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**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

Written Statements	1
Written Answers.....	5

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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, Commonwealth and Development Office
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 and Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
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 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, Commonwealth and Development Office
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

Monday, 26 October 2020

Annual Fisheries Negotiations 2020: UK Priorities and Objectives

[HLWS531]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: My Hon Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Farming, Fisheries and Food) (Victoria Prentis) has today made the following statement.

The UK is now entering into a period of annual fisheries negotiations to agree fishing opportunities and access to waters for the 2021 fishing year. We will be doing that as an independent coastal state for the first time in over 40 years. It is an important milestone as we leave the Common Fisheries Policy, and one which warrants this update to the House.

Our aim across all annual fisheries negotiations will be to work closely with our counterparts in the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish governments to secure the best outcomes for the whole of the UK fishing industry and for our marine environment.

We will be participating in a range of annual fisheries negotiations. The UK will be taking its seat at the coastal states negotiations for key pelagic species; participating in multilateral organisations like the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), which we have already joined along with the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), and conducting our own bilateral negotiations to set 2021 opportunities and agree access to waters for next year with partners like Norway, the Faroe Islands, and the EU.

With Norway and the Faroe Islands, we have already agreed new fisheries frameworks to underpin bilateral negotiations and the former has already been signed and laid before the House. We are seeking to negotiate a fisheries framework agreement with the EU. This is proving a difficult negotiation and the UK and EU positions are very far apart, principally because the EU has not yet accepted the implications of our future status as an independent coastal state. Negotiations are continuing and updates will be shared with the House as available.

In all fisheries negotiations we will ensure that our actions are founded on the best available scientific advice. We will aim to deliver sustainability improvements—safeguarding our natural marine assets for future generations. Our landmark Fisheries Bill enshrines in legislation the Government's commitment to sustainable fishing, and it is right that we make this a cornerstone of our negotiating positions.

Through the negotiations we will look to support our vital UK fishing industry, not only through securing additional quotas but also by continuing to support the

elimination of illegal and harmful discarding. Again, our UK-wide approach will ensure we consider the needs of the fishing industries of all devolved nations, and the Crown Dependencies, in negotiations.

Finally, and underpinning all our negotiations, we will be seeking to maximise the benefits of our new status as an independent coastal State. We will decide who can access UK waters to fish and on what terms; and we will negotiate access for UK fleets to fish in other countries' waters on terms that suit us. Through friendly cooperation as sovereign equals, we will improve management of shared fish stocks with benefits for the wider marine environment and the long-term future of the UK fishing industry.

Citizens' Rights: Withdrawal Agreement Implementation

[HLWS533]

Baroness Sugg: My Hon Friend the Minister for the European Neighbourhood and the Americas (Wendy Morton MP) has made the following statement.

The Withdrawal Agreement provides citizens with the certainty they need about their rights now that the UK has left the EU. It protects the rights of EU citizens in the UK, UK nationals in the EU and their family members who are lawfully resident by the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020. It ensures they can continue to live, work, study and access benefits and services, such as healthcare, broadly as they do now. The Government remains committed to ensuring the correct and timely implementation of the Citizens' Rights part of the Withdrawal Agreement in the UK and continues to work with EU Member States to ensure they undertake the same implementation for UK nationals. We also have similar citizens' rights agreements with the EEA EFTA States and Switzerland.

Implementation for EU citizens in the UK

In the UK, EU citizens and their family members with both settled and pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme have secured their rights in UK law. The EU Settlement Scheme is a success and as of 30 September 2020, over 4 million applications have been received, of which nearly 3.8 million grants of status have already been made. The Government has taken early action to protect the rights of EU citizens in the UK and there is plenty of time left to apply before the deadline of 30 June 2021. A Frontier Workers' Permit Scheme is also being established with an opening date due to be announced shortly.

Work to operationalise the provisions relating to social security coordination, are also advanced. Operational guidance will also be published to aid frontline staff in determining entitlements to benefits and healthcare in scope of the social security coordination provisions in the Withdrawal Agreement.

The Government is also on track to establish the Independent Monitoring Authority for the citizens rights' agreements that will monitor the UK's compliance with

the Citizens' Rights part of the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement in the UK and Gibraltar. Information on its functions have recently been published on gov.uk.

Implementation for UK nationals in the EU

The Government has been working closely with EU Member States on implementation for UK nationals in the EU throughout the transition period. The Specialised Committee on Citizens' Rights has already met three times to monitor the implementation and application of the Citizens' Rights part of the Withdrawal Agreement in both the UK and the EU. Joint statements from each of these meetings have been published on gov.uk.

The EU Settlement Scheme in the UK has been fully open since 30 March 2019. Throughout the transition period, we have sought application windows, beyond the minimum six-month window, in the thirteen Member States that will require UK nationals and their family members to apply for a new residence status. The Government is pleased to announce that all thirteen Member States have responded positively and UK nationals and will have at least eight months to apply and significantly longer in some Member States. Full details can be found on the 'Living in Guides' on gov.uk.

The remaining fourteen Member States will operate a declaratory system, whereby rights under the Withdrawal Agreement are conferred automatically by operation of the law, for individuals that meet the conditions of the Withdrawal Agreement. As is already the case, UK nationals should ensure they are correctly registered in their Member State of residence.

The Government will publish a full list of Member State frontier worker systems on gov.uk before the end of the transition period.

The Government continues to work with the EU on clear and consistent communications and comprehensive support for the vulnerable. We are reaching out directly to UK nationals in the EU through our network of Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates at town hall events and online to ensure all UK nationals and their family members are aware of any actions they may need to take in the Member State where they have made their home.. Our 'Living in Guides' on gov.uk, which cover the EU and EFTA States, are the principal source of guidance for UK nationals in the EU, including their rights under the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement. They provide the latest information and actions that UK nationals may need to take and signpost to Member State and EU guidance where relevant.

Readiness for the end of the transition period

Looking to the end of the transition period and beyond, the Government published an "explainer" on gov.uk on 19 October 2020 to help EU citizens in the UK and UK nationals in the EU understand their rights and how they are protected by the Withdrawal Agreement.

The Government is also pleased to confirm that a Joint Report on Residency, produced by the Specialised Committee on Citizens' Rights has, today, been published

on gov.uk and placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The Joint Report provides comprehensive details of residency systems in the UK and the EU, including details of application deadlines and the number of EU citizens in the UK and UK nationals in the EU who have secured their rights. It is the Government's intention to publish updates to the Joint Report throughout 2021 in order to provide additional assurance that citizens' rights are being upheld.

The Government will continue to work closely with the EU and Member States to ensure that citizens' rights are protected and individuals are aware of any steps may need to take to secure their rights and access the entitlements that flow from those rights in the future. Further details on the progress of implementing the Citizens' Rights part of the Withdrawal Agreement will be made available to Parliament.

Commonwealth Games 2022: Transport Plan

[HLWS534]

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

The 2022 Commonwealth Games, held in Birmingham, will be the biggest sporting and cultural event that the city and the region have ever seen. With an estimated television audience of 1.5 billion people, it will showcase Birmingham, the West Midlands and the entire country as an amazing place to live, work, study, visit and do business.

Effective transport helps local communities and supports local economies. We are investing in transport across the region including over £320m of Transforming Cities Fund funding to support local transport projects in the West Midlands.

We know that putting in place effective transport provision is a crucial part of any major sporting event and requires detailed planning and coordination. A well understood and supported Transport Plan is therefore essential.

The Birmingham Commonwealth Games Act 2020 (the "Act"), which received Royal Assent on 25th June, includes a number of transport measures and places the Games Transport Plan on a statutory footing, awarding it appropriate weight and authority.

Today, I am delighted to inform the House that, in line with s.25(1) of the Act, I have directed the West Midlands Combined Authority to prepare a Games Transport Plan for the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

The Games will be delivered in a much shorter time than other Games: in just four and a half years, rather than the typical seven. Local partners in Birmingham and the West Midlands are already leading the transport preparations for the Games.

The Games Transport Plan is an integral measure, which will set out a strategic approach to planning and coordination of transport to support the Games; covering

the transportation of spectators, athletes and the Games Family, whilst at the same time ensuring that any disruption to transport users is kept to a minimum.

When complete a copy of the final Games Transport Plan will be placed in the libraries of both Houses.

Office for Environmental Protection: Contingencies Fund Advance

[HLWS530]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: My Right Hon Friend the Secretary of State (George Eustice) has today made the following statement.

Defra has sought a repayable cash advance from the Contingencies Fund of £536,000.

The requirement has arisen because there is an urgent requirement to proceed with setting up the Office for Environmental Protection in advance of Royal Assent of the Environment Bill.

Under Managing Public Money rules, expenditure to make preparation for the delivery of a new service prior to Royal Assent requires an advance from the Contingencies Fund. The cash advance will pay for essential set up expenditure for IT, corporate services, estates, finance, recruitment and other HR costs that are needed for establishing for the Office of Environmental Protection. The need to spend now in advance of Royal Assent is driven by the necessary timelines associated with recruitment, procurement and set up which are expected to take several months. This will ensure that the Office for Environmental Protection can be brought into operation and begin exercising its statutory functions as soon as practical after Royal Assent of the Environment Bill.

Parliamentary approval for additional resources of £536,000 for this new service will be sought in an Estimate for Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £536,000 will be met by repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund.

This contingencies fund advance is in addition to the £215,000 notified to Parliament on 21 July 2020 to cover essential spend including public appointments and minimal staff recruitment.

Qualification Reform

[HLWS535]

Baroness Berridge: My right honourable friend the Minister of State for School Standards has made the following written ministerial statement on Friday 23 October.

Teacher Recruitment and Retention Strategy, published in January 2019, committed to a range of measures to help great people become teachers. One such measure is the introduction of a new application system for initial teacher training in England. This system will be easier to use and designed to better meet the needs of potential trainees. The new service will also support universities

and schools delivering teacher training in making accurate decisions on whether their applicants are right for their courses.

During the October 2019 admissions cycle, this digital service was piloted by a number of School Centred Initial Teacher Training providers and schools across England, and has been designed and improved based on feedback from candidates, universities and schools delivering teacher training.

I confirm that from October 2020 the pilot will be extended to selected universities that deliver initial teacher training courses in England.

The new service will fully replace the existing UCAS Teacher Training service for postgraduate applications in England from the October 2021 admissions cycle.

UK-Japan Free Trade Agreement: Signing

[HLWS532]

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

On Friday 23rd October Japan's Foreign Minister Motegi Toshimitsu and I are signing the UK-Japan Partnership Agreement in Tokyo. This is the first trade deal that the UK has struck as an independent trading nation.

This British shaped deal goes beyond the existing EU agreement with major wins for all parts of the UK in areas such as digital and data, financial services, food and drink and creative industries. This deal could boost trade between the UK and Japan by £15.7 billion and drive economic growth in the long run.

The agreement also includes a strong commitment from Japan to support the UK joining the Comprehensive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) meaning closer ties with 11 Pacific countries in one of the world's biggest free trade areas, covering 13% of the global economy in 2018 and more than £110bn of trade in 2019.

The Government is committed to transparency and the effective scrutiny of our trade negotiations. Following my Written Ministerial Statement of 12 October, I can announce that at the earliest possible opportunity today the Department for International Trade and the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office will be formally presenting the signed treaty text and related documents electronically to Parliament. They will subsequently be published on GOV.UK.

The documents being laid in Parliament today are the UK-Japan Partnership Agreement treaty text, Explanatory Memorandum and Parliamentary Report, which provides an explanation of the Partnership Agreement, including any significant differences or enhancements from the EU-Japan Agreement. An independently verified impact assessment of the UK-Japan Partnership Agreement, will also be deposited in the House Library.

While the Government is formally laying the treaty text electronically in Parliament today, the Constitutional

Reform and Governance (CRaG) Act scrutiny procedure will not commence until 2 November, when the House of Commons returns from recess. Laying today ahead of the commencement of CRaG ensures that the House has the maximum amount of time to scrutinise the detail of the UK-Japan Partnership Agreement.

Wylfa Newydd Nuclear Power Station: Decision Deadline Extension

[HLWS529]

Lord Callanan: My Rt hon Friend, the Minister for Business, Energy and Clean Growth (Kwasi Kwarteng) made the following statement on Friday:

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 Secretary of State had previously reset the deadline for the application for the Wylfa Newydd Nuclear Power Station to 30 September 2020.

Following the announcement that its ultimate parent company, Hitachi Ltd., was ending business operations in respect of the Wylfa Newydd Nuclear Power Station, Horizon Nuclear Power Wylfa Limited wrote to the Secretary of State requesting that he reset the deadline for his decision on the application until 31 December 2020 so that it could ascertain its options for the project.

The Secretary of State has agreed to that request and has therefore set a new deadline for deciding the application of 31 December 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

Monday, 26 October 2020

Academic Year: Coronavirus

Asked by *Lord Porter of Spalding*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to finish the winter school term early in order to ensure that children can be isolated in their family groups, ahead of any extended family gatherings that may take place in line with social distancing regulations. [HL9059]

Baroness Berridge: The department does not currently have plans to make changes to school holidays. We will keep this under review.

As usual, parents should plan their holidays within school and college holidays and avoid seeking permission to take children out of school during term time.

Attendance at school is vital for children's education and wellbeing, particularly for the most disadvantaged. Time out of school leads to lost learning now but will also affect children's ability to learn in future.

Agriculture Bill 2019-21

Asked by *Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made any assessment of the estimated costs arising from an amendment agreed to by the House of Lords to the Agriculture Bill; and if so, (1) how, and (2) whether they publish that estimate. [HL9226]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Government's assessment of the estimated costs of Lords Amendment 18 to the Agriculture Bill was published in the explanatory notes to the Lords Amendments to that Bill.

Air Traffic

Asked by *Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent estimate they have made of the increase in air traffic over the next (1) 10 years, (2) 20 years, and (3) 30 years; what sources of information were used as the basis for any such forecasts; and what plans they have to revise those forecasts further to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL9061]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: 'UK Aviation Forecasts 2017' is still our latest forecast. Its aim is to provide a strategic longer-term, instead of short-term, view on demand growth over the next few decades.

The current level of uncertainty makes the production of a new long-term forecast unfeasible at present. For the shorter term, we are proactively monitoring the current/evolving situation and engaging regularly with the

industry on their forecasts and will consider updates to the long term model when it is practical to do so.

Observed UK aviation passenger and Air Transport Movement demand is based primarily on data from the Civil Aviation Authority. The forecast of this demand is determined by key drivers, such as GDP and fares, and the estimated relationships between such drivers and passenger demand. Detailed information can be found in the published UK Aviation Forecasts 2017 on DfT's website.

Asylum

Asked by *Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what costs have been occurred so far in this financial year as a result of any increase in the number of people arriving in the UK by boat in order to claim asylum. [HL9029]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Whilst the numbers of people arriving in the UK by illegally-facilitated small boats have increased this financial year, numbers of those arriving by other illegal means, such as air, have fallen.

The Home Office publishes data regarding its financial accounts on the GOV.UK website as part of its financial reporting procedures, and also as part of the transparency agenda. The latest report can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/home-office-annual-report-and-accounts-2019-to-2020>.

We do not routinely publish breakdowns of operational Departmental spending, and are unable to provide this information, as it could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Asked by *Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with international partners about changing the criteria for eligibility to claim asylum in the UK. [HL9030]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: To date, the Government has not held discussions with international partners about changing the criteria for eligibility to claim asylum in the UK.

Asked by *Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reduce the number of people awaiting a decision on their asylum claims. [HL9067]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Asylum Operations has been exploring several options to get the system moving again following the outbreak of COVID-19 earlier in the year. There are plans to speed up asylum interviews and decision making with steps being taken to improve efficiency, focusing on process improvements, better quality decisions and transformation.

We are also seeking to put in place temporarily, resource from within the Home Office and other government departments to assist with outstanding

claims, along with other alternatives as a short-term measure.

We are determined to fix our broken asylum system. An asylum system should provide safe haven to those fleeing persecution, oppression or tyranny. But right now, ours enables organised criminals to elbow the most vulnerable to the side.

Which is why the new system will be fairer and firmer. It will be compassionate towards those who need our help, welcoming people through safe and legal routes. And it will stop the exploitation of the broken system by those who come here illegally and often make unfounded or meritless claims to remain.

Attorney General: Senior Civil Servants

Asked by Baroness Kramer

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many BAME civil servants there are at the Attorney General's Office at (1) SCS1, (2) SCS2, (3) SCS3, and (4) SCS4, grade. [HL9045]

Baroness Scott of Bybrook: In line with reporting protocol and for disclosure control purposes, BAME figures for the Attorney General's Office cannot be disclosed due to the small population. The Attorney General's Office has a total of 5 members of staff at SCS1, SCS2, SCS3 and SCS4 grades combined.

Aviation: Travel Restrictions

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of occasions where airlines have chosen to operate a flight contrary to Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office advice in each of the last five years; and what assessment they have made of the impact on the rights of consumers or tour operators to receive a refund if they cancel their booking for the flight concerned. [HL9060]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The operation of flights is a commercial decision for individual airlines and the department does not monitor this. Where a consumer has cancelled a booking, their right to a refund will depend on the contract in place with the airline or travel provider. The Government keeps consumer rights under constant review and has encouraged industry to act fairly, particularly during this current crisis.

Beavers

Asked by Lord Teverson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to extend the reintroduction of beavers into the South West of England in order to encourage the use of natural solutions to improve flood management. [HL9077]

Asked by Lord Teverson

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will fund the reintroduction of beavers into appropriate catchment areas of the South West of England in order (1) to improve local flood resilience, and (2) to promote biodiversity. [HL9078]

Asked by Lord Teverson

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will classify the Eurasian beaver as a native species that can breed and live freely in Great Britain; and if so, (1) when, and (2) under what circumstances, they will do so. [HL9079]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The 25 Year Environment Plan sets out this Government's commitment to providing opportunities for the reintroduction of native species where the benefits for the environment, people and the economy are clear.

We recognise the range of benefits that beavers may provide with regard to flood management, biodiversity, water quality and resilience to climate change. On the 8th of August the Government announced that beavers on the River Otter, the only licensed wild population, would be allowed to remain there permanently and will be allowed to continue to expand their range naturally.

We plan to hold a public consultation early next year on our national approach for beaver reintroduction, and our strategy for the management of the potential negative impacts of this native species in the wild. Natural England, with support from EA, are continuing work to help inform the Government's national approach to the management and release of beaver in England and have been engaging with key stakeholders.

British Overseas Territories: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Risby

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they have provided to British Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies during the COVID-19 pandemic; and whether this support will extend to the provision of vaccinations when trials are concluded. [HL8985]

Baroness Sugg: The UK Government has undertaken a major operation to support the Overseas Territories (OTs) in dealing with COVID-19. Support has been sent to all of the inhabited OTs with the exception of Pitcairn. UK support has enabled seven OTs to start testing for the virus and the others to continue testing when supply routes were cut. Supplies of PPE were sent to ensure no OT ran out. Medical equipment was sent to ensure hospitals could cope when each island was cut off from their usual medical evacuation routes by providing field hospital equipment, medicines, ventilators, CPAPS and other equipment. Expert support was provided in the form of advice from PHE, deployments of medical staff and a remote telemedicine service providing OT clinicians with remote access to clinical advice in the treatment of COVID-19 and other critical conditions. Military teams

were deployed to the Cayman Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands to support with logistics and border security. Flights were arranged by the FCDO to repatriate British nationals to and from the OTs. Emergency budgetary support has been provided to Montserrat, St Helena and Anguilla to keep essential public services running and ensure these OTs can respond to the impacts of the pandemic.

The UK Government has worked closely with the governments of the Crown Dependencies throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. While the Crown Dependencies are responsible for their own emergency planning, response and recovery, the UK has engaged at working and political level with these jurisdictions to support their own efforts to combat COVID-19 and mitigate against its spread on the islands. This has included ensuring that the Crown Dependencies can access UK supply chains for key medicines and medical devices, including PPE and ventilators. The UK will maintain this engagement over the coming months to ensure that the UK can continue to offer support to Crown Dependency governments.

Through the Vaccine Task Force, the UK Government is procuring vaccines on behalf of the Crown Dependencies and OTs, and is working with them to ensure the smooth deployment of a COVID-19 vaccine once a safe and effective one is available.

Care Homes: Coronavirus

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to conduct an inquiry into the use of Do Not Resuscitate orders in care homes for (1) elderly people, and (2) people with learning or cognitive disabilities, during the COVID-19 pandemic; whether NHS England and NHS Improvement plan to publish national guidance on the use of such orders; and if so, when such guidance will be published. [HL8189]

Lord Bethell: The Department has asked the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to review how Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (DNACPR) decisions were used during the coronavirus pandemic, building on concerns that the CQC reported earlier in the year. Interim findings are expected to be reported later this year with a final report in early 2021.

NHS England and NHS Improvement are working on revised, patient-facing guidance on DNACPRs and where to get support. The guidance will be published shortly following consultation with key stakeholders and people with lived experience.

Charitable Donations: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the levels of charitable donations. [HL9191]

Baroness Barran: DCMS has been working closely with the sector to build a strong understanding of the financial and operational impacts of the pandemic.

We're aware that for some charities income streams, including public fundraising and trading income, have been adversely affected by COVID-19. We will continue to work with the sector to understand these impacts and how we can best support their work during the pandemic and through recovery.

China: Human Rights

Asked by Baroness Cox

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 23 September (HL7966), what plans they have to support calls for the establishment of a UN Commission of Inquiry to investigate reported human rights abuses in Xinjiang. [HL9023]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Evidence about the range and extent of human rights violations is well-established, including evidence from the Chinese authorities' own publicly-available government documents and satellite imagery. The UN has made clear recommendations to China, including to release those arbitrarily detained in camps. We have repeatedly called on China to urgently implement those recommendations and allow unfettered access to the High Commissioner for Human Rights and UN experts, most recently on 6 October at the UN Third Committee alongside 38 other countries.

College of Policing: Staff

Asked by Lord Wasserman

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people are employed full-time at the College of Policing; and of those, how many are (1) female and (2) BAME. [HL9090]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: As at 31 March 2020 (the end of the last full financial year), the College of Policing employed 637 people on a full-time basis. Of those, 367 were female and 60 were BAME. These figures include those on secondment, as well as agency staff/contractors.

Countryside

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the speech by the Prime Minister on 6 October where he referenced the "new wild belts" that will "mark the landscape" by 2030, (1) how much of the area of (a) England, (b) Scotland, and (c) Wales they expect that the wild belts will cover; (2) what processes will be used to create them; (3) to what extent will they be in (a) urban areas, and (b) rural areas; and (4) what designations will the wild belts be allocated. [HL9032]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The Prime Minister recently set out his vision for a greener and transformed Britain, with millions of trees, wilder landscapes for people to enjoy and a commitment to protect 30% of land for biodiversity by 2030. We want to strengthen our existing network of protected areas and explore ways of driving up the biodiversity value of these areas.

Implementation of domestic biodiversity is a devolved matter in the UK. In England the Government is introducing a range of new incentives to restore ecosystems and create wilder landscapes including the Nature for Climate Fund, Nature Recovery Fund and the recently launched Green Recovery Challenge Fund.

Our Environment Bill will introduce Local Nature Recovery Strategies, which will provide a spatial planning tool for nature, allowing local government and communities to identify priorities and opportunities for nature recovery across our protected areas, green belts and wider farming landscape. Local authorities and public bodies more generally will be required to have regard to Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

The term ‘wild belt’ has been used to refer generally to wilder areas around towns and cities but adopted most recently in campaigns by the Wildlife Trusts to set a new designation within a reformed planning system.

Just as we want to see more and better access to nature around our towns and cities, the role of planning in further protecting any areas that are being restored should be considered alongside our ambitious planning reforms. The public consultation for the *Planning for the Future* white paper is due to close on 29 October. The Government will be carefully analysing all responses before publishing our response.

Cycling

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to provide support for adults to take up cycling, including for commuting to work. [HL9044]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: On 28 July the Prime Minister launched ambitious plans to boost cycling and walking, with the aim that half of all journeys in towns and cities are cycled or walked by 2030. This includes a £2 billion package of funding for active travel over the next 5 years, which is the largest ever boost for cycling and walking, and will deliver transformational change. The plan includes a number of commitments which will provide support for adults to take up cycling including the roll-out of segregated cycle lanes in towns and cities and offering cycle training to everyone who wants to undertake it, whether free or at a nominal charge.

This support for adult cycling builds on the refreshed Cycle to Work Scheme Guidance published in 2019 which made it easier for employers to provide bicycles and equipment including e-bikes and adapted bikes worth

over £1,000. The Department has also made funding available in the current financial year for adult cycle training, through both the Bikeability scheme and the Access Fund, and has paid £2m to Transport for London to allow cycle training to be delivered to adults in the capital.

Cyprus: Beaches

Asked by Lord Smith of Finsbury

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Turkey about the opening of the Varosi beachfront in Cyprus; and what steps they intend to take to ensure that UN Resolutions 550, 789, and 2537 are upheld. [HL9072]

Baroness Sugg: The UK continues to be concerned by the announcement of 6 October to open the beach within the fenced-off area of Varosha, and the subsequent opening of the beach on 8 October. We have made representations to Turkey through our Embassy in Ankara both prior to and following the announcement. These have been reinforced by conversations held with the Turkish Representative at the UN in New York and with the Turkish Ambassador in London.

In response to the announcement, the UK called for the UN Security Council to hold closed consultations on the matter on 9 October. The UK continues to strongly support the numerous Security Council Resolutions covering the issue of Varosha, notably 550 (1984) and 789 (1992). In this regard, we support the UN Presidential Statement reaffirming its support for the relevant Security Council Resolutions and expressing deep concern regarding the announcement.

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: Senior Civil Servants

Asked by Baroness Kramer

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many BAME civil servants there are at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy at (1) SCS1, (2) SCS2, (3) SCS3, and (4) SCS4, grade. [HL9050]

Lord Callanan: The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy currently employs 21 Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) members of staff at SCS1; 3 at SCS2; 1 at SCS3; and 0 at SCS4.

Department for Education: Senior Civil Servants

Asked by Baroness Kramer

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many BAME civil servants there are at the Department for Education at (1) SCS1, (2) SCS2, (3) SCS3, and (4) SCS4, grade. [HL9046]

Baroness Berridge: The numbers of senior civil servants who have declared their ethnicity as BAME is detailed in the attached table.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL9046_table [HL9046_table.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-10-12/HL9046>

Department of Transport: Consultants

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much was spent on consultancy services by the Department for Transport and its related agencies in the 2019/20 financial year; and what was the (1) cost of, and (2) reason for, each such contract. [HL9015]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Department for Transport and its Executive Agencies spent £77.5m in the financial year 2019/20 on consultancy services.

The Department publishes details of all spend above £25000 on Gov.uk and this includes details of consultancy contracts. The main areas for spend for consultancy were within rail, covering rail operations and upgrading rail infrastructure.

Employment: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the Royal Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce Who is at risk? Work and automation in the time of COVID-19, published in October. [HL9076]

Lord Callanan: The Government is currently considering the report and continues to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on the UK labour market.

The £30bn Plan for Jobs announced by my Rt. Hon friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer in July will protect, support and create jobs as part of our response to coronavirus. Among the measures included, we have committed at least £2 billion for a Kickstart Scheme that will directly pay employers to create new jobs for any 16 to 24-year old at risk of long-term unemployment, a further £3bn to support 140,000 green jobs, and trebling the number of sector-based work academy placements in England, in order to provide vocational training and guaranteed interviews for more people, helping them gain the skills needed for the jobs available in their local area.

As announced in the Queens' Speech, we will be bringing forward an Employment Bill to implement a range of Manifesto commitments. This legislation will ensure that we have an employment framework that keeps pace with the changes in our labour market by providing new protections for those in low-paid work and the gig economy, and by encouraging flexible working. It will

balance the needs of both employers and workers, ensuring everyone benefits from flexibility.

Energy Supply and Nuclear Power

Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the UK's future energy needs; and what plans they have to increase the generation of nuclear power. [HL8971]

Lord Callanan: The Government believes that nuclear power will play a key role in our future energy mix. Alongside other technologies, such as renewables, nuclear will enable us to remain a world leader in tackling climate change, helping to transition our energy system so that we can achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

The forthcoming Energy White Paper will address changes to our energy system, promoting high-skilled jobs and clean, resilient economic growth.

Export Licensing Unit

Asked by Lord Risby

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many licences were granted by the Export Licensing Unit for the exportation of (1) art, (2) antiques, and (3) cultural goods, in each year between 2015 and 2020. [HL8987]

Baroness Barran: The number of export licences granted by the Art Council's Export Licensing Unit in a particular year is published and laid before Parliament in the annual report of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest. The Committee's Report for 2018-19 is expected to be published shortly. Figures for 2019-20 are not yet available. The earlier reports can be found here, and are attached:

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/supporting-collections-and-cultural-property/rcewa-annual-reports>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

2016/17 [Export Objects Cultural Interest1617_web.pdf]

2017/18 [Export Objects Cultural Interest1718_web.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-10-09/HL8987>

Fire and Rescue Services: Staff

Asked by Lord Wasserman

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people are employed full-time by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services; and of those, how many are (1) female, and (2) BAME. [HL9091]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: As at 31 March 2020 (the end of the last full financial year), the Home Office

employed 179 people to work at HMICFRS on both a full-time and part-time basis. Of those, 95 were female and 33 were BAME. These figures exclude those on secondment into HMICFRS, as well as agency staff/contractors.

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office: Senior Civil Servants

Asked by Baroness Kramer

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many BAME civil servants there are at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office at (1) SCS1, (2) SCS2, (3) SCS3, and (4) SCS4, grade. [[HL9049](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: As of 30 June 2020, 7.1% of SCS1 and 8.3% of SCS2 civil servants in the FCDO self-identified as BAME. In order to comply with the GDPR and in order to protect the anonymity of individual members of staff, unfortunately we cannot provide percentages for SCS3 and SCS4 civil servants as the actual numbers for staff self-identifying as BAME are fewer than five.

Gambling

Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the economic impact of problem gambling; and what estimate they have made of how likely problem gamblers are (1) to experience family break up, (2) to commit crime, (3) to be unemployed, (4) to lose their homes, and (5) to have compromised life expectancy, compared with the rest of the population. [[HL9197](#)]

Baroness Barran: Public Health England is currently undertaking a major evidence review looking at the prevalence of gambling health harms and their social and economic burden. Publication of this study has been delayed by Covid-19 and is expected in early 2021.

The government does not hold figures on the proportion of problem gamblers who experience family break up, commit a crime, experience unemployment, lose their homes, or have a lower than average life expectancy. However, the Health Surveys for Scotland and England and the Gambling Commission's survey of gambling behaviour in Wales collect data on the differing incidence of problem gambling amongst different demographic groups. The 2016 combined Health Survey and the 2018 Health Survey for England estimated that the rate of problem gambling amongst those who are unemployed is 1.9%. The 2016 Health Surveys for England and Scotland also give data on the incidence of problem gambling amongst those who have probable mental ill health (2.2%), a low well-being score (2.6%) and who consume alcohol at a level of increased risk (0.8%).

Gambling: Ombudsman

Asked by Lord Foster of Bath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the potential merits of establishing a gambling ombudsman. [[HL9185](#)]

Baroness Barran: The House of Lords Select Committee on the Social and Economic Impact of the Gambling Industry recommended that a statutory ombudsman be created for the gambling sector. The government is carefully considering this and other recommendations made by the committee and will respond in due course.

In addition, the Public Accounts Committee has recommended that the government and the Gambling Commission should make an assessment of gaps in the existing arrangements for redress open to consumers, and set out a plan to resolve any gaps identified. The government has agreed with this recommendation and has indicated that it will write to the committee in the coming months to provide an update on progress in this area.

Garo Paylan

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Turkey following reports that Garo Paylan has been subjected to intimidation tactics including (1) threats to his safety, and (2) hate speech. [[HL9001](#)]

Baroness Sugg: We have seen press reports that the People's Democratic Party (HDP) MP, Garo Paylan, has been targeted publicly by a Turkish research centre over his comments on the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. We have also noted reporting that the Turkish authorities may be preparing a case against him. We have made it clear previously to Turkey that we expect the government to undertake any legal processes against MPs, party officials, elected mayors, human rights defenders and journalists, fairly, transparently and with full respect for the rule of law. We will continue to engage closely with Turkey to encourage the full protection of fundamental rights of all people, particularly in the areas of freedom of expression and assembly, press freedom and the treatment of detainees.

Holyhead Port: Large Goods Vehicles

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Welsh Government about the provision of parking sites for lorries travelling through the port of Holyhead after 31 December. [[HL9319](#)]

Baroness Bloomfield of Hinton Waldrist: The UK Government is working hand in hand with the Welsh Government on preparations for the end of the Transition

Period. This includes planning for the handling of traffic at and around Welsh ports, including Holyhead.

Holyhead Port: Repairs and Maintenance

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Welsh Government about reconstructing the entrance to the port of Holyhead. [HL9317]

Baroness Bloomfield of Hinton Waldrist: Although Holyhead Port falls within the Welsh Government's purview, it is strategically significant to the UK. It is the UK's second busiest 'Roll on-Roll off' port and its commercial freight tonnage is increasing year on year. It is vital to the UK economy and specifically to North Wales, the North of England and the Midlands.

It is therefore positive that the North Wales Growth Deal, which is jointly funded by the UK and Welsh Governments, is currently expected to invest significantly into developing the port's infrastructure. This includes renovation works to the harbour breakwater, connectivity improvements from the railway station to the ferry terminal, additional hardstanding, as well as additional capacity for large freight and cruise ships to berth in the harbour.

Home Office: Consultants

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much was spent on consultancy services by the Home Office and its related agencies in the 2019/20 financial year; and what was the (1) cost of, and (2) reason for, each such contract. [HL9016]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The 2019/20 Home of Annual Report and Accounts (page 89) shows spend on consultancy services, as set out in the table attached.

The Information on cost and reason for each such contract could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Table - HL9016 [Table - HL9016.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-10-12/HL9016>

Home Office: Twitter

Asked by Lord Adonis

To ask Her Majesty's Government who operates the Twitter account of the Home Office @ukhomeoffice, and whether ministerial agreement is required for any content posted. [HL9000]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The @UKHomeOffice account is managed by the Department's communications team.

Tweets are not routinely agreed by Ministers before they are posted.

House of Lords: Government Bills

Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they make any assessment of the estimated costs arising from an amendment agreed to by the House of Lords to a Government Bill; and if so, (1) how, and (2) whether they publish that estimate. [HL9225]

Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: The government does not always make an assessment of the costs arising from a non-government Lords amendment. If it is relevant to the question of whether a money resolution will be needed in the House of Commons, the government may provide an assessment to the Clerk of Legislation in the House of Commons to assist him in the advice he gives to the Speaker. Communications between the government and the Clerk are not published, but if the government has made an assessment, it may be published in the explanatory notes to the Lords Amendments.

Illegal Immigrants: English Channel

Asked by Lord Adonis

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the statement made by the Clandestine Channel Threat Commander on Twitter on 11 October that 'I'll do whatever it takes to stop these crossings'; whether legal advice was sought about that statement; and whether such statement accords with the law. [HL8999]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government has been clear that we will do everything we can to stop these crossings and make this route unviable.

Immigration

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the reasons stated for the refusal of settled status or pre-settled status for the 16,600 applicants who have been refused to up to September; and how many failed applicants fall into each category of refusal used by the Home Office. [HL9034]

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of how many of the persons who have been granted pre-settled status will become eligible for settled status by meeting the condition of five years residence, in each month between now and 30 June 2021; and how many would become eligible, in the absence of any disqualifying reasons, in each month following June 2021. [HL9035]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The latest published information to the end of June 2020 shows that of 3,060

EU Settlement Scheme refusals, 99% were refused on eligibility grounds and 1% were refused on suitability grounds. The latest figures can be found on the Home Office's 'EU Settlement Scheme statistics' web page available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics>.

Further analysis of EU Settlement Scheme refusals to the end of September 2020 will be published in the upcoming quarterly release in November 2020.

Many of the eligibility refusals relate to cases that had been under consideration for several months and, in most cases, had been subject to repeated unsuccessful attempts to obtain missing information or evidence from the applicant.

The Home Office cannot assess a person's eligibility for settled status until they make an application to the scheme, and therefore cannot state how many of those granted pre-settled status will be eligible in the periods sought.

A person granted pre-settled status can apply for settled status as soon as they qualify for this. They will be eligible for settled status once they have completed five years' continuous residence or where other criteria for eligibility for settled status without that length of continuous residence are met.

Immigration: Appeals

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) how many, and (2) what percentage of, immigration decisions were overturned on appeal in 2019. [HL9064]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: HM Courts and Tribunals Service publish appeal outcomes data on a quarterly basis. A link to the data for the last quarter of 2019 is provided here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/tribunal-statistics-quarterly-october-to-december-2019>.

The table in FIA_3 contains the information requested. The Answer includes the following attached material:

Tribunal Stats - Oct-Dec 2019
[Tribunal_and_GRC_statistics_Q3_201920.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-10-12/HL9064>

Immigration: Reform

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for reforming immigration procedure; when they last reviewed those procedures; and what plans they have to undertake another such review. [HL9065]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: In 2016, and again in 2019, the British people voted to take back control of our borders and introduce a new points-based immigration system that will work for the whole UK.

The Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Exit) Bill delivers on these votes by ending the automatic right to live and work in UK for EU migrants and, when the Transition period with the EU ends, we will have control of our immigration system for the first time in decades.

We will be free to implement the changes we need to restore trust in the immigration system and deliver our new fairer, firmer, skills-led system from 1 January 2021.

We will continue to review the system and the underpinning Rules.

Independent Office for Police Conduct: Staff

Asked by Lord Wasserman

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people are employed full-time by the Independent Office for Police Conduct; and of those, how many are (1) female, and (2) BAME. [HL9092]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: As at 31 March 2020 (the end of the last full financial year), the IOPC employed 1,032 people on both a full-time and part-time basis. Of those, 639 were female and 168 were BAME. These figures include those on secondment but exclude agency staff/contractors.

Israel: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Turnberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to increase collaboration with Israel with regard to (1) medical devices, (2) remote care, and (3) cutting-edge medical technology, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL9087]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The British Embassy in Israel has brought together numerous UK/Israel expertise exchanges covering vaccine development, testing and surveillance. Both sides continue to look to one another as new science developments are made. We have distributed widely to UK colleagues a brochure outlining many Israeli technologies and R&D projects related to COVID-19, of which several have already been followed up by both NHS England and NHSx.

Israel: Palestinians

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 6 October (HL8342), what assessment they have made of the government of Israel's treatment of human rights in the Palestinian Occupied Territories; what representations they have made to that government about reports of attacks on mosques and Christian

churches by Israeli citizens; and what steps they are taking to ensure that that government treats people of all religions equally. [HL9081]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Defending Freedom of Religion or Belief, and championing human rights, is a policy priority for the UK. We will continue to work to improve the lives of Palestinians. We condemn all forms of violence, including against places of worship, and raise this with the authorities when necessary.

Kenya: Human Rights

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports of human rights abuses on the Kakuzi farming estate in Kenya; and what plans they have to discuss these reports with Tesco, Sainsbury's, Lidl and Marks and Spencer's, who have all acquired avocado crops from Kakuzi, including regarding their obligations under the Modern Slavery Act 2015. [HL9003]

Baroness Sugg: We are concerned by reports of human rights abuses on the Kakuzi farming estate in Kenya. We take all allegations of human rights abuses seriously and are closely following the investigation by the Kenyan authorities. The UK has longstanding work with Kenya to strengthen accountability and human rights. We will also continue to use our voice in multilateral fora to hold Kenya to its human rights obligations, for example at the Universal Periodic Review of Kenya conducted at the UN Human Rights Council earlier this year.

Officials at the British High Commission in Nairobi will discuss the reports of human rights abuses on the Kakuzi farming estate at upcoming meetings with Human Rights donor groups in Nairobi. The UK supermarkets concerned have all suspended trade with Kakuzi pending the findings of their own and Kenyan authorities' investigations.

The UK is committed to eradicating all forms of modern slavery. Under the 'Transparency in Supply Chains' provision in the Modern Slavery Act, all large businesses in the UK with a turnover of £36 million or more are required to publish an annual transparency statement detailing the steps they have taken to prevent modern slavery from occurring in their business and supply chains. This enables consumers, investors and campaigners alike to hold businesses to account. The UK Government engages regularly with business and civil society to ensure we strengthen our collective response to modern slavery and we have committed to strengthen the transparency in supply chains including specified reporting topics, introducing a single reporting deadline and extending the requirement to the public sector.

Laos: Religious Freedom

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the religious freedom of minorities

in Laos; and what representations they have made to the government of Laos about its duty to uphold Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. [HL9005]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have encouraged the Lao Government to fulfil all of its international human rights obligations, including during the British Ambassador's call on the Lao Foreign Minister in late 2019. The UK made a statement at the 45th session of the Human Rights Council in Sep-Oct 2020, which reiterated concerns around restrictions on freedom of opinion and expression in Laos.

In the questions submitted to the Universal Periodic Review of Laos in January this year, we asked what steps the Lao Government was taking to promote and protect the right to freedom of religion or belief, specifically referencing ending the incidence of detaining or imprisoning Christians for unauthorised religious activities. We welcome Laos' engagement with the Universal Periodic Review process.

Leader of the House of Lords: Senior Civil Servants

Asked by Baroness Kramer

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many BAME civil servants there are in the Office of the Leader of the House of Lords at (1) SCS1, (2) SCS2, (3) SCS3, and (4) SCS4, grade. [HL9427]

Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: In line with reporting protocol and for disclosure control purposes, figures are suppressed where base headcounts include less than five individuals. BAME figures for the Leader of the Lords office cannot be disclosed.

Lifetime Skills Guarantee

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to extend the training provided as part of the Lifetime Skills Guarantee to those who have a level three qualification and have been made redundant during the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL9073]

Baroness Berridge: The government is providing £2.5 billion (£3 billion when including Barnett funding for devolved administrations) for the National Skills Fund.

My right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister, as part of his Lifetime Skills Guarantee, recently announced that for adults who do not currently have a level 3 qualification, we will be fully funding their first full level 3, focusing on the valuable courses that will help them get ahead in the labour market. The offer will be funded from the National Skills Fund and offered from April 2021.

Adults, who already have a level 3 qualification, can access Advanced Learner Loans. Advanced Learner Loans are used by many thousands of adults each year to train and retrain at level 3 and above, and prior

qualification levels are not a barrier to eligibility. Loans will continue to help remove one of the main barriers to learning (finding the means to pay up-front fees) where other sources of funding are not available (for example, due to prior qualification levels).

My right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister, also recently announced digital bootcamps to support local regions and employers to fill in-demand vacancies by providing valuable skills. Adults in the West Midlands, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, and Liverpool City Region can now register their interest to take part in the digital bootcamps. In early 2021, the digital bootcamps will also be available in Leeds City Region, Heart of the South West, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. We are planning to expand the bootcamps to more of the country from Spring 2021 and we want to extend this model to include other technical skills training.

Further plans for the National Skills Fund will be announced in due course. Alongside the National Skills Fund, the department has been working to provide further support in response to the impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak. In his Summer Economic Update, my right hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced investment of over £500 million to deliver a package of support for people to access the training and develop the skills they will need to go on to high-quality, secure and fulfilling employment. The Skills Recovery Package included:

- Apprenticeships: A new payment of £2,000 to employers in England for each new apprentice they hire who is aged 24 or below and a £1,500 payment for each new apprentice they hire who is aged 25 and over, from 1 August 2020 to 31 January 2021.
- Traineeships: £111 million to triple the scale and reform traineeships for those aged 16 - 24 (25 with an Education, Health and Care plan), with additional funding available to providers in 2020-21 to support 30,000 new places. We have also introduced, for the first time, payments of £1,000 per trainee for employers who offer new or additional work placements (up to 10 trainees).
- Careers information, advice and guidance: £32 million over two years to help 269,000 more people of all ages receive advice from the National Careers Service.
- Sector-based work academy programme (SWAP): £17 million to triple the number of SWAP placements in 2020/21, enough funding to support an extra 40,000 job seekers with additional training opportunities and the chance of a job.

In addition, the recently announced expansion of The Skills Toolkit means that people can now choose from over 70 courses, covering digital, adult numeracy, employability and work readiness skills, which have been identified as the skills employers need the most. These courses will help people stay in work or take up new jobs and opportunities.

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Department for Work and Pensions has also established an alternative

service to their usual face to face offer. People will be able to access redundancy help and job search advice on the DWP's new Job Help campaign website. There is also information on gov.uk and updated information packs provided to employers to help them signpost employees to the support that is available. The support available includes:

- Connecting people to jobs in the labour market through our Find a Job website, virtual jobs fairs, Sector-based Work Academy Programmes and mentoring circle opportunities.
- Help with job search including CV writing, interview skills, where to find jobs and how to apply for them.
- Help to identify transferable skills and skills gaps (linked to the local labour market).

In addition to this, the new Kickstart scheme is underway. This is a £2 billion programme which will create thousands of new jobs for young people aged between 16-24 who will be offered six-month work placements with wages paid by the government.

The government appreciates the importance of adult education to improving people's life chances. We will continue to explore options within adult education to aid the post COVID-19 recovery.

Local Government Finance

Asked by *Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the Local Government Association Fragmented Funding, published on 22 September. [HL8975]

Lord Greenhalgh: The Government is grateful to the LGA for their work on behalf of local government.

Government has a long-standing policy to provide funding to local authorities on a non-ringfenced basis. This is based on recognising that the removal of ringfences supports good, efficient and innovative financial management at a local level and gives local authorities the freedom and flexibility to make spending decisions based on their local needs and priorities. However, there are occasions where Ministers collectively consider that there is a recognised need to designate specified resources for specific purposes.

Maher al-Akhras

Asked by *Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about the detention of Maher al-Akhras. [HL9084]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: While we have not raised this particular case, we remain concerned about Israel's extensive use of administrative detention which, according to international law, should be used only when security makes this absolutely necessary rather than as

routine practice and as a preventive rather than a punitive measure. We continue to call on the Israeli authorities to comply with their obligations under international law and either charge or release detainees.

Members: Correspondence

Asked by Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to respond to the letter sent by Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on 31 July about making public funds available to the Royal Albert Hall; and when they plan to respond to the follow-up letters sent on 19 August, 9 September and 1 October. [HL9038]

Baroness Barran: A response was sent to the Noble Lord on 26th October.

Mubarak Bala

Asked by Baroness Cox

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have on the status of Mubarak Bala. [HL9022]

Baroness Sugg: The UK Government remains concerned about the continued detention of Mubarak Bala and we are monitoring his case closely. We continue to make representations to the Nigerian Government on Mr Bala's case. Most recently, our High Commissioner raised the case with Foreign Minister Onyeama on 6 October, and with the Inspector General of the Nigerian Police Force on 18 September. The Minister for Africa discussed the case with Foreign Minister Onyeama in May. We welcome the news that Mr Bala was granted access to legal representation on 7 October and that a hearing is scheduled for 15 October. We continue to stress to the Nigerian Government 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.

Defending freedom of religion or belief for all remains a UK Government priority and we will continue to use our voice internationally to protect this human right.

National Lottery: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Smith of Finsbury

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to using the National Lottery Distribution Fund exclusively to support the arts, heritage and sports industries to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic over the next three years. [HL9071]

Baroness Barran: Income raised by the National Lottery funds good causes in four broad areas, which are set out in the National Lottery Act 1993: communities 40%, arts 20%, heritage 20%, and sport 20%. The government remains committed to funding these four

areas and funds are distributed by 12 Lottery Distributing Bodies (LDBs) at arm's length from government.

The National Lottery distributors have directed up to £600m of funding to UK charities and organisations to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. This has included specific support for the Arts, Heritage and Sports sectors:

- Arts Council England reallocated £144 million of National Lottery funding to form their £160 million emergency response package to support individuals and organisations across the cultural sector to deal with the immediate impact of the Covid-19 crisis.
- The National Lottery Heritage Fund has provided £50 million through its Heritage Emergency Fund, which was set up in April to support people and organisations in the heritage sector as a response to the Covid crisis. Phase 1 of this Fund provided grants between £3,000 and £50,000; in phase 2 of the Fund, applicants could apply for grants of up to £250,000.
- The National Lottery has contributed £172m towards Sport England's £210m fund to support the sport and physical activity sector through COVID-19. This includes the £35 million Community Emergency Fund, which is helping community sports clubs and exercise centres to remain open during the pandemic.

More information about the support the National Lottery is providing in response to Covid-19 can be found on the National Lottery Promotions Unit website:

<https://www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/coronavirus-pandemic-response>.

In addition to National Lottery funding, the government has also provided specific support for these sectors, including investing an unprecedented £1.57 billion, the biggest ever one-off cash injection into UK culture, to tackle the crisis facing our most loved arts organisations and heritage sites. Similarly, the government has provided substantial support to the sport sector, including tax reliefs, cash grants and employee wage support, alongside urgent work to support sport clubs as a result of clubs not being able to admit spectators to stadia from the 1 October.

National Tutoring Programme

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that academic mentors are in schools by the end of the year. [HL9075]

Baroness Berridge: The National Tutoring Programme will support some of our most disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils to catch up on missed learning. The academic mentors strand, delivered by Teach First, will support schools in the most disadvantaged areas to recruit high quality academic mentors and train and place them as members of school staff, to support pupils with one-to-one or small group tutoring.

Teach First are working to scale up the provision of mentors, whilst remaining strongly focussed on quality and accessibility. Academic mentors will go through a thorough selection process, bespoke training and are subject to safeguarding procedures.

The process of training mentors and matching them to schools is well underway, and we expect our first group of mentors to be in schools by November. We expect all mentors to be appointed by February 2021.

NRPF Network: Meetings

Asked by Lord Boateng

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will arrange for a Minister to meet representatives of the No Recourse to Public Funds Network, following a request for such a meeting in their letter to the Prime Minister on 1 October; and if not, why not. [HL8968]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office has a long-established partnership with the NPRF Network and officials meet representatives from the network on a regular basis. This dialogue is supported by shared use of the Connect database.

The Connect database allows the Home Office to assist local authorities in confirming immigration status and prioritising the resolution of local authorities' NRPF caseloads.

Nuclear Power Stations: Investment

Asked by Lord Truscott

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the level of investor interest in new nuclear power plants. [HL8995]

Lord Callanan: Nuclear power will play a key role in the UK's future energy mix as we transition to a low-carbon economy, and we continue to discuss new nuclear projects with viable companies and investors wishing to develop sites in the UK.

The developer-led construction of Hinkley Point C in Somerset is well underway, employing thousands of workers and having already invested almost £1.7 billion in the regional economy.

Office of the Advocate General for Scotland: Senior Civil Servants

Asked by Baroness Kramer

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many BAME civil servants there are in the Office of the Advocate General for Scotland at (1) SCS1, (2) SCS2, (3) SCS3, and (4) SCS4, grade. [HL9425]

Baroness Scott of Bybrook: In line with reporting protocol and for disclosure control purposes, BAME figures for the Office of the Advocate General for Scotland cannot be disclosed due to the small population.

The Office of the Advocate General for Scotland has 5 members of staff total at SCS grade.

Palestinians: Protest

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about reports that four Palestinians were injured by the Israel Defence Force during demonstrations in Kufur Qaddoum. [HL9083]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Whilst we have not made representations on these reports, we have repeatedly made clear to Israel our longstanding concerns about incidents of excessive use of force by the IDF and urge restraint in the use of live fire. We continue to stress the importance of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population. We call on Israel to adhere to the principles of necessity and proportionality when defending its legitimate security interest.

Palestinians: Schools

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about the planned demolition of a Palestinian school that was built in Ras Al-Tin without planning permission from that government. [HL9085]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK is seriously concerned by the possible demolition of a Palestinian school in Ras Al-Tin by Israeli authorities. Our Embassy in Tel Aviv raised our concern with the Government of Israel on 13 October, alongside European partners. In all but the most exceptional of circumstances demolitions are contrary to International Humanitarian Law. We recognise that Palestinians face severe difficulty in securing building permissions for homes and infrastructure in East Jerusalem and Area C. We continue to urge the Government of Israel to develop improved mechanisms for zoning, planning and permitting in Area C for the benefit of the Palestinian population, including by facilitating local Palestinian participation in such processes.

Palestinians: Travel Restrictions

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about reports that travel restrictions have been placed on Palestinian mothers with new-born babies who want to travel abroad via Allenby Bridge unless such babies are registered with that government as well as by the authorities in Palestine. [HL9082]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Whilst we have not made representations on these reports, we remain deeply

concerned about restrictions on freedom of movement within the West Bank, including to and from Jordan. The UK Government continues to raise our concerns about Israeli restrictions on freedom of movement and access into and out of the Occupied Palestinian Territories with the Israeli authorities.

Pheasants

Asked by Lord Birt

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the number of pheasants in the UK, and (2) their impact on other wildlife. [HL9020]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The number of pheasants and their impact are being considered as part of a review by Defra that was initiated in response to a Judicial Review. The findings of the review will be published in due course.

Police: Recruitment

Asked by Lord Wasserman

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many police officers have been recruited in England and Wales since 1 January; and of those, how many are (1) female, and (2) BAME. [HL9088]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: As part of the Government's commitment to recruit an additional 20,000 officers by March 2023, the Home Office publishes data on the number of new recruits in the quarterly "Police officer uplift, England and Wales" statistical bulletin. The latest release covers the period to June 2020.

This publication contains information on the number of new recruits, by month, since November 2019: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-officer-uplift-quarterly-update-to-june-2020>.

Between January and June 2020, 7,549 officers have been recruited into the 43 police forces in England and Wales.

Data on the ethnicity and gender of new recruits are not currently published as part of this quarterly release. However, we continuously review the range of metrics within the release and will endeavour to include this information in future statistical releases.

The next release of this bulletin is scheduled to be published on Thursday 29 October.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Police Officer Uplift Quarterly update - June 2020 [police-officer-uplift-quarterly-update-to-june-2020.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-10-12/HL9088>

Asked by Lord Wasserman

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Metropolitan Police Service

about (1) the number, and (2) the percentage, of police officers recruited since 1 January, who are (a) female, and (b) BAME. [HL9089]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Our unprecedented drive to recruit 20,000 extra police officers over the next three years provides a generational opportunity to increase diversity in policing.

We are working closely with police forces across the country, including the Metropolitan Police Service, to support all forces become more representative of the communities they serve. This has included an inclusive national campaign and improvements to national data collection on police diversity and recruitment, led by the National Police Chiefs' Council.

The Home Secretary has been clear that all forces must do more to increase diversity and in August wrote to all Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners urging them to take the opportunity presented by the Police Uplift to increase diversity.

Political Parties: Finance

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review the levels at which donations to political parties are recordable and reportable. [HL9043]

Lord True: UK electoral law sets out a stringent regime of donations controls to ensure that only those with a genuine interest in UK electoral events can donate to political parties and to ensure transparency of those donations.

All donations over £500 need to be recorded by political parties and checked for permissibility. Certain donations need to be reported to the Electoral Commission, including all donations from impermissible donors, all donations over £7,500 and donations that are over £1,500 and come from a source that parties have already reported in the same calendar year. To ensure transparency about party funding, donation reports are published by the Electoral Commission on its website.

The Government is committed to upholding the integrity of our electoral system. As part of that, we are taking forward a programme of work that will strengthen and update the UK's electoral regulation to ensure it is fit for the modern age; provides a robust framework for campaign finance; and supports public confidence in our processes.

Ports

Asked by Viscount Waverley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that ports in the UK (1) remain cost-effective destinations for global container shipping services, and (2) remain able to serve the needs of British exporters and importers, taking into consideration (a) any increase in the average size of container vessels, (b) shipping lines' rationalisation of

port calls, and (c) the reduction in the number of shipping lines serving ports in northwest Europe. [HL9093]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: As an island nation 95% of the UK's imports and exports arrive via our ports and by sea. The UK's economy, plus its dependency on imports, mean that the UK will remain a destination for shipping irrespective of cost, and consisting of either direct traffic, or transhipped.

The highly competitive, private sector UK ports market offers cost effective, attractive and reliable services, undertaking significant commercial investment to do so. A number of UK ports have made large investments to cater for the biggest container vessels, and to improve services to handle growing vessel sizes across a variety of markets.

Larger vessels mean fewer direct port calls, but a broadly similar level of freight being handled. Managing this remains a commercial matter for ports and shipping companies.

Ports: EU Law

Asked by Viscount Waverley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review the application of Commission Regulation (EC) No 906/2009, on the application of Article 81(3) of the Treaty to certain categories of agreements, decisions and concerted practices between liner shipping companies, to shipping lines and services serving ports in the UK. [HL9094]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Following the European Commission's decision earlier this year, the application of the Regulation has been renewed in respect of the European Union until April 2024. The European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 and the Competition (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 preserve the Regulation in the UK as a retained exemption. This means that, after the end of the Transition Period, the retained Regulation will operate as an exemption from the prohibition against anti-competitive behaviour in UK law until it expires in April 2024. The Secretary of State will have the power, after the Transition Period, to vary or revoke the retained exemption, acting in consultation with the Competition and Markets Authority.

Poverty: Children

Asked by Lord Beecham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by End Child Poverty Child poverty in your area 2014/15 – 2018/19, published in October, which found that more children are living in poverty. [HL9170]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: We have examined, from what has been published, Loughborough University's methodology for estimating housing costs by constituency. We are unable to assess how robust the

method for modelling local housing costs is and we do not know the process used for calibrating the local measures with regional level statistics on child poverty from Households Below Average Income.

National Statistics on the number and percentage of children in low income are published annually in the "Households Below Average Income" publication. These remain the most accurate published measurements of low income. The latest HBAI statistics (2018/19) show that since 2009/10, 100,000 children have been lifted out of absolute poverty (both before and after housing costs) and levels of combined material deprivation and low income for children are at their joint lowest level.

Protective Clothing: Procurement

Asked by Lord Tyler

To ask Her Majesty's Government what due diligence and tendering process they followed when awarding a contract to Platform-14 for personal protective equipment (PPE); what was the total contracted sum; and what proportion of the PPE supplied was found to be usable by the NHS. [HL8435]

Lord Bethell: Guidance on how contracting authorities should respond to COVID-19 was published on 18 March 2020. 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. These include a direct award due to extreme urgency or the absence of competition. Under the regulation contracting authorities may enter into contracts without competing or advertising the requirement.

Suppliers will be evaluated by Departmental officials on their financial standing, compliance with minimum product specifications and ability to perform the contract. Contracts are awarded by the appropriate Departmental accounting officer in line with Departmental terms and conditions.

Several contracts have been awarded to Platform-14 for the supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) under the emergency regulations, with a total value of £276 million. Delivery is progressing for these PPE items. All items of PPE undergo a rigorous technical assurance process before they can be released for use.

Public Expenditure: Rural Areas

Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Agnew of Oulton on 7 October (HL8550) and (HL8549), what plans they have to provide copies of the official-level guidance and templates setting out their priorities for the Comprehensive Spending Review; and how they will ensure that funding assessments are 'rural proofed' and do not unreasonably disadvantage rural communities. [HL8989]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: Official-level guidance is a technical document internal to government.

At the Comprehensive Spending Review this autumn, the government will set out further details on our plan to level up economic opportunity across all nations and regions of the country by investing in infrastructure, innovation and people.

Railway Stations: Access

Asked by Lord Shinkwin

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether social value requirements were (1) considered, and (2) taken into account, when awarding contracts for the Access for All programme; and if so, (a) what weighting was given to social value in each stage of the procurement process, and (b) what are the details of the social value that successful bidding organisations reported that they could add. [HL9069]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Access for All Programme prioritised the busiest stations first and took into account factors such as the incidence of disability in the area, proximity to a hospital, and stations that have high numbers of interchange passengers. A proportion of the funding was also set aside for smaller projects such as customer information systems which promote confidence to travel. This is how we recognise that improved accessibility has benefits that are hard to quantify and are therefore not explicitly reported in terms of social value.

Regional Planning and Development

Asked by Lord Turnberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the Covid Recovery Commission Paper One: Levelling up communities, published on 11 October; and what metrics they have developed to judge the success of their 'levelling-up' agenda. [HL9086]

Lord Greenhalgh: The Government is focusing on levelling up economic opportunity across the whole of the United Kingdom and considers a wide range of evidence in developing levelling up policy. The Spending Review will agree priority outcomes and metrics with departments which will be published. Strong local leadership is a key pillar of our levelling up agenda, and the English Devolution and Local Recovery White Paper will set out our plans for further devolution in England in due course.

Road Traffic

Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) how traffic congestion has been monitored in England, (2) what data they have collected, and (3) what data they have published, about such monitoring since 2015. [HL9103]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Department for Transport produces statistics on road congestion on the

Strategic Road Network (SRN) and local 'A' roads in England. These statistics, used to monitor road congestion and journey time reliability, are compiled from journey time data from in-vehicle global positioning systems (GPS).

The statistics report two measures of congestion—average speed as an estimate of the physical level of congestion and average delay which is the difference between speed limit (SRN) or free flow (local 'A' roads) travel times and average journey times.

Statistics from April 2015 onwards for congestion on the SRN and January 2014 onwards for local 'A' roads are published online as part of the 'Road congestion and travel times' collection on gov.uk.

Roads: Closures

Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to their confirmation that the public sector equality duty still applies in cases where roads have been closed under COVID-19 emergency legislation, whether this obliges local authorities to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment of their road closures. [HL9099]

Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether experimental road closures made under regulations relating to the COVID-19 pandemic require an Equality Impact Assessment, and if so, (1) whether the results of those Assessment must be published, (2) what the timeframe is for (a) completing and (b) publishing the Assessment, following the closures. [HL9100]

Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish regulations requiring (1) the assessment of the impact of experimental road closures on protected characteristic groups, and (2) the mitigating action in the event of an adverse impact on those groups. [HL9101]

Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether local authorities have any obligation to monitor the impact on air quality of road closures, whether experimental or permanent, including in adjacent roads to which traffic may be displaced. [HL9102]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: It is for local authorities to ensure that any changes they propose to make to road layouts are delivered in line with relevant legislation, consultation and noticing requirements.

The Emergency Active Travel Fund (EATF) was announced on 9 May and included £225 million of funding in two tranches for local authorities in England. Alongside the funding, the Government published additional Network Management Duty guidance. This clearly set out what the Government expects local

authorities to do in making changes to their road layouts to encourage cycling and walking in response to Covid-19 and to support a green restart and recovery. These measures included road closures, for example to create low-traffic neighbourhoods.

The guidance is clear that the Public Sector Equality Duty still applies, and in making any changes to their road networks, authorities must consider the needs of disabled people and those with other protected characteristics, for example by carrying out Equality Impact Assessments on proposed schemes.

It is for local authorities to ensure any such assessments are carried out in line with relevant procedures.

The Local Air Quality Management regime requires that local authorities review and assess air quality in their area. This will normally include monitoring pollution levels especially where the local authority assesses that air quality objectives may be exceeded.

Schools: Governing Bodies

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to increase the representation of BAME individuals in school governance roles. [HL9074]

Baroness Berridge: The department is committed to increasing diversity amongst governors to ensure that boards reflect the communities that they serve. We fund the Inspiring Governance service, run by the charity Education and Employers, to support the recruitment of appropriately skilled and diverse volunteers onto the boards of schools and academy trusts.

Education and Employers report that 20% of all people being appointed to boards with the Inspiring Governance service this financial year are from a black and minority ethnic background.

The department is also supportive of the joint Inspiring Governance and National Governance Association's 'Everyone on Board' campaign, which aims to increase the participation of people from ethnic minorities and young people in school governance.

Slavery

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have planned any events or activities to mark the UK Anti-Slavery Day 2020; and whether they will support the passage of the Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill through Parliament. [HL9004]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: This year we marked Anti-Slavery Day by publishing the UK Modern Slavery Annual Report 2020, which provides an update on work undertaken over the last year to tackle the scourge of modern slavery. Minister Atkins hosted a virtual roundtable event with First Responder organisations to hear about best practice and the key challenges First

Responders face. A wide range of stakeholder events around October 18 raised awareness of modern slavery, and the work underway to tackle it.

Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill:

The Government is committed to identifying and supporting victims of modern slavery and has recently established an ambitious programme to transform our system of victim identification and support. As part of this, we are looking closely at the legislative framework in this area.

The Government does not, however, support the Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill in its current form and has different proposals for supporting victims based on a more individualised understanding of their cases and needs. Specifically, the Government does not agree that:

a. confirmed victims should be automatically granted leave to remain for 12 months. Immigration decisions for victims of modern slavery are made on a case-by-case basis, considering the individual circumstances of the case; nor

b. that entitling all confirmed victims to 12 months' worth of support is the best approach. In 2019 the Government introduced a needs-based support system for confirmed victims of modern slavery. The Government recognises that all victims are individuals with their own personal recovery needs arising from their modern slavery experiences. The new needs-based assessment system has been developed to ensure that individual needs are considered and supported with a tailored move-on plan, rather than a blanket approach to victim support.

Social Services: Pay

Asked by Lord Beecham

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the conclusions from the Migration Advisory Committee in their report Review of the Shortage Occupation List: 2020, published on 29 September, regarding the consequences of the end of freedom of movement between the UK and EU on the recruitment of staff in the social care sector, what plans they have to address low wages in social care. [HL8618]

Lord Bethell: The Government does not have direct responsibility for pay awards in adult social care in the same way as for other areas of the public sector. The Government nonetheless maintains oversight of the social care system and we are committed to raising the profile of the social care sector. The Government expects local authorities to commission care at the rate that allows providers to employ the staff they need to deliver quality care.

We are taking action to support adult social care providers to recruit domestically. In order to attract more people to the sector we ran a national recruitment campaign. We are working with the Department for Work and Pensions to promote adult social care careers to jobseekers, and we have launched an online recruitment tool as part of this.

Sports: Coronavirus

Asked by *Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government to what level new COVID-19 infection cases must fall before they allow sports venues to reopen to spectators. [HL9129]

Baroness Barran: The Government fully understands the decision not to reopen stadia on October 1 is frustrating for sports fans. But in the face of rising infections and further restrictions it would not have been possible. The decision was taken on advice from the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and the Chief Scientific Officer (CSA) and takes into account travelling to and from games held in stadia, where there may be further social interaction and the risk of virus spread. The safety and security of players and spectators remains of paramount importance.

I am grateful to those clubs who have piloted the return of spectators so far. Work continues at pace to find solutions that will allow crowds safely back into stadia as soon as possible. The Government will continue to work closely with the Sports Ground Safety Authority (SGSA) and a whole range of sports to understand the latest thinking that might allow spectators to return. This includes the creation of a new Sports Technology Innovation Working Group of sporting bodies and health experts to analyse new technologies which might support this. Spectators will return to stadia when it is safe to do so, and we will keep this under review. The decision to do so will involve a wider set of metrics than just the level of infections.

Syria: Armed Conflict

Asked by *The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 6 October (HL8334), what plans they have to disclose the government of Turkey's response to the representations made by UK officials over allegations that the Syrian National Army may have committed war crimes against Kurdish civilians in Afrin and the surrounding area. [HL8990]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have no plans to disclose Turkey's response to the representations by UK officials about allegations made against the Syrian National Army. On 22 September, we highlighted our concerns at the UN Human Rights Council's Interactive Dialogue with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria. We will continue to raise allegations of human rights abuses regularly with all parties to the Syrian conflict, and call on all parties to the conflict to respect international law.

Think Tanks: Finance

Asked by *Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to require think tanks who seek to influence government policy and the policy of registered political parties to publish the (1) source, and (2) amount, of donations they receive to fund their work. [HL9041]

Asked by *Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of donations made to think tanks to influence government policy and the policy of registered political parties, which are impermissible to be donated to registered political parties under the requirements of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. [HL9042]

Baroness Barran: Think tanks which have opted for charitable status must ensure they abide by the rules that apply to all charities under charity law. Charities can undertake political activity but only in pursuit of their charitable purposes, and only to the extent that the political activity remains subsidiary to the charity's purpose and does not become an end in itself. Charities must not participate in any party-political activity, or support a political party or candidate. The Charity Commission sets this out clearly in its guidance on campaigning and political activity which was published in 2008.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/speaking-out-guidance-on-campaigning-and-political-activity-by-charities-cc9>.

Most charitable think tanks carry out their charitable purpose well. There are many examples where important contributions have been made in a responsible manner and in line with the law. Where charities, including charitable think tanks, do not operate in line with the law, or where they cross the line in terms of political activity, the Charity Commission, as the independent charity regulator and as tasked by Parliament, has the legal responsibility to hold charities to account under charity law and deal with those matters proportionately on behalf of the public.

The Government encourages greater transparency as a matter of good practice, but it is not a legal requirement for charities to publicly disclose the identity of individual donors. Donor anonymity is an important consideration in ensuring people have the confidence to donate to charitable causes they care about.

Tidal Power: North Wales

Asked by *Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the proposal for a tidal lagoon near the Port of Mostyn in north Wales. [HL8974]

Lord Callanan: The Government has not yet received a detailed proposal from project developers for a proposed tidal lagoon near the Port of Mostyn in North Wales.

Travel: Health

Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment, if any, they have made of the impact digital health passes could have on international travel. [HL8973]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Our approach has had to balance the risks of imported COVID-19 cases whilst also enabling international travel, which is critical to our economy. To support these objectives, we have worked closely with health and policy experts from across Government.

We keep all measures under constant review; the Global Travel Taskforce is working at pace to consider how testing, technology and innovation can drive a recovery for international travel and tourism.

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Asked by Lord Adonis

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the responsibilities of the Clandestine Channel Threat Commander. [HL8961]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The responsibilities of the Clandestine Channel Threat Commander can be found <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-appoints-small-boat-commander>

The new Clandestine Channel Threat Commander will collaborate closely with the French to build on the joint work already underway, urgently exploring tougher action in France, including stronger enforcement measures and adopting interceptions at sea and the direct return of boats. For more information see attached Press Release.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Gov. UK - Press Release - Small Boats Commander [Gov_UK Small Boat Commander.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-10-09/HL8961>

Union Learning Fund

Asked by Lord Balfe

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the independent evaluation of the Union Learning Fund by Exeter University, Union Learning Survey 2018 Results, published in September 2018, whether the Department for Education undertook a further assessment of the Union Learning Fund; and if so, whether (1) that assessment demonstrated a decline in outcomes, and (2) they plan to publish the findings of the assessment. [HL9007]

Baroness Berridge: The department did not undertake a further formal evaluation of the Union Learning Fund following the evaluation by Exeter University.

As part of the Spending Review process, the Department has assessed its priorities across all its objectives, including considering the evidence from the Unionlearn evaluation. The decision to discontinue funding for Unionlearn beyond this financial year reflects the consolidation of investment to support retraining in major new programmes, including the National Skills Fund, which support progression to higher levels of attainment.

Asked by Lord Balfe

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they consulted with (1) the Trades Union Congress, and (2) individual trade unions, prior to terminating the Union Learning Fund. [HL9008]

Asked by Lord Balfe

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they consulted with (1) employers, and (2) business and trade representative bodies, prior to terminating the Union Learning Fund. [HL9009]

Asked by Lord Balfe

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they consulted with (1) training providers, (2) Sector Skill Councils, and (3) further education organisations, prior to terminating the Union Learning Fund. [HL9010]

Baroness Berridge: The government did not consult with any outside bodies prior to making the decision not to continue to provide funding for the Union Learning Fund after 31 March 2021.

We have made no commitment to funding beyond this date and have always been clear any future funding would depend on the Government's Spending Review. The decision to cease funding after April 2021 has been communicated at this stage in the Spending Review process in order to give a greater period of notice.

Asked by Lord Balfe

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to allocate a proportion of the National Skills Fund to projects that aim to directly engage learners in the workplace, replacing the current work undertaken by Union Learn, following the decision to cease funding for the Union Learning Fund. [HL9011]

Baroness Berridge: The government has taken the decision not to continue to provide grant funding to Unionlearn in the next financial year. This decision should not be seen in isolation but as part of the department's overall plans for improving the skills offer.

This was a difficult decision. However, we need to prioritise how we use our resources in these challenging times and have decided to concentrate on a number of major investments in further education. The government has announced it will introduce a £2.5 billion National

Skills Fund to help adults get the skills they need. My right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister, as part of his Lifetime Skills Guarantee, recently announced that for adults, who do not currently have a level 3 qualification, we will be fully funding their first full level 3, focusing on the valuable courses that will help them get ahead in the labour market. The offer will be funded from the National Skills Fund and offered from April 2021.

My right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister, also recently announced digital bootcamps to support local regions and employers to fill in-demand vacancies by providing valuable skills. Adults in the West Midlands, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, and Liverpool City Region can now register their interest to take part in the digital bootcamps. In early 2021, the digital bootcamps will also be available in Leeds City Region, Heart of the South West, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. We are planning to expand the bootcamps to more of the country from Spring 2021 and we want to extend this model to include other technical skills training.

Further plans for the National Skills Fund will be announced in due course.

Alongside the National Skills Fund, the department has been working to provide further support in response to the impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak. In his Summer Economic Update, my right hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced investment of over £500 million to deliver a package of support for people to access the training and develop the skills they will need to go on to high-quality, secure and fulfilling employment. The Skills Recovery Package included:

- Apprenticeships: A new payment of £2,000 to employers in England for each new apprentice they hire who is aged 24 or below and a £1,500 payment for each new apprentice they hire who is aged 25 and over, from 1 August 2020 to 31 January 2021.
- Traineeships: £111 million to triple the scale and reform traineeships for those aged 16 - 24 (25 with an Education, Health and Care plan), with additional funding available to providers in 2020-21 to support 30,000 new places. We have also introduced, for the first time, payments of £1,000 per trainee for employers who offer new or additional work placements (up to 10 trainees).
- Careers information, advice and guidance: £32 million over two years to help 269,000 more people of all ages receive advice from the National Careers Service.
- Sector-based work academy programme (SWAP): £17 million to triple the number of SWAP placements in 2020/21, enough funding to support an extra 40,000 job seekers with additional training opportunities and the chance of a job.

In addition, the recently announced expansion of The Skills Toolkit means that people can now choose from over 70 courses, covering digital, adult numeracy, employability and work readiness skills, which have been identified as the skills employers need the most. These

courses will help people stay in work or take up new jobs and opportunities.

The government appreciates the importance of adult education to improving people's life chances. We will continue to explore options within adult education to aid the post COVID-19 recovery.

Universities: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Porter of Spalding

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the restricted access to teaching and part-time employment opportunities experienced by university students in areas affected by additional COVID-19 restrictions, what plans they have to limit the charges those universities operating within such areas can make on their students. [HL9058]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: This is a difficult time for students, as it is for people in society more widely, but we are working with the higher education (HE) sector to make sure that all reasonable efforts are being made to enable students to continue their studies.

Universities and other HE providers are autonomous and responsible for setting their own fees. In deciding what level of fee to charge in the current circumstances, HE institutions will of course want to ensure that they can continue to deliver courses which are fit for purpose and help students pursue their qualifications.

The government expects universities and other HE providers to continue delivering a high-quality academic experience. If students have concerns about their experience, they should first raise their concerns with their university. If their concerns remain unresolved, students at institutions in England or Wales can ask the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education to consider their complaint.

My hon. Friend, the Minister of State for Universities, wrote to HE institutions on 26 March to ask that they pay particular attention to the additional challenges being faced by staff and students who have been reliant on income from campus-based jobs at this time.

We have worked with the Office for Students, the HE regulator in England, to clarify that universities and other HE institutions can draw upon existing funding from the student premium to increase their hardship funds for students. Students can access this support if they are experiencing particular financial difficulties as a result of COVID-19.

Our system of HE tiers, as set out in guidance, intends to help universities identify the appropriate restrictions to impose on their educational provision in response to an outbreak in their area. This is particularly important when there is a change to the local COVID alert level. This guidance is available via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-education-reopening-buildings-and-campuses/higher-education-reopening-buildings-and-campuses>.

HE providers should continue work with their local public health teams to control or manage any outbreak. When a university is considering moving between the HE tiers, they should engage their local director of public health and inform the Department for Education if the decision is to move to tier 3 or above.

Visas: Sports

Asked by Lord Moynihan

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to set out changes to the UK points-based immigration system as it applies to sportspeople. [HL9052]

Asked by Lord Moynihan

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to retain the Sportsperson visa (Tier 2) standard under the new Immigration Rules to be adopted from 1 January 2021. [HL9053]

Asked by Lord Moynihan

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to include (1) clergy, (2) sports players, and (3) sports coaches, instructors and officials, as classified under the Standard Occupational Codes system, in their new proposed definition of a skilled worker. [HL9054]

Asked by Lord Moynihan

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the endorsement requirements published on the websites of sports' governing bodies for visas under the points-based immigration system ensure that playing opportunities for (1) resident sportspeople, and (2) youth development, are protected as required under Immigration Rules. [HL9055]

Asked by Lord Moynihan

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the endorsement process for visa applicants for sports players, sports coaches, instructors and officials is operated exclusively by sports' governing bodies and not sports clubs. [HL9056]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The provisions within the Immigration Rules for both Tier 2 (Sportsperson) and Tier 5 (Creative and Sporting) will continue in the future immigration system. These routes will be amended to accommodate applications from elite sportspeople and coaches from the European Economic Area and Switzerland, along with those from the rest of the world, from 1 January 2021.

The UK Government does not have any plans to include clergy, sportspeople, coaches, instructors or officials under the new Skilled Worker route. The current provisions of Tier 2 (Ministers of Religion) and Tier 5 (Religious Workers) for clergy, and Tier 2 (Sportsperson) and Tier 5 (Creative and Sporting) for sportspeople, are dedicated routes for such activities.

The UK's immigration arrangements for professional sportspeople seek to strike a balance between ensuring that UK sports can access top-end talent that will enhance sport in the UK, whilst at the same time protecting opportunities for resident players and supporting grassroots sport. The Government works with Sports Governing Bodies to set bespoke criteria, with every sport's criteria reviewed annually, ensuring that it continues to meet the changing needs of the individual sport. The success of UK sports clearly demonstrates that this system is one which works well.

The system of endorsement is operated by the Sports Governing Bodies to ensure that an objective assessment is made of each individual sportsperson. Individual clubs are asked to fulfil their sponsorship duties, in a dual-level of assurance.

Index to Statements and Answers

Written Statements.....1	
Annual Fisheries Negotiations 2020: UK Priorities and Objectives.....1	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office: Senior Civil Servants..... 10
Citizens’ Rights: Withdrawal Agreement Implementation.....1	Gambling 10
Commonwealth Games 2022: Transport Plan.....2	Gambling: Ombudsman..... 10
Office for Environmental Protection: Contingencies Fund Advance.....3	Garo Paylan 10
Qualification Reform.....3	Holyhead Port: Large Goods Vehicles 10
UK-Japan Free Trade Agreement: Signing3	Holyhead Port: Repairs and Maintenance 11
Wylfa Newydd Nuclear Power Station: Decision Deadline Extension.....4	Home Office: Consultants 11
Written Answers.....5	Home Office: Twitter 11
Academic Year: Coronavirus5	House of Lords: Government Bills..... 11
Agriculture Bill 2019-215	Illegal Immigrants: English Channel 11
Air Traffic.....5	Immigration 11
Asylum5	Immigration: Appeals 12
Attorney General: Senior Civil Servants6	Immigration: Reform..... 12
Aviation: Travel Restrictions6	Independent Office for Police Conduct: Staff... 12
Beavers6	Israel: Coronavirus 12
British Overseas Territories: Coronavirus.....6	Israel: Palestinians 12
Care Homes: Coronavirus7	Kenya: Human Rights 13
Charitable Donations: Coronavirus7	Laos: Religious Freedom..... 13
China: Human Rights7	Leader of the House of Lords: Senior Civil Servants 13
College of Policing: Staff.....7	Lifetime Skills Guarantee 13
Countryside7	Local Government Finance..... 14
Cycling8	Maher al-Akhras 14
Cyprus: Beaches8	Members: Correspondence 15
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: Senior Civil Servants8	Mubarak Bala 15
Department for Education: Senior Civil Servants 8	National Lottery: Coronavirus..... 15
Department of Transport: Consultants9	National Tutoring Programme..... 15
Employment: Coronavirus.....9	NRPF Network: Meetings 16
Energy Supply and Nuclear Power.....9	Nuclear Power Stations: Investment..... 16
Export Licensing Unit9	Office of the Advocate General for Scotland: Senior Civil Servants 16
Fire and Rescue Services: Staff.....9	Palestinians: Protest..... 16
	Palestinians: Schools 16
	Palestinians: Travel Restrictions..... 16
	Pheasants 17

Index to Statements and Answers

Police: Recruitment	17
Political Parties: Finance	17
Ports.....	17
Ports: EU Law	18
Poverty: Children.....	18
Protective Clothing: Procurement	18
Public Expenditure: Rural Areas	18
Railway Stations: Access	19
Regional Planning and Development	19
Road Traffic	19
Roads: Closures	19
Schools: Governing Bodies	20
Slavery.....	20
Social Services: Pay	20
Sports: Coronavirus	21
Syria: Armed Conflict	21
Think Tanks: Finance	21
Tidal Power: North Wales	21
Travel: Health.....	22
Undocumented Migrants: English Channel.....	22
Union Learning Fund	22
Universities: Coronavirus.....	23
Visas: Sports.....	24