they claim back the costs of repatriation from ship owners. [[HL7099](#)]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: We do not have median figures. The Department began work on facilitating repatriation 90 days ago (as at 29 July). At that time there were 11,374 crew in the UK. To date we have facilitated the repatriation of over 13,000 seafarers and there are currently 4,258 awaiting repatriation.

Many vessels arriving in the UK are able to repatriate large numbers of seafarers over the 2-3 days after arrival. However, for seafarers from certain countries the length of time in the UK will be longer due to restrictions in their own state.

It should also be noted that seafarers arriving in the UK may still be under their original contract and, outside the pandemic conditions, would not be due to be repatriated. The cost of repatriation is met by the shipping company and not by the Government.

Sizewell C Power Station

Asked by Lord Marlesford

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to announce details of the financial funding arrangements for the proposed Sizewell C nuclear power station, in particular the method by which electricity consumers would be protected from future

project cost escalation; and what plans they have to publish those details before the Development Consent Order application, accepted by the Planning Inspectorate on 26 June, is considered at Examination. [HL7297]

Lord Callanan: The Government is reviewing options for the financing of new nuclear projects. In 2019, we consulted on a Regulated Asset Base (RAB) as a possible funding model for future nuclear projects. The consultation sought views from stakeholders on proposed design principles for a nuclear RAB, including risk sharing arrangements with consumers. Our consultation was not project specific, as each project has its own financial considerations. We are currently considering consultation feedback and will respond in due course.

Asked by Lord Marlesford

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether China General Nuclear Cooperation's 20 per cent holding in NNB Generation Company (SZC) Ltd entitles that Cooperation to a nuclear site licence for Sizewell C; and what assessment they have made of the suitability of that cooperation as a nuclear power operator if they subsequently acquired a controlling interest in NNB Generation Company (SZC) Ltd. [HL7461]

Lord Callanan: All nuclear site licences are assessed and granted by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). Site licensees are required to comply with stringent safety and security regulations overseen by the ONR.

A nuclear site licence does not confer any special status on shareholders, regardless of the size of their stake, and does not entitle them to hold a nuclear site licence now or in the future. An individual site licence is not transferable; any significant change in the management structure of NNB Generating Company (SZC) Ltd would trigger a revision and reapproval of the site licence to reflect the new arrangements.

Sizewell C Power Station: Construction

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they estimate the construction of Sizewell C nuclear power station will begin; and what funding model will be used for that construction. [HL7000]

Lord Callanan: It is for individual developers to consider milestones, such as estimates of when construction will commence. Any funding model would be agreed as part of a negotiation, should the Government enter into one.

Sizewell C Power Station: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Marlesford

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to pause consideration of the application by EDF to construct the proposed Sizewell C nuclear power

station at the end of the pre-examination stage, until those who are unable to take part in a virtual examination as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic may take part in an open examination. [HL7298]

Lord Callanan: The Examining Authority at the Planning Inspectorate will proceed with its consideration of EDF's application in line with the published guidance on current procedures for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. The Planning Inspectorate is considering ways in which the process can be conducted to ensure that Interested Parties are able to take part. There are currently no plans to pause the application at the end of the pre-examination stage. Further information is available at the GOV.UK website.

Small Business Commissioner

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Callanan on 26 February (HL1663), what progress they have made on the measures announced in June 2019 to strengthen the role of the Small Business Commissioner. [HL7303]

Lord Callanan: The Government is fully committed on fulfilling its manifesto commitment to strengthen the powers of the Small Business Commissioner. We still plan to consult on extending those powers, to allow the Commissioner to advocate for and support small businesses, as soon as we are able to do so.

Smoking: Health Education

Asked by Lord Rennard

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to increase funding for public education campaigns about smoking in order (1) to encourage people who have quit smoking during the COVID-19 lockdown to remain smoke-free, and (2) to motivate people to quit smoking in coming months. [HL7242]

Lord Bethell: The Government has committed £70,000 to support the 'Today is the Day' campaign which is targeted at localities with high smoking prevalence. Public Health England's annual Stoptober campaign will be held in October 2020 and will take account of the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Smoking: Pregnancy

Asked by Lord Rennard

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the data included in Statistics on Women's Smoking Status at Time of Delivery: England Quarter 4, 2019–20, published on 7 July, what assessment they have made of Greater Manchester's Smokefree Pregnancy programme; and what plans they have to implement a national smoke-free pregnancy incentives programme along the lines of that programme. [HL7243]

Lord Bethell: The Government has a track record of reducing the harms caused by tobacco and is committed to achieving its ambition to reduce the rate of smoking in pregnancy to 6% or less by 2022.

The Government is aware of the work undertaken in Greater Manchester, although we have not made a formal assessment of it. The programme will be considered by officials when exploring further ways that we can protect babies and their parents from the consequences of smoking in pregnancy.

Social Media: Regulation

Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with (1) Google, (2) Twitter, (3) Facebook, and (4) other social media sites, about (a) the action, and (b) the time, those companies take to remove (i) racist, (ii) anti-Semitic, (iii) abusive, (iv) criminal, and (v) illegal, content online. [HL7371]

Baroness Barran: Ministers and officials have regular meetings and discussions with social media platforms such as Google, Twitter and Facebook on a range of issues, including hate speech, abusive and illegal online content. Details of Ministerial meetings are published quarterly on the Gov.uk website.

We are aiming to publish the full government response to the Online Harms White Paper consultation later this year which will outline the detailed proposals for keeping users safe online. We will continue to engage with industry representatives as we finalise proposals and move towards legislation.

Social Security Benefits: Prisoners on Remand

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further (1) to the Written Answer by Baroness Stedman-Scott on 22 July (HL6637), (2) reports that remand prisoners' hearing dates are being set for more than 12 months in the future, and (3) the normal time limits relating to such prisoners anticipating returning home, what steps are being taken to ensure that (a) Housing Benefit, and (b) Universal Credit in respect of rent, is being paid to prisoners on remand. [HL7232]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The Department is routinely notified by Prison Services across England, Wales and Scotland when offenders enter custody, including those on remand. We have specialist teams to identify claimants who are in receipt of either Universal Credit or legacy benefits so that the appropriate action can be taken.

Social Services

Asked by Lord Turnbull

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the proposed White Paper on social care will address the case for social care to be closely integrated with the NHS, as has been achieved in some areas like Salford. [HL6651]

Lord Bethell: Promoting integrated care is a priority for the Government and 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 their individual needs.

Putting social care on a sustainable footing, where everyone is treated with dignity and respect, is one of the biggest challenges that our society faces. There are complex questions to address, to which we want to give our full considerations in light of the current circumstances.

Social Services: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Social Workers Union about the results of its survey which estimates that one third of social workers are now considering leaving the profession as a result of the deterioration in working conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic; and what steps they are taking in response. [HL6851]

Lord Bethell: We are committed to providing ongoing support to social workers so that they are safe, supported, valued and able to continue the exceptional work they do. We continue to support local authorities and other social work employers to meet their duties regarding social work workforce planning and sharing best practice in recruiting, retaining and developing staff.

There are currently 98,000 registered social workers across the country, of whom 363 were surveyed by the Social Workers Union. The Chief Social Workers for Adults continue to have regular conversations with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, the British Association of Social Workers, Social Work England and Principal Social Workers across the country and have ensured concerns are responded to as soon as they arise.

Social Services: Fees and Charges

Asked by Baroness Gale

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether their long-term plan for social care in England will focus on (1) whole system reform, or (2) protecting people from having to sell their homes to pay for care. [HL6458]

Lord Bethell: We recognise there is a need for long-term reform in social care. Therefore, we are reviewing options and have invited cross-party talks to find the best solutions to these complex questions. We will put forward a plan following those talks.

Solicitors: Video Conferencing

Asked by Lord Wasserman

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average delay in terms of weeks before solicitors are able to consult their clients in prison via video link. [HL7121]

Lord Keen of Elie: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Somalia: Security

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the current security situation in the Gedo region of southern Somalia; and what discussions they have had at the UN with the governments of Ethiopia and Kenya in view of their respective support for the Federal Government of Somalia and the Jubaland regional state. [HL7173]

Baroness Sugg: The UK is concerned by the instability in Gedo, where clashes between forces of the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and the Somali Federal Member State (FMS) of Jubaland in February and March reportedly displaced 56,000 people and killed at least ten, including civilians. We have consistently underlined the need for urgent political dialogue between the FGS and FMS (including Jubaland) to build consensus and longer-term stability; and for Somalia's regional neighbours to engage constructively with the FGS and FMS to pursue their common goal of long-term stability. We raised this issue at UN Security Council meetings on 24 February and 21 May.

South Sudan: Mental Health Services

Asked by The Earl of Sandwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what funding they have allocated for mental health programmes in South Sudan. [HL7554]

Baroness Sugg: The UK is the leading provider of health services in South Sudan, through the Health Pooled Fund (HPF) (£175m 2018-2023). Through the HPF, UK Aid is improving capacity to identify and manage mental health illnesses in health facilities and hospitals; last year HPF trained 412 health workers on mental health across South Sudan.

UK Aid is also supporting specialised mental health services in areas heavily impacted by violence, through our partnerships with Humanity and Inclusion (£3.7m 2018-2021) and Medair (£16m 2016-2021). We also provide psycho-social support to survivors of gender-

based violence as part of a five-year £22 million programme with the International Medical Corps. Finally, UK Aid is working in partnership with the UN's International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to provide mental health and psychosocial services in protection of civilian sites, with services targeted particularly at vulnerable groups including women and girls.

South Sudan: Press Freedom

Asked by The Earl of Sandwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent assessment they have made of (1) the freedom of the press in South Sudan, and (2) the case of Peter Biar Ajak. [HL7551]

Baroness Sugg: Freedom of expression has an essential role to play in the establishment of peace and stability in South Sudan. We are deeply concerned at any closing of political space and restrictions on freedom of expression in the country, both for activists and for local and international journalists. This is incompatible with the Government of South Sudan's expressed desire to see a successful resolution to the nation's crises. We continue to lobby the Government of South Sudan to ensure that journalists, human rights activists and civil society are free to operate without fear of retribution. Through our Media Freedom Campaign we are providing support to journalists inside the country including continued funding for local media associations

The UK lobbied the Government of South Sudan on political detainees including during Peter Biar's imprisonment in 2018-19. This included calling for due process, access to legal representation and for his release from detention as part of the 2018 peace agreement. We welcomed his eventual release alongside other prisoners in January and are aware of his recent arrival in the US. Our officials remain in contact with him.

South Sudan: Violence

Asked by The Earl of Sandwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent assessment they have made of intercommunal violence in South Sudan. [HL7553]

Baroness Sugg: There has been a recent rise in severe violence in several states in South Sudan resulting in killings, displacement and disruption to livelihoods and humanitarian access. Severe violence is tipping South Sudan into further humanitarian crisis with 6.5 million people already facing acute food insecurity, many in areas recently devastated by flooding and facing the possibility of new locust swarms. In Jonglei alone, 157,000 people have been displaced since February this year and an estimated 87,000 people are in need of urgent assistance. The violence in Jonglei and other parts of South Sudan underlines that, despite the 2018 peace agreement and a reduction in overall political conflict, many South

Sudanese continue to live with terrible violence. South Sudan's best chance of a more stable and prosperous future remains the full implementation of the peace agreement.

The creation of a peace committee by Presidential decree is a welcome step, but it and the Government of South Sudan need to act urgently to stop violence, facilitate humanitarian access and ensure ceasefire monitors are enabled to conduct accurate and timely investigations. Our Ambassador and other officials continue to meet the most senior representatives of the Government of South Sudan to urge action. The UK will continue to promote efforts to halt the violence, address the root causes of conflict and build lasting peace.

Southern Africa: Trade Agreements

Asked by Lord Oates

To ask Her Majesty's Government what contributions they have made to support the implementation of the UK-SACU Economic Partnership Agreement as required under Article 12 of that Agreement. [HL7544]

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel: Britain is working hard to understand the requirements of Southern Africa Customs Union and Mozambique (SACUM) to implement our Economic Partnership Agreement effectively, which is due to enter into force at the end of the transition period. This is part of a broader programme of £8 million of technical assistance to the region that was announced in August 2018.

Asked by Lord Oates

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many of the parties to the UK-SACU Economic Partnership Agreement have ratified that Agreement. [HL7545]

Asked by Lord Oates

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many parties to the UK-SACU Economic Partnership Agreement they expect to have ratified that Agreement by 1 December. [HL7546]

Asked by Lord Oates

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to allow provisional application of the UK-SACU Economic Partnership Agreement if the parties to that Agreement have not ratified it in time for it to come into force on 1 January 2021. [HL7547]

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel: As of 4th August 2020, Botswana and South Africa have completed their domestic ratification procedures. Britain completed her own domestic scrutiny procedures, in accordance with the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act, on 5th February 2020. We continue to monitor progress closely in the remaining countries.

Our preference is that all our Southern Africa Customs Union + Mozambique Economic Partnership Agreement

partners ratify the agreement, so that it can enter into force at the end of the transition period. Nevertheless, we will consider all possible options to maintain continuity, including provisional application, if not every partner is able to ratify the agreement before the end of the transition period.

Space Technology

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will publish a new cross-departmental National Space Strategy. [HL7492]

Lord Callanan: The UK's space sector can strengthen our national capabilities, create high-skilled jobs and drive future economic growth across the UK. In order to support this, the Queen's Speech on 19 December set out the Government's intent to establish a new National Space Council and launch a comprehensive UK Space Strategy. The Council will consider its strategy in due course.

Speech and Language Therapy: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Ramsbotham

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care will reply to the letter from the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, dated 2 April, about aerosol-generated procedures for speech and language therapists. [HL5069]

Lord Bethell: The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Prevention, Public Health and Primary Care (Jo Churchill MP) replied to the letter from the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists on 12 August.

Speed Limits

Asked by Lord Bradshaw

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any consultation took place with (1) the Health and Safety Executive, and (2) the Office for Rail and Road, before the decision was made to increase the basic speed limit at which motorists can drive through roadworks; and what assessment they have made of the ability to enforce speed limits at such sites. [HL7327]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Whilst no specific consultation took place with the Health and Safety Executive, Highways England did engage throughout the trials with the Office for Rail and Road (ORR) to update them on the progress and outputs of the trials.

The enforcement of speed limits will be undertaken in the same way any speed limit through roadworks is enforced, by using average speed camera systems.

Spirits and Wines: Imports

Asked by **Lord Moynihan**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of changes to the requirements for labelling (1) wine, (2) sparkling wine, and (3) spirits, imported into the UK that will come into force at the end of the transition period. [HL7538]

Asked by **Lord Moynihan**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what requirements for bottles of wine detailing UK (1) bottlers, (2) vendors, (3) producers, or (4) import addresses, on EU wine products destined for the UK will apply after the end of the transition period. [HL7539]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: No specific assessment for wine or spirit labelling has been undertaken. However, Parliament has already passed the EU Withdrawal Act. Consistent with the Act, the changes that the secondary legislation stemming from it will make to labelling rules are necessary to correct deficiencies in retained EU law, including in relation to the information provided to consumers about the products they buy.

Currently, EU wine imported into the UK needs to show the bottler or, in the case of sparkling wine, the name of the producer or vendor. From 1 January 2021 (subject to any period that is allowed for adoption of the new requirements), wine imported into Great Britain will in addition need to show the importer or, in the case of bulk shipments, the bottler.

Sports Competitors: Coronavirus

Asked by **Lord Addington**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to support the funding through UK Sport of UK athletes who were due to compete at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, and who have lost their funding due to restrictions on activity resulting from the COVID-19 emergency. [HL7496]

Baroness Barran: The government remains committed to supporting our elite athletes and we will continue to work with UK Sport in ensuring that our athletes are assisted through this difficult period. Olympic and Paralympic sport is not immune from the impact of Covid-19 and the postponement of Tokyo 2020 has significant financial implications for our high performance system. UK Sport is working hard to identify the wide ranging impacts and scenarios and is in close contact with the Government to establish how best to support our summer Olympic and Paralympic sports and athletes to be ready for the Tokyo Games when they do take place.

UK Sport is also guaranteeing that Athlete Performance Awards (APA) will continue to be paid and is taking a flexible approach to NGB investments within their grant awards. UK Sport is working closely with sports to be able to manage this approach.

Team GB's historic medal haul in Rio was an amazing achievement and our athletes made the country incredibly proud. I am confident that this success will continue through to Tokyo next summer.

STEM Subjects: Equality

Asked by **Lord Taylor of Warwick**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking, if any, to increase the diversity of students taking STEM subjects, in particular engineering. [HL7562]

Baroness Berridge: We want all students to see science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) as potential career options, and the government is committed to ensuring that anyone, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to pursue a rewarding career in a STEM occupation. There are a growing number of girls taking STEM subjects at A level and the 2018/19 A Level results showed, for the first time, more girls taking science subjects than boys. Although proportionally fewer pupils from BAME groups take STEM A Levels, they perform well with 67.1% of entrants from BAME groups achieving A*-C in 2018/19. UK domiciled BAME students are also more likely to study STEM subjects in higher education than their white counterparts – 47% of BAME students were accepted to full-time STEM subjects in 2019/20 compared to 42% of white students.

However, we recognise there is more we can do, which is why we are building on that progress through the STEM Ambassadors programme, creating a network of Maths Hubs, and funding gender balance programmes in physics and computing to increase STEM take up amongst girls. In 2019/20, 45% of STEM Ambassadors were female and 15% were from BAME groups. This programme helps broaden pupils' understanding of careers in science and engineering and how they can apply their individual skills and interests to different opportunities.

We are also funding the Institute of Physics to deliver the Improving Gender Balance research trial. This randomised control trial will scale up an approach that has shown significant early promise in increasing girls' uptake of A level physics. Gender balance coaches will support girls' resilience, tackle subject-specific teaching issues, and address whole school gender stereotyping.

The government is backing the New Model in Technology and Engineering (NMiTE) institute which has been established in Herefordshire to provide a world leading institution where students can learn engineering. NMiTE will take its first full cohort of students in 2020 and has a 50:50 gender balance recruitment target.

The government is also funding Institutes of Technology (IoTs), which will be the pinnacle of technical training. These unique collaborations between further education colleges, universities and businesses offer higher technical education and training (mainly at

Levels 4 and 5) in key sectors such as digital, construction, advanced manufacturing and engineering.

Strokes: Death

Asked by *Baroness Altmann*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people died from a stroke in each of the last ten years; and of those, how many were aged (a) 60–69, (b) 70–79, (c) 80–89, and (d) 90–99. [HL5630]

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

Dear Baroness Altmann,

As National Statistician and Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority, I am responding to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people died from a stroke in each of the last ten years; and of those, how many were aged (a) 60–69, (b) 70–79, (c) 80–89, and (d) 90–99 (HL5630).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for publishing mortality statistics for deaths registered in England and Wales. The most recent annual figures published are for deaths registered in 2019[1]. However, we do publish provisional weekly deaths registrations, which are currently published for deaths registered up to 17 July 2020[2]. National Records Scotland (NRS) and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) are responsible for publishing the number of deaths registered in Scotland and Northern Ireland respectively.

Cause of death is defined using the International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th edition (ICD-10). Deaths caused by stroke are identified by the ICD-10 codes I60-I69 .

Table 1 contains the number of deaths involving stroke occurring in England and Wales in the years 2009-2019. This data is not yet available for 2020. The finalised annual death registrations for 2020 will be published in summer 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Sir Ian Diamond

Table 1: Number of deaths occurring where the underlying cause was stroke by age group, 2009 to 2019, England and Wales[3][4][5][6]

Year	Age					
	Under 59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	100 +
2009	1,799	2,307	6,426	14,351	6,434	263
2010	1,833	2,327	6,209	13,526	6,632	297
2011	1,719	2,213	5,794	12,198	6,528	263
2012	1,676	2,218	5,565	12,162	6,794	306
2013	1,725	2,083	5,478	11,562	6,692	252
2014	1,752	2,158	5,493	11,515	6,624	281
2015	1,694	2,281	5,679	11,695	6,989	321
2016	1,697	2,217	5,569	11,037	6,347	280
2017	1,584	2,082	5,178	10,448	6,192	263
2018	1,674	2,147	5,399	10,619	6,165	223
2019	1,569	2,011	5,247	9,874	5,793	231

Source: *Office for National Statistics*

[1]

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/datasets/deathsregisteredinenglandandwalesseriesdrreferencetables>

[2]

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/deathsregistere dweeklyinenglandandwalesprovisional/weekending17july2020>

[3] Figures based on occurrence (death-date)

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

[5] Stroke is the underlying cause of death and was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes I60 to I64.

[6] For information on how deaths are registered and mortality statistics are produced please see the [Quality and methodology section](#).

Strokes: Rehabilitation

Asked by *Lord Lingfield*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent assessment they have made of the efficacy of the healthcare system in diagnosing silent strokes. [HL5689]

Asked by *Lord Lingfield*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made on the commitments to improve stroke rehabilitation set out in the NHS Long Term Plan. [HL5690]

Lord Bethell: NHS England and NHS Improvement continue to focus on the detection and management of risk factors including high blood pressure, raised cholesterol, atrial fibrillation and diabetes to improve diagnosis of silent strokes.

The NHS Long Term Plan highlighted that stroke community rehabilitation as an area with significant scope for improvement. NHS England and NHS Improvement are developing a service specification for an integrated community rehabilitation service in order to reduce variation in the provision of stroke rehabilitation across England.

Stroke rehabilitation pilot schemes from 2020 to 2022 will develop a best practice model for high intensity rehabilitation, to be rolled out nationally. Both the specification and the pilot schemes will incorporate learning and innovation within community stroke teams as a response to COVID-19, including virtual rehabilitation.

Students: Loans

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether having (1) settled status, or (2) pre-settled status, is a sufficient qualification for an application for a student loan; and if not, why not. [HL7351]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: We have agreed with the European Union (EU) that current EU principles of equal treatment will continue to apply for those people covered by the citizens' rights provisions in the Withdrawal Agreement. This means that EU nationals resident in the UK before the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020 will be eligible for support on a similar basis to domestic students.

EU nationals with settled status or pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme must meet the relevant residency requirements when they start their course in order to access home fee status and student financial support.

Other European Economic Area (EEA) and Swiss nationals benefiting from citizens' rights under the EEA European Free Trade Association Separation Agreement or Swiss Citizens' Rights Agreement respectively, and meeting the relevant residency requirements, will continue to have access to student finance on the same basis as now.

Submarines: Accidents

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the report by the Marine Accident Investigation Branch Accident Investigation Report 13/2020: Stena Superfast VII and Royal Navy submarine, published on 16 July, what steps they are taking to improve the training of the Royal Navy Submarine Service on the

identification of higher speed passenger vessels. [HL7269]

Baroness Goldie: Ensuring safety at sea is a top priority for the Royal Navy. The Marine Accident Investigation Branch's (MAIB) report is welcomed and the Royal Navy fully accepts their recommendation.

All training is continually reviewed to ensure that safety lessons from incidents such as this are rapidly incorporated into command team shore and sea training to ensure that Service personnel are rigorously trained, tested and assessed on its execution. Such training specifically includes operating in the vicinity of high speed vessels including ferries.

Subversion

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to make certain that no future (1) election, or (2) referendum, in the UK will be subject to outside interference. [HL7179]

Asked by Lord Foulkes of Cumnock

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to instruct the intelligence agencies to produce a plan to address any interference by the government of Russia in UK (1) democratic processes, and (2) society. [HL7209]

Lord True: The Security and Intelligence Agencies produce and contribute to regular assessments of the threat posed by Hostile State Activity. We keep such assessments under review and, where necessary, update them in response to new intelligence. It is, and will always be, an absolute priority to protect our democracy and elections. In July 2019 we announced the Defending Democracy programme to bring together government, civil society and private sector organisations to ensure our democracy stays open, vibrant and transparent.

Subversion: Russia

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent assessment they have made of the risk of Russian interference in UK democratic processes; and what steps they are taking to enable the rapid publication of the report by the Intelligence and Security Committee Russia, sent to the Prime Minister on 17 October 2019. [HL7026]

Lord True: The Intelligence and Security Committee published its Russia Report on 21 July 2020. The Government published its response to the report on the same day.

I refer the noble Lord to the Written Ministerial Statement made on 16 July 2020 by the Foreign Secretary, which was repeated in this House (HLWS376).

Asked by Viscount Waverley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the report by the Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament Russia, published on 21 July, what assessment they made of the open source studies which found evidence to suggest that Russia was attempting to influence the outcome of the EU referendum and which "pointed to the preponderance of pro-Brexit or anti-EU stories and the use of 'bots' and 'trolls'". [HL7122]

Asked by Viscount Waverley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the report by the Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament Russia, published on 21 July, what assessment they have made of why Russia may have attempted to influence the outcome of the EU referendum. [HL7123]

Lord True: We have seen no evidence of successful interference in the EU Referendum. The Government has published its response to the Intelligence and Security Committee report.

Asked by Viscount Waverley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the reasons why the report by the Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament Russia, sent to the Prime Minister on 17 October 2019, was not published until 21 July. [HL7125]

Lord True: As the Government has set out previously, the report is the property of the independent committee. It is for the Intelligence and Security Committee to lay their reports before Parliament and the reconstituted Committee did so on 21 July.

Asked by Lord Strasburger

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by Robert Mueller Report On The Investigation Into Russian Interference In The 2016 Presidential Election, published in March 2019, in particular the conclusions on Russian interference; whether they plan to conduct a similar inquiry in relation to the conduct of the EU referendum in 2016; if not, why not; and why they have not yet conducted such an inquiry. [HL7557]

Asked by Lord Strasburger

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the role of other states in national referendums in the UK in the last 10 years; if they have not made any such assessment, whether they plan to do so; if not, why not; whether they have (1) investigated, and (2) sought evidence on, the incidence of interference in the EU referendum by any hostile state; if not, why not; and what priority they give to any such investigations. [HL7558]

Lord True: I refer the noble Lord to the answer given to PQs [HL7209](#) and [HL7179](#) on 3 August 2020.

Syringes

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support the increased provision of low dead space needles in needle and syringe exchanges in England. [HL6721]

Lord Bethell: Local authorities are responsible for assessing local needs and commissioning drug prevention, treatment and harm reduction services to meet these needs. This includes providing needle and syringe programmes in their areas.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence recommends that local areas commission services which offer and encourage the use of low dead-space needles and syringes. The guidance on *Needle and syringe programmes* is attached.

Public Health England supports local authorities in their work of needs assessment and commissioning services by providing advice, guidance and data.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Needle and syringe programmes [needle-and-syringe-programmes-pdf-1996415046853.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-10/HL6721>

Taxation: Electronic Government

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they have in place for anyone (1) without access to computers, and (2) who is not online, when the Making Tax Digital programme comes into operation [HL7263]

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government what (1) allowances will be available, or (2) payment will be made, to anyone who is self-employed for the time spent complying with the requirements of the Making Tax Digital programme. [HL7264]

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Making Tax Digital programme has been introduced due to reductions in the HMRC workforce. [HL7265]

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to fund any (1) specialised computer software, and (2) training, required by the self-employed for the Making Tax Digital programme. [HL7266]

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to fund appropriate standards of broadband

connection for those who live in areas with poor broadband connectivity to ensure that they can participate in the Making Tax Digital programme. [HL7267]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The Government understands that some people with disabilities, those in rural locations with poor broadband services, and those who are digitally excluded for other reasons may find it more difficult to comply with Making Tax Digital (MTD) requirements. MTD exemptions have operated successfully since the introduction of MTD for VAT in April 2019 for businesses with taxable turnover in excess of the VAT threshold. These exemptions will continue to be available to businesses within the expanded scope of MTD.

There will be no specific allowances or payment made to those using MTD for time spent complying with MTD requirements. However, the Government accepts that there will be time spent in familiarisation with the new MTD obligations (digital record keeping and quarterly submission of information). The Lloyds Bank UK Consumer Digital Index 2019 found that those who are the most digitally engaged save a day a week in administration by going digital. Once businesses are used to operating the new MTD processes, the Government anticipates that they will find that MTD makes it easier for them to get things right, reducing errors and saving time in administering their tax affairs.

MTD is not a response to any changes in HMRC workforce. It is a key part of the Government's long term goal for HMRC to become one of the most digitally advanced tax authorities in the world, and forms part of the Government's 10-year strategy to build a trusted, modern tax administration system. As well as helping to tackle the part of the tax gap arising due to error and failure to take reasonable care, MTD will help to make the tax administration system more resilient and effective in responding to future shocks, while also providing businesses with access to real-time data and a more accurate overview of their financial position.

The Government will not be funding specialist software or training, but will continue to work to ensure that any additional costs to business are minimised. Free Income Tax software will be available for businesses with the simplest tax affairs. For VAT, there are already over a dozen free packages available as part of a highly competitive market with over 500 products for different business needs. On training, the HMRC customer support model includes a multi-layered approach stretching across agents, third party software support, through to telephony support, webchat, and HMRC's Extra Support service, as well as signposting to information and guides and to local or third party providers of digital skills courses or support already offered by external providers.

For those with slow speeds and no access to other commercial alternatives, the broadband Universal Service Obligation (USO) came into force in March 2020. The USO gives people in the UK the right to request a decent and affordable broadband connection. The Government

has pledged £5 billion to support the rollout of gigabit-capable networks to the hardest to reach 20% of the country.

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the Making Tax Digital programme on the productivity of the self-employed. [HL7410]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The Government expects the Making Tax Digital programme to have a positive impact on the productivity of self-employed businesses, as set out in the Financial Secretary to the Treasury's written ministerial statement on 21 July (HCWS400) and HMRC and HM Treasury's publication "Building a trusted, modern tax administration" of the same date.

About 1.4 million businesses, some of whom are self-employed, have already joined Making Tax Digital (MTD) for their VAT affairs and many of these are already experiencing productivity gains associated with more digital ways of working, as set out in HMRC's Evaluation of the MTD for VAT service published in March.

The Enterprise Research Centre (2018) found that for micro-businesses, web-based accounting software delivered productivity increases of over 10%.

Taxation: Self-assessment

Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the size of the tax return backlog; and when they estimate to complete processing those returns. [HL7372]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: HMRC currently have 57,000 2019-20 Self-Assessment tax returns on hand and aim to process 99% of these by the end of December; this is in line with previous years.

Teachers: Mental Health

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the announcement on 7 June of a pilot project with the Education Support Partnership to provide online peer support and telephone supervision to school leaders, how many people have accessed support through that scheme. [HL7401]

Baroness Berridge: Following the government's announcement in June of a pilot project with the Education Support Partnership to provide online peer support and telephone supervision to 250 school leaders managing the pressures caused by COVID-19, a total of 132 school leaders are accessing support through the programme so far. As of 28 July, 39 school leaders are accessing peer support and 93 have been registered to receive one to one telephone supervision.

Telecommunications Systems

Asked by Lord Clement-Jones

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with BT regarding the planned timescales for closing the Public Switched Telephone Network in 2025; and what assessment they have made of the feasibility of this plan following the recent decision to request BT remove Huawei equipment from its network. [HL7439]

Asked by Lord Clement-Jones

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to communicate the planned switch off of the Public Switched Telephone Network to residential and business consumers in the UK. [HL7440]

Asked by Lord Clement-Jones

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to funding a nationwide communications campaign to raise awareness of the planned switch off of the Public Switched Telephone Network. [HL7441]

Asked by Lord Clement-Jones

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to provide regular updates to Parliament on the progress of the planned switch off of the Public Switched Telephone Network. [HL7442]

Baroness Barran: The retirement of the public switched telephone network (PSTN), and its replacement with Internet Protocol technology, is being led by Openreach and Virgin Media, as the relevant infrastructure owners. As this process is being led by industry, the department has no current plans to regularly update parliament on their progress.

Openreach and Virgin Media have publicly set out their plans to withdraw these services by the end of 2025. On 14 July, the UK Government announced measures relating to Huawei following the additional US sanctions placed on the company by the US Department of Commerce. The Government advised full fibre operators to transition away from purchasing new Huawei equipment. It will be for the operators themselves to make the commercial decisions necessary to comply with the Government's decision.

In June this year, the Broadband Stakeholder Group launched the 'Future of Voice', a consumer-facing website to inform the public of the PSTN switchover process. The website has been developed with the support of DCMS, Ofcom, and telecoms companies.

DCMS regularly engages with the telecoms industry, Ofcom, and other Government departments on PSTN withdrawal, to discuss the impact this will have on consumers, business and public services and plans for migration to Internet Protocol technology.

Telecommunications: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Clement-Jones

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to support the telecoms sector throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL7443]

Baroness Barran: The UK Government recognises the ongoing importance of the telecommunications industry at this critical time. Now, more than ever, the country is reliant on fixed line and mobile communications networks. DCMS has worked with the telecoms sector to ensure extensive plans are in place, including support and guidance during the pandemic to maintain the availability of networks.

In March, the government announced a £330bn package to support businesses, including the telecoms sector, during the coronavirus pandemic. This included among others, the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) and the Bounce Back Loan Scheme (BBLs).

Telecommunications: EU Law

Asked by Lord Stevenson of Balmacara

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to maintain the European Electronic Communications Code beyond the end of the Brexit transition period on 31 December; and, if they intend to maintain the Code, what assessment they have made of its impact on the use of digital technologies designed to detect and prevent online harms against children. [HL7249]

Baroness Barran: Under the terms of the Withdrawal Agreement, it is a legal requirement to implement the European Electronic Communications Code Directive (EECC) by 21 December 2020. The Government's approach to implementing the Directive was published at [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/implementing-the-european-electronic-communications-code) on 22 July (<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/implementing-the-european-electronic-communications-code>), and was laid in the House of Lords Library on the same date.

Amendments made in UK legislation to implement the Directive will be retained after 31 December, save for limited instances where corrections are required to reflect the UK's exit from the European Union. The Directive is infrastructure focused and does not include measures relating to the regulation of content, and our transposition approach as set out does not impinge on online harms.

Television: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking, if any, to support BAME-led television organisations during the COVID-19 economic recovery. [HL6691]

Baroness Barran: The government is committed to supporting our fantastic screen industries, which include BAME-led television organisations, and to working together with industry to support greater diversity. We welcome the work Ofcom has undertaken through their annual diversity reports on broadcasting and we are working with the British Film Institute (BFI), in their role as the Government's arm's length body, to improve representation both on and off screen, including through supporting the wider adoption of the BFI's Diversity Standards which apply to films, online and broadcast television content.

To date, as part of its response to the COVID-19 pandemic the Government has not provided bespoke support to any one group within the television industry. However, the Government has provided support to the sector as a whole, including the recently announced UK-wide £500 million Film and TV Production Restart Scheme. This will help to get TV and film productions across the country that have been halted or delayed by a lack of insurance to get back up and running, by giving productions the confidence they need that they will be supported if future losses are incurred due to Covid-19. The scheme will directly support up to 40,000 - 50,000 jobs in the film and TV production industry.

Ministers have engaged with the broadcasting sector at regular roundtables to take into account challenges created by the pandemic, including impacts on diversity in broadcasting. We will continue these discussions to assess where Government can further support organisations as we move further into the recovery stage.

More broadly, the Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been one of the most generous and comprehensive in the world, including the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme and the Bounceback Loan Scheme and business rates reliefs. In addition, the Government has adapted the welfare system so that the self-employed can access Universal Credit in full, to help people get quicker and more generous support when they need it most.

Terrorism: Prison Sentences

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of additional prison sentences likely to be imposed if the Counter-Terrorism and Sentencing Bill is passed in its present form; and how many longer sentences are likely to be imposed as a result. [HL7042]

Lord Keen of Elie: We conducted and published an impact analysis for the Counter-Terrorism and Sentencing Bill, which is based on historical volumes of convictions and assumes that trends in sentencing remain stable. The Bill will not increase the overall number of sentences, but will increase sentence lengths for terrorist offenders. We assess that this will result in increased sentence lengths

resulting in a maximum of 50 additional offenders in prison at any given time.

Towns Fund: North East

Asked by Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top

To ask Her Majesty's Government what criteria were used in the Town Deals selection process in rejecting four of the eleven towns in the north east of England that had been recommended by officials to ministers. [HL7196]

Lord Greenhalgh: Ministers considered a range of factors as part of the selection process for Town Deals, including income deprivation, productivity and exposure to economic shocks. We recognise that there are more towns in need than we were able to support through this first set of Town Deals and have committed to a further competitive element of the Towns Fund. More information will be provided in due course.

Trade Agreements: NHS

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans for Parliament to ratify future trade deals involving the NHS; and if they have no such plans, why. [HL7180]

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel: Trade is vital for the NHS, which relies heavily on crucial goods and services that come wholly, or in part, from suppliers based overseas. Trade enables the NHS to buy the best possible medicines and medical devices that industry – here and overseas – has to offer.

At the same time, Britain's international public procurement commitments do not apply to the procurement of British healthcare services. In fact, Britain's public services are protected by specific exclusions, exceptions and reservations in the trade agreements to which we are party, and HM Government will continue to make sure that the same rigorous protections are included in future trade agreements.

Trade Agreements: USA

Asked by Lord Bradshaw

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Grimstone of Boscobel on 23 July (HL6931), what plans they have to ensure that the UK's road vehicle environmental and safety standards will apply to vehicles which are subject to any free trade agreement negotiated with the government of the United States. [HL7271]

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel: British environmental and safety standards will apply to all vehicles operating on British roads. This is as true of vehicles imported under a free trade agreement as it is to vehicles that have been manufactured here.

Vehicles exported to the United States will similarly need to adhere to the environmental and safety standards that are in force there. This is true of both federal and state level standards / regulations.

Transport for the North

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the creation of the Northern Transport Acceleration Council, what plans they have to amend (1) the constitution, (2) the powers, and (3) the methods of operation and decision-making of Transport for the North. [HL7215]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Matters concerning the constitution, methods of operation and decision-making of Transport for the North (TfN) are for the TfN Board to consider. The creation of the Northern Transport Acceleration Council does not impact on TfN's powers in any way.

Transport: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Vere of Norbiton on 28 July (HL6830), whether in their response to this question they will now provide figures for the amount of funding by way of loans or guarantees they have provided under COVID-19 assistance schemes (1) to international airline operators, (2) to international rail operators, and (3) to international shipping operators. [HL7504]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Please refer to the previous reply provided on 28 July. Government are unable to publish further details due to the sensitive commercial nature of this information.

Transport: Schools

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what additional funding they intend to provide to bus and coach operators to ensure that COVID-19 (1) safety, and (2) additional capacity, requirements are in place when schools return in September; and when they plan to announce their funding decisions for such provision. [HL7237]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The return of pupils to education settings in September will be a considerable challenge for public transport capacity while maintaining social distancing. The Department is working with the Department for Education as a matter of urgency to explore options to increase capacity to ensure students can get to school or college in September.

Solutions must be locally-led with authorities working closely with transport operators, and the Government will

do what we can to support local authorities. The Government is therefore supporting local authorities with travel demand management, and we will continue to provide financial support for bus services in September in order to boost the amount of local transport capacity available.

Travel: Coronavirus

Asked by Viscount Waverley

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether a UK resident must quarantine when arriving into the UK from Portugal yet departing back to that country on the same day. [HL7124]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Coronavirus regulations mean that you must self-isolate for 14 days if you arrive in the UK from a country outside the common travel area.

Though the Government is satisfied that it is now safe to ease these measures in England and has introduced travel corridor exemptions for some countries and territories, Portugal is not presently part of the travel corridor exemptions. Therefore, people must self-isolate for 14 days when arriving into the UK from Portugal. However, if they wish to leave the UK within the 14-day period then they are able to do so.

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what countries and territories are currently under consideration for removal from their list of travel corridor exemptions in England. [HL7527]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: We keep the list of Travel Corridors under regular review.

Turkey: Armed Forces

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to discuss with the government of Turkey that country's military commitments in Libya, Syria and Iraq; and in particular the compatibility of those commitments with NATO membership. [HL7095]

Baroness Sugg: Turkey is a key NATO ally - one of the largest contributors of military personnel - and sits on the frontline of some of the most difficult and serious challenges we face. We will continue to work closely with Turkey within NATO on challenges to peace and security.

The UK does not support Turkish military activity in Libya, which risks aggravating the conflict and worsening regional tensions. We have expressed our concerns to the Turkish Government, as we have with other external actors whose activity continues to fuel the conflict. All parties to the Libyan conflict must de-escalate, commit to a ceasefire and return to UN-led political dialogue. The Foreign Secretary delivered this message to Turkish Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu during his visit to London on 8 July.

The Foreign Secretary also discussed Syria with the Foreign Minister; Ministers and officials regularly discuss the situation in northern Syria with the Government of Turkey. The UK made clear our opposition to the unilateral Turkish intervention in north-east Syria in October 2019. We welcome the ceasefire currently in place in the north-east and also acknowledge the important role Turkey has played in recent months to secure a ceasefire in Idlib.

Regarding Turkish military actions in northern Iraq, the British 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.

Turkey: River Euphrates

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to discuss with the government of Turkey (1) the reported reduction in the flow of Euphrates river, (2) its impact on northern Syria, (3) how the present situation accords with the 1977 Agreement on Water Sharing, and (4) the current situation with the Allouk Water Station in Heseke Canton, Syria. [HL7094]

Baroness Sugg: The UK is deeply concerned by the persistent disruption to water supply from Alouk water station to northern Syria and has raised the humanitarian issue of Alouk with all parties in the region. When officials raised with the Government of Turkey on 23 July, including the impact on northern Syria and the current operational situation of the station, they were assured the Government of Turkey was also looking for a solution to these concerns.

Uganda: Migrant Camps

Asked by The Earl of Sandwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what additional support they have given to the Bidi Bidi refugee camp in Uganda as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL7552]

Baroness Sugg: Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, DFID has worked with partners like the United Nations World Food Programme to ensure continuity of life-saving services, such as the delivery of food assistance, to the population of Bidibidi, Uganda's largest refugee settlement. Additionally, we have supported specific programmes in Bidibidi through Mercy Corps, an International Non-Governmental Organisation, including:

- a campaign - through public address systems, bulk text messages, posters, song and radio - to raise awareness about prevention of the virus, focused on community "hot spots" including shops, bill boards, markets, water points, and food distribution points;

- payments in vouchers or via mobile money to more than 1,850 farmers (57% of whom were women) to

purchase high quality seeds from local dealers to ensure they did not miss the planting season; and

- support to small businesses to continue, providing access to basic hygiene supplies, agricultural inputs, and mobile money services. The local dealers that were selected to support the seed distribution referred to above received business development training on topics including business plan development, marketing and record keeping, as well as cash grants to strengthen their business.

As the pandemic continues to evolve, we are closely monitoring the situation across Uganda, including in the refugee settlements, and prioritising our support accordingly.

UK Audit Standards Independent Review

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to implement the recommendations of Sir Donald Brydon's Independent Review into the Quality and Effectiveness of Audit, published in December 2019. [HL6925]

Lord Callanan: We have had three independent reviews on aspects of audit: Sir Donald Brydon's review, Sir John Kingman's review of the Financial Reporting Council, and the CMA's market study of statutory audit. The Government is committed to acting on their recommendations, including legislating to create a stronger regulator as soon as parliamentary time allows, and will publish proposals in the coming months.

UK Internal Market: White Paper

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to include (1) citizen, and (2) business, particularly small independent business, representation on the independent advisory body referred to in the UK Internal Market White Paper published in July, to report to Parliament on the functioning of that Internal Market. [HL7502]

Lord Callanan: The White Paper sets out proposals for independent functions to support the smooth running of the Internal Market. These proposals are being consulted on, and we encourage the public to share their views on the White Paper proposals through the consultation, which will close on 13 August.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Asked by Baroness Eaton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish the lessons that they learned from allocating funding under the European Social Fund that have influenced the design of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. [HL7084]

Lord Greenhalgh: The Government understands the importance of local growth funding to places and people and is committed to creating the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to succeed European structural funds, providing vital investment in local economies, cutting out bureaucracy and levelling up those parts of the UK whose economies are furthest behind.

The Government has engaged with key stakeholders on the design and priorities of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund since 2016, including holding a series of engagement events across the UK. As we approach the transition from European Social Fund to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, we will continue to engage with partners in order to aid policy development.

Final decisions on the design of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund will need to be made through a cross-Government Spending Review, and we will set out further plans for the fund in due course.

Asked by Lord Foster of Bath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish details (1) of all consultations relating to, and (2) in regard to the operation of, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. [HL7514]

Lord Greenhalgh: The Government has committed to creating the UK Shared Prosperity Fund as the successor to EU structural funds. The fund will bind together the whole of the United Kingdom, tackling inequality and deprivation in each of our four nations. The Government recognises the importance of providing clarity on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Government officials have held 25 engagement events across the UK, attended by over 500 representatives from a breadth of sectors, which has helped inform progress on policy design. The Government looks forward to continuing to work closely with partners as we develop the fund. Final decisions on the allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund will be taken after a cross-government Spending Review.

UK Trade with EU

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to discuss the requirement for export declarations on goods moving between Northern Ireland and Great Britain as part of negotiations on the future UK–EU relationship. [HL7511]

Lord True: As set out in the Command Paper ‘[The UK’s approach to the Northern Ireland Protocol](#)’, we will ensure unfettered access for Northern Ireland goods moving from Northern Ireland to Great Britain, and enshrine this in legislation by the end of the year. The document set out our approach, including that we will not require exit summary declarations on those movements.

UN Interim Force in Lebanon

Asked by Baroness Deech

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of efforts by Hezbollah and the government of Lebanon to impede the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon from carrying out its mandate; and what steps they have taken to raise this at the UN Security Council. [HL7448]

Baroness Sugg: The UK remains concerned by Hizballah's activities within Lebanon which are in clear breach of UN Security Council Resolutions 1509 and 1701. We regularly raise our concerns at the UN Security Council, and call on all parties to abide by the provisions of the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Asked by Lord Marlesford

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many immigrants have been brought to the UK from the sea between France and England by ships controlled or owned by (1) the Government, or (2) their agencies, in each week during 2020. [HL7233]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: We do not routinely publish the information you have requested.

Asked by Lord Marlesford

To ask Her Majesty's Government under what circumstances migrants seeking to travel by sea from France to the UK who are picked up in distress from international waters by UK ships can be returned to France. [HL7235]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The decision as to where to take a person rescued in international waters is a matter for the Coastguard who are responsible for that rescue zone and the master of the ship which has picked them up.

Usually persons will be taken to the nearest safe Port or the home Ports of the rescuing vessel (particularly if a Lifeboat) but there are many factors which could come into play such as any immediate medical or welfare issues.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Asked by Baroness Stern

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Goldie on 18 June (HL5486), whether it is their policy not to answer questions about the deployment of RAF Reaper drones; and if so, when this policy was agreed. [HL7182]

Baroness Goldie: There is no policy to not answer questions about the deployment of RAF REAPER drones. However, there is a long standing policy not to comment on operational matters where the disclosure of information would increase the risk to intelligence and operational security.

Asked by Baroness Stern

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent progress they have made on the Zephyr High-Altitude Pseudo-Satellite programme, following the reported mishaps in 2019. [HL7183]

Baroness Goldie: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is sponsoring a High-Altitude Pseudo-Satellite (HAPS) Operational Concept Demonstrator (OCD) utilising the Airbus Defence and Space (ADS) Zephyr platform to explore the utility of this cutting edge and novel technology.

There are always setbacks when you push the boundaries of technology to explore future concepts. The unfortunate incidents in 2019 led to investigations being carried out by the relevant authorities and ADS have taken the findings and implemented improvements. ADS planned to demonstrate these improvements during the HAPS OCD this summer, but trials have been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. The MOD continue to work with Airbus to progress the OCD and to identify further opportunities for demonstration in order to fully explore the utility of HAPS.

UNRWA: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with UNWRA about any additional funding required to meet costs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic; and what assessment they have made of the decision of the governments of Germany and Italy to increase contributions to that organisation. [HL6992]

Baroness Sugg: We are aware of increasing needs in the region due to the impact COVID-19, including in Palestinian refugee camps and continue to monitor the situation closely. We are currently reviewing options for support to UNRWA and recognise the central role it plays in the region until a just solution is found for refugees. Until that time, we support all efforts to increase funding to UNRWA, including from key partners such as Germany and Italy.

USA: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether those arriving into England from the United States must self-isolate for 14 days upon arrival; and if not, why not. [HL7525]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Currently, all arrivals from the US must self-isolate for 14 days on arrival.

USA: Nuclear Weapons

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that the government of the United States has plans to conduct a demonstration nuclear test explosion. [HL6999]

Baroness Sugg: The US Government has assured us that they have no intention of conducting a demonstration nuclear test explosion. On 16 July, in a White House speech, President Trump noted that '[s]ince 1992, the US observed a moratorium on such testing and have relied on the scientific and technological expertise of our weapons complex to ensure our deterrent is safe, secure, and effective. True to our word, we maintain our moratorium'.

USA: West Africa

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to recent violent street protests against the government of Mali, what assessment they have made of the current security situation in Mali; what representations they have received from the government of the United States about a decision on the status of US armed forces in West Africa since January; and whether they have further reviewed the impact of any possible withdrawal of US armed forces on UK armed forces deployed in West Africa. [HL7169]

Baroness Sugg: The UK is deeply concerned about the deteriorating security situation across the Sahel, including in Mali. The current political crisis in Mali adds another layer of complexity to an already fragile situation. We urge all actors to exercise restraint, respect human rights and the rule of law and engage constructively in efforts to find a peaceful resolution. We welcome swift engagement by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to encourage progress.

The current situation further underlines the need to address the underlying drivers of conflict in Mali and the broader region. The UK is contributing to international efforts to do this. The Minister for Africa attended the first meeting of the Sahel Alliance General Assembly and the sixth Summit of the G5 Leaders (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger) in Mauritania on 25 February and the virtual ministerial meeting of the Coalition for the Sahel on 12 June. At the meetings, he reaffirmed the UK's efforts to improve security and encourage development in the Sahel. The UK is due to deploy to the UN peacekeeping mission in Mali (MINUSMA) at the end of the year and provides non-combat assistance to the French-led counter-terrorism mission Operation BARKHANE, in the form of three CH47 chinook helicopters. Our aid provides life-saving assistance to those most in need, helps ensure the protection of

civilians, and contributes to improving governance and stability in the region.

We closely coordinate with our key partners, including the US and France. No decisions on the status of US forces in West Africa have been formally communicated to the UK Government by the US Government. We assess that any possible withdrawal of US forces would have a minimal impact on our deployed forces, but we will keep this under close review.

Vaccination: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that there will be an equitable distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine among developing nations, if such a vaccine is developed in the UK. [HL7229]

Baroness Sugg: As the world grapples with the burden of the COVID-19 pandemic, the UK has been clear that equitable global distribution of a vaccine will be the best defence, enable collective recovery and reduce the risk of repeat outbreaks.

The UK is supporting the COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC) which aims to ensure access to COVID-19 vaccines in developing countries. At the Global Vaccine Summit, which the Prime Minister hosted on 4th June, the UK repurposed £48 million to the AMC. At the Summit, AstraZeneca also announced a commitment of 300 million doses of the University of Oxford candidate vaccine to the COVAX facility.

The COVAX AMC will incentivise vaccine manufacturers to produce sufficient quantities of eventual COVID-19 vaccines and to ensure access for the world's poorest countries. Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, and the World Health Organization are working together to ensure that the vaccines are affordable and available equitably. Through the deal with AstraZeneca, the University of Oxford COVID-19 vaccine candidate have been committed towards the COVAX Facility.

VAT

Asked by Lord Marlesford

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Agnew of Oulton on 20 May (HL4033), what has been the net income to HM Treasury from VAT in each month since March. [HL7296]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: HM Revenue & Customs publish monthly net VAT receipts within the National Statistics release "HMRC tax receipts and National Insurance contributions for the UK". Since March 2020, HM Revenue & Customs have received the following net VAT monthly amounts:

March 2020: £2,362 million

April 2020: -£897 million

May 2020: -£635 million

June 2020: £1,104 million

Net VAT receipts during this period have been affected by the policy measure providing a deferral of VAT payments. This measure allowed UK VAT registered traders to defer VAT payments between 20 March 2020 and 30 June 2020, up until 31 March 2021.

Veterans: Charities

Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to assess the merits of sharing details of service personnel leaving the armed forces with veterans' charities. [HL7331]

Baroness Goldie: Every year around 15,000 Service personnel leave the Armed Forces, with the vast majority making a successful transition back into civilian life without any requirement for additional support, including from Service charities. The Government has no plans to share details of these leavers with the charity sector, given the lack of clear purpose and legal basis for doing so, and recognising the administrative burden it would place on both the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and charities.

However, for those Service leavers and veterans who do require support, the MOD's Veterans' Welfare Service and Defence Transition Services have a strong collaborative relationship with charities. We regularly work together to share information, when it is appropriate to do so and consent has been given, on behalf of those veterans who do require support.

We are committed to ensuring that it is as easy as possible for veterans and their families to access the right support. We are continually exploring ways to enhance and improve collaboration with the third sector and other partners in the interests of veterans.

Veterans: Prison Sentences

Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many armed forces veterans are currently serving a custodial sentence. [HL7330]

Lord Keen of Elie: Since January 2015, Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service has actively been recording service in the Armed Forces as part of the screening process for newly received prisoners into custody.

A breakdown of experimental statistics published in October 2019 indicates that as of 30 June 2019, there were 1,833 prisoners serving a custodial sentence in England and Wales that have declared they have been a member of the armed services.

The department is due to release the next estimate of the total number of ex-armed services in October 2020 which will include data as of 30 June 2020.

The Ministry of Justice remains committed to encouraging people in the criminal justice system to declare service in the Armed Forces, as early as possible or at any point whilst serving their sentence. This enables them to access the support available, whether that is in custody or the community.

Viagogo

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they are providing to those who have been refused refunds for cancelled events by the ticket resale site Viagogo. [HL7290]

Lord Callanan: Under consumer protection law where a cancellation occurs, consumers may be entitled to a refund within 14 days, depending on the nature of the contract in place. Some businesses are also offering consumers alternative arrangements which individuals are able to choose should they wish. Consumers who paid by debit or credit card for an event, may also be able to secure a refund from their bank or credit card provider.

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has created a Covid-19 taskforce and set up an online form to enable consumers to report any business they believe is behaving unfairly during the coronavirus pandemic. The online form can be found on the CMA's website. The CMA also announced on 30th April that in response to complaints about refunds they would be considering enforcement action in a number of sectors.

The CMA has published guidance to help consumers understand their rights and to help businesses treat their customers fairly. The guidance, "Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, consumer contracts, cancellations and refunds" is available on the CMA's website.

Consumers can also seek free advice and help from the Citizens Advice consumer service on 0808 223 1133, consumers living in Scotland should contact Advice Direct Scotland on 0808 800 9060 or through their website.

Visas: Voluntary Work

Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the current Tier 5 Visa arrangements for non-EU citizens to be engaged as volunteers by registered sponsoring organisations for periods of up to a year will be extended to include EU citizens; and if not, what plans they have to put in place alternative arrangements to enable non-EU and EU citizens to volunteer in social care settings in the UK after 31 December. [HL7157]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The current Tier 5 charity visa enables people from outside the EU to come to the UK to undertake unpaid charity work. Migrants on this route are also permitted to undertake a second job in the same sector at the same level as their main job for up to 20 hours per week. These arrangements will be

extended to EEA citizens as part of the future points-based migration system.

We very much value the role many who have come to this country play in our healthcare sector, but we will not be introducing a general route for employers to seek cheaper labour from abroad, be those employees or volunteers.

The Migration Advisory Committee is clear that a solution to recruitment issues in social care cannot just be solved via the UK's immigration system. Employers need to invest in technology, innovation and their existing workforce, focusing on making jobs more attractive for UK workers, not just looking to the migration system.

The Government is supporting the care sector in different ways, including through additional funding and launching a national recruitment campaign.

Wandsworth Prison: Video Conferencing

Asked by Lord Wasserman

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the pilot at HMP Wandsworth of the video link booking system developed by the Ministry of Justice to allow both prison and court users to book slots with the Video Conference Centre to minimise the need to interact via telephone or emails has been completed; what lessons have been learned from that pilot to date; and what plans they have to publish any such lessons. [HL7250]

Lord Keen of Elie: The pilot for the book a video link service (BVLS) went live at HMP Wandsworth and all associated courts on 31 March 2020. It has now completed, and we are gathering data and feedback from users in both prisons and courts. This will be shared with partners and stakeholders in due course. Early indications suggest the BVLS has been positively received. Once the feedback exercise has been completed in the autumn, we will consider rolling out the BVLS at further sites.

Westminster Foundation for Democracy: Directors

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to ensure that members of the board of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy are not compromised in that role by association with states whose governments (1) are undemocratic, and (2) fail to adhere to legally-binding international treaties to which they are party. [HL7316]

Baroness Sugg: The Government already has measures in place to ensure that members of the board of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) are not compromised in the work that they do as board members. The Government expects all holders of public office to work to the highest personal and professional standards. In support of this, all non-executive board members of UK public bodies must abide by the principles set out in the Code of Conduct for Board Members of Public

Bodies. WFD Board members must also abide by the terms and conditions set out in the FCO-WFD Framework Agreement, which includes the need to comply at all times with the Code of Conduct. They are asked to disclose any relevant interests on an annual basis and any conflicts of interest at each board meeting. Additionally, to ensure there are no conflicts of interest when appointing members to an arms-length body listed on the Public Appointments Order in Council, such as the WFD, all government departments must follow the processes set out in the Governance Code on Public Appointments.

Westminster Foundation for Democracy: Expenditure

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are (1) the sources, and (2) the amounts, of funding received by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy in the latest financial year for which figures are available; what steps they plan to take to ensure that funding is made available through that Foundation to promote democratic engagement in Hong Kong; what plans they to support through (1) that Foundation, and (2) other means, (a) the costs of the legal defence of pro-democracy demonstrators in Hong Kong, and (b) where appropriate, the cost of their travel to seek refuge in the UK. [HL7315]

Baroness Sugg: The Westminster Foundation for Democracy's (WFD) funding comes from a combination of grants provided by institutional donors, such as the DFID Accountable Grant, and the FCO. Details are set out in the WFD's Annual Report and Accounts, which can be found online. The UK remains fully committed to upholding Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy and rights and freedoms, including freedom of speech and assembly which are guaranteed under the Joint Declaration and 'One Country, Two Systems' framework.

Windrush Generation: Anniversaries

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they are planning to celebrate Windrush Day on 22 June; how the Immigration Bill will assist in dismantling the 'hostile environment' towards immigrants; and whether the Bill is designed to restore the UK's reputation as a welcoming and friendly international nation. [HL5519]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government remains committed to ensuring that 22 June is a day of celebration and recognition for the Windrush generation and their descendants. 2020 saw the second provision of an annual £500,000 grant to support celebrations on 22 June as well as longer term projects to ensure a lasting legacy for the Windrush generation. Earlier in the year, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government approved funding to be allocated among 49 charities, community groups and local authorities. In

response to the COVID-19 outbreak, officials worked with grantees to deliver their project outcomes through online or virtual means to coincide with Windrush Day, and by postponing some delivery until later in the year where necessary.

The Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) also worked with community stakeholders to mark Windrush Day appropriately online and in the media.

The Government is committed to a firm, fair and humane immigration policy which welcomes and celebrates those here lawfully, deters individuals from placing themselves at risk of harm and exploitation in the hands of people smugglers and protects the taxpayer.

In common with other comparable countries, the UK has in place a framework of laws, policies and administrative arrangements, introduced under successive governments ensuring access to work benefits and services is permitted for those with the right access to them.

The Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill is primarily focused on ending the EU's rules on free movement of persons following the UK's exit from the EU. It does not deal with general immigration matters.

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what assessment they have made of the efficiency of the rate of compensation payments to those affected by the Windrush Scandal; and what targets they have set for compensating the individuals involved. [HL5621]

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government why Anthony Bryan is yet to receive full compensation under the Windrush Compensation Scheme. [HL5622]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office is 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. Wherever possible, the Home Office makes interim payments on parts of the claim that are straightforward to determine, such as immigration fees, thereby speeding up the provision of compensation.

The most recently published statistics on the payments made under the Windrush Compensation Scheme show a clear increasing trajectory of payments: £362,997 paid in the first 12 months of the scheme, of which £300,799 was paid in the most recent three months of that period. These are available to view on GOV.UK at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-compensation-scheme-data-may-2020>.

The Home Secretary also announced on 15 July that over £1.5m has now been offered in compensation to

claimants. Once the offers are accepted by the applicants, the payments will be made.

The Home Office does not disclose information about individual cases.

Windrush Lessons Learned Review

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the statement by the Home Secretary on 21 July (HC Deb, col 2022), what are the terms of reference for the evaluation of the compliant environment policy and measures; whether that evaluation will be designed in partnership with external experts as recommended in the report by Wendy Williams Windrush Lessons Learned Review, published in March; when that evaluation is due to be completed; and whether the findings of that review will be made public. [HL7295]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: As the Home Secretary set out on 21 July, it is right that those with no legal right to be in this country are not allowed to exploit the system, but the right protections must be in place for those who status should have been assured. We will undertake a full evaluation of the compliant environment policy and measures – individually and cumulatively - to make sure this crucial balance is right. This is a complex area of policy and scoping of this work has begun, including on the detail of the evaluation. More information will be available in due course.

Wines: Imports

Asked by Lord Moynihan

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made, if any, on developing a new IT system for pre-lodgement for the wine trade to assist movement through roll-on roll-off ports after 31 December. [HL7376]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: HMRC's IT delivery of the Goods Vehicle Movement Service (GVMS) is expected to be ready from January 2021.

Asked by Lord Moynihan

To ask Her Majesty's Government to list the laboratories accredited to provide analysis for consignments of EU wine over 100 litres brought into the UK from 1 January 2021. [HL7377]

Asked by Lord Moynihan

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to require that all consignments of EU wine over 100 litres brought into the UK from 1 January 2021 are accompanied by both a stamp from a 'competent authority' and an analysis from an accredited laboratory; and, if so, to define what is a 'competent authority' in the context of EU VI-1 forms. [HL7378]

Asked by Lord Moynihan

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have estimated costs for the laboratory tests required to import EU wine into the UK from 1 January 2021. [HL7379]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 retains the existing requirements for consignments of third country wine, consisting of 100 litres and over, to be accompanied by a VI-1 document. This will apply to wine from EU Member States from 1 January 2021. Along with consignments of less than 100 litres, other exemptions include personal imports or wine intended for trade shows.

It is the responsibility of the exporting country to provide the details of its designated competent authority and authorised laboratories.

As VI-1 analysis is required to be carried out by the country of origin prior to wine entering Great Britain, we have not made any estimated cost for this analysis.

Asked by Lord Moynihan

To ask Her Majesty's Government what (1) labelling requirements, (2) tariffs, (3) reimbursements, and (4) processes, will be required for importing EU wine into Northern Ireland from 1 January 2021. [HL7380]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: From 1 January 2021, EU labelling and marketing standards for wine will apply in Northern Ireland under the NI Protocol. Her Majesty's Government intends to achieve a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the EU by December 2020 that will clarify the situation for tariffs and reimbursements. The Political Declaration aims for the agreement to be a zero tariff and zero quota FTA and we are working hard to achieve this.

Asked by Lord Moynihan

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to accept EU organic certification on imported wines after the end of the transition period; and what assessment they have made of whether such acceptance is likely to be reciprocated by the EU. [HL7541]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The UK is negotiating an equivalence arrangement with the EU as part of the Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement. In addition, the six UK organic control bodies have applied to the Commission for recognition as equivalent. We are confident that through one of these routes we will be able to export organic food, drinks, feed and ingredients to the EU.

Asked by Lord Moynihan

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to issue best practice guidance on (1) business travel as part of the wine trade, and (2) the carrying of EU wine samples across borders, after the end of the transition period. [HL7542]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: There are no plans to issue specific guidance for business travel as part of the wine trade. As I mentioned in my response to the Noble Lord's Question, HL7378, the exemptions for VI-1 certification include consignments of less than 100 litres and wine intended for trade shows.

Working Hours

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to encourage and support firms in reducing working hours in an equitable manner while avoiding redundancies, on a model similar to the German Kurzarbeit scheme. [HL7324]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The Government is committed to ensuring that people are able to return to work in a manner that is sustainable and adjustable to the reopening of the economy.

The Government therefore introduced flexible furloughing from 1 July. Firms can now bring back employees that have been furloughed for any amount of time and any shift pattern, while still being able to claim Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme grants for the hours not worked, with no minimum furlough period.

It is right that state support is slowly reduced and the focus shifts to getting furloughed employees back to work. As such, from August 2020, the level of the grant will be slowly tapered to reflect that people will be returning to work. Employees will continue to receive 80% of wages up to a cap of £2,500 when furloughed.

While other countries have announced similar schemes, the UK response remains among the most comprehensive.

World Health Organisation: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support the World Health Organisation in their work to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL6975]

Lord Bethell: The United Kingdom continues to have a strong and committed relationship with the World Health Organization (WHO), which has an important role to play in leading the global health response to COVID-19, and works closely with them at country, regional and global levels. The UK is the second largest member state donor to the WHO and has already contributed £75 million to help the WHO lead the international efforts to stop the spread of the virus.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bethell on 22 July (HL6754), whether any agencies or other departments, including, but not limited to, the Armed Forces and security services, have undertaken any assessment of the recent statements made by Dr Li-Meng Yan about

(1) the origins of COVID-19, and (2) the response of the World Health Organisation; if not, why not; and whether they intend to call for an independent inquiry to be conducted into the conduct of the World Health Organisation on this issue. [HL7314]

Lord Bethell: The United Kingdom believes that the World Health Organization (WHO) has an important role to play in leading the health response to COVID-19 and in longer-term leadership in global health including preparedness. We also want to see the WHO continue to learn lessons on how to improve its response to global health emergencies and as such would expect a full review of all elements of their response once they are out of response mode, as has occurred after previous Public Health Emergencies of International Concern. The WHO has confirmed a review will take place and we will continue to work closely with them and other international partners to ensure this is wide-ranging and robust.

World Heritage Sites

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made with regard to the applications for World Heritage Status for (1) Chatham Dockyard and its Defences, (2) Creswell Crags, (3) Darwin's Landscape Laboratory, (4) Flow Country, (5) Great Spas of Europe, (6) Island of St Helena, (7) Mousa, Old Scatness and Jarlshof: the Zenith of Iron Age Shetland, (8) Slate Industry of North Wales, (9) The Twin Monastery of Wearmouth Jarrow, and (10) Turks and Caicos Islands. [HL7430]

Baroness Barran: UNESCO World Heritage inscription is recognition that a cultural or natural site is of Outstanding Universal Value to humanity. As such, the process for achieving this status is highly rigorous. Each State Party to the World Heritage Convention is responsible for maintaining a tentative list of sites from which nominations may be developed.

The sites mentioned in this question are all on the UK's current tentative list. As each country may only nominate a maximum of one site per year from this list, the UK government will only submit nominations which clearly demonstrate that a site meets the criteria, authenticity, integrity and management required. In January 2020, the Government nominated the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales to UNESCO for potential inscription in 2021. The Great Spas of Europe, which includes Bath, was nominated in 2019 alongside 11 other spa towns throughout Europe and will be considered for inscription at the next World Heritage Committee meeting. Additionally, the Flow Country has passed a UK expert evaluation, and now may proceed to develop a nomination. Other sites on this list are at earlier stages in the process, or have determined that they do not intend to move forward with the development of a nomination at this stage.

Written Questions

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of questions for written answer tabled by members of the House of Lords that have not been answered within the required timeframe; and why those questions have not yet received an answer. [HL7393]

Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: As of 30th July, there have been 7,372 QWAs tabled this session in comparison, a total of 6,266 QWAs were tabled in the whole of 2019. All departments have been working extremely hard in difficult and unprecedented circumstances. My office is in regular contact with departments about late responses. Additionally, I remind my ministerial colleagues of the need to provide timely answers to written questions and have received assurances that any backlogs are being worked through.

Wylfa Power Station: Development Consent Orders

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they estimate the development consent order for the proposed nuclear power station at Wylfa Newydd will be approved. [HL7001]

Lord Callanan: My Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State is considering the Examining Authority's Recommendation Report regarding development consent for the proposed Wylfa Newydd nuclear power station. This Report is being reviewed alongside the further information received following the Government's post-examination consultation on the application. The deadline for the Secretary of State's decision is 30 September 2020.

Zimbabwe: Humanitarian Situation

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe. [HL7032]

Baroness Sugg: The UK is extremely concerned about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe. Before the onset of COVID-19, Zimbabwe was already facing a humanitarian crisis due to drought, poor government policies and a worsening economy. According to the World Food Programme's latest estimates, by December more than half the population – 8.6 million Zimbabweans – will be without the food they need. In response, the UK has committed £49m to provide humanitarian food aid and cash transfers, as well as £5m for the UNICEF cholera fund. To date, 448,000 extremely vulnerable people have received food assistance and 100,000 living in urban areas have received cash transfers

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