

**Session 2019-21  
No. 138**



**Monday  
9 November 2020**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

# **HOUSE OF LORDS**

## **WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS**

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[I] indicates that the member concerned has a relevant registered interest. The full register of interests can be found at <http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/standards-and-interests/register-of-lords-interests/>

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

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# Written Statements

*Monday, 9 November 2020*

## Belarus: Violations Report

[HLWS554]

**Baroness Sugg:** My right hon Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs (Dominic Raab) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The Government has welcomed the publication of the report by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's (OSCE) independent rapporteur, Professor Wolfgang Benedek on Belarus. The report was initiated under the Moscow Mechanism to consider Alleged Human Rights Violations related to the Presidential Elections in Belarus on 9 August 2020.

As I noted in my statement to the House of 24 September, alongside 16 other Participating States at the OSCE on 17 September, the United Kingdom invoked the Moscow Mechanism of the human dimension of the OSCE. This triggered an independent investigation into credible reports of electoral fraud and human rights violation before, during and after the Presidential elections in Belarus. The investigation commenced on 30 September and is now complete. The report was formally presented to the OSCE Permanent Council on 5 November 2020 and was welcomed by all 17 invoking States in a Joint Statement. The UK also made a national statement to welcome its publication.

Belarus refused to cooperate with the rapporteur or allow him access to the country. Nevertheless, the report draws heavily on evidence and observations from international organisations and mechanisms, as well as more than 700 submissions from Belarusian citizens and organisations.

The findings of the report are clear.

The report concludes that the allegations that the elections were not transparent, as well as neither free nor fair, are accurate and well evidenced. The report notes that from the selection of the national electoral commission through to vote counting, Belarus fell short of its international commitments and of the basic requirements of previous OSCE and Council of Europe election monitoring reports.

The report finds that the allegations of human rights violations have been proven beyond doubt and that the Belarusian authorities have carried out violations on a massive and systematic scale. The report highlights the environment of impunity that exists in Belarus; no one has been held accountable for the well documented cases of torture and inhumane treatment by the security forces. The report also confirms that freedom of the media and the safety of journalists are under sustained attack in Belarus.

The report makes 82 recommendations to the Belarusian authorities including new Presidential

elections, an immediate end to the violence and release of all those illegally detained, an independent oversight mechanism on detention conditions, and an investigation into all allegations of torture.

The Government calls on Belarus to implement all of the recommendations included in the Report. Further, the report makes 16 recommendations to OSCE Participants and the wider international community. The UK has already begun to implement the majority of these recommendations. In addition, the UK supports the recommendation that Belarus must hold new elections and that a detailed and thorough investigation in the human rights violations is required.

A copy of the Report is being placed in the Library of both Houses.

## Chief Coroner: Annual Reports

[HLWS551]

**Baroness Scott of Bybrook:** My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Alex Chalk) has made the following Written Statement.

"I am pleased to lay and publish the Chief Coroner's combined sixth and seventh annual reports to the Lord Chancellor on the operation of coroner services under section 36 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 ('the 2009 Act'). The joint report covers both 2018 to 2019 and 2019 to 2020.

Publication of the sixth report was delayed last year and, in light of the emerging Covid-19 pandemic at the start of 2020, it was considered preferable to postpone its publication until later in the year and release it as a joint edition with the seventh report.

In particular, the Chief Coroner's report sets out:

- The work that he as well as coroners, their officers and their staff have achieved to manage the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic;
- The continuing work to promote consistency in the resourcing of and practices in coroner offices across England and Wales;
- The training and guidance that coroners and their officers have received and the engagement with a wide range of stakeholders; and
- Recommendations to improve coroner services further.

Annexed to the report are the Chief Coroner's revised "A Model Coroner Area" blueprint, the list of cases over twelve months old reported to the Chief Coroner and tables of senior and area coroners' salaries.

I am very grateful to His Honour Judge Mark Lucraft QC for building so effectively on his previous achievements as well as those of his predecessor, His Honour Sir Peter Thornton QC. I also thank him for his excellent and much-appreciated service since October 2016 as he now moves on to become the full-time Recorder of London. I am particularly grateful that he continued to serve as Chief Coroner over the last months

to guide and support coroners in facing the incredibly difficult challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic.

I am grateful too to all coroners and their officers and other staff, for having supported the Chief Coroner to improve services for bereaved people and for their valued and continuing frontline work. Their work in managing the impact of the pandemic on their own services but also more widely, in support of their Local Resilience Fora, has been inestimable.

The report will be available online, at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chief-coroners-combined-annual-report-2018-to-2019-and-2019-to-2020>."

## FCDO Services

[HLWS550]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** FCDO Services operates as a trading fund of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). Notwithstanding Covid-19, I have set the following ambitious performance targets for 2020-2021:

- i) Achievement of the return on capital employed (ROCE) of at least 3.5% (weighted average before accounting for costs directly associated with Covid-19);
- ii) A productivity ratio of at least 80%, measuring actual billable hours versus available billable hours (Q3 and Q4 only – normalised for the impact of Covid-19);
- iii) An in-year customer satisfaction rating average at least of 80% (Q3 and Q4 only - normalised for the impact of Covid-19); and
- iv) An average Your Say score for “My Manager” measuring 63%.

In addition to the performance targets, FCDO Services will continue to maintain high levels of staff engagement for 2020-2021 throughout the period.

FCDO Services will report to Parliament on its success against these targets through its Annual Report and Accounts for 2020-2021.

FCDO Services is a Trading Fund of the FCDO. It provides a range of integrated, secure services worldwide to the FCDO and other UK Government departments, supporting the delivery of government agendas. Services include protective security, estates and construction, cloud computing, communications and monitoring, logistics, translation and interpreting. This is combined with a portfolio of global maintenance work. FCDO Services also manages the UK National Authority for Counter Eavesdropping (UK NACE), helping protect UK assets from physical, electronic and cyber-attack.

## Independent Review of Insurance

[HLWS548]

**Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park:** My Hon Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Domestic Environment) (Rebecca Pow) has today made the following statement.

On 27<sup>th</sup> December 2019 my Rt Hon Friend the then Secretary of State (Theresa Villiers) commissioned an independent review following the severe flooding in South Yorkshire in November 2019. The River Don recorded its highest ever peak flows at Rotherham and Doncaster, with South Yorkshire experiencing its wettest November on record - seeing over two and a half times its average rainfall and over 760 properties reported as having flooded.

This independent review has been led by Amanda Blanc, former chair of the Association of British Insurers (ABI) who was appointed on 14 April 2020 and was supported by BMG Research. Amanda Blanc has provided me with a comprehensive report that sets out her findings into why some residents of Doncaster did not have sufficient insurance cover, and in some cases no insurance at all. Where necessary, it considers and makes recommendations for action to mitigate the impact of future flood events. (Full terms of reference for the Review can be found on Gov.uk: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flood-insurance-review-2020-blanc-review/terms-of-reference-flood-insurance-review-2020>).

I would like to thank Amanda for her investigation and recommendations, which the Government will now consider.

### *Report Findings*

This report sets out the findings of the review in relation to the level of insurance cover held by those affected in Doncaster, the barriers they may have faced in obtaining cover and whether there are any systemic issues in the provision of flood insurance.

The report identifies that 95% of homeowners were able to confirm that they had both buildings and contents insurance. This compares with 94% of households at risk of flooding in Defra’s national 2018 survey looking at the availability and affordability of flood insurance. I am pleased that this shows the sustained availability of home insurance for homeowners especially in this area of high flood risk. However, amongst homeowners who had insurance, 6% of buildings insurance policies did not cover flooding, and 7% of contents insurance policies did not cover flooding.

The report also found that there were significant differences between the insurance cover held by homeowners and tenants, and that “owner-occupiers were generally far better protected than renters”. Whilst tenants are responsible for arranging their contents insurance, they do not organise their buildings insurance as this is the responsibility of landlords. The evidence shows that only 25% of tenants had contents insurance that covered flood damage. The report identifies reasons why tenants did not have suitable contents insurance that covered against the risk of flooding, such as the cost of the insurance, the time it takes to renew the insurance policy, and not being able to find a quote that included flood cover.

### *Report Recommendations*

The report makes 12 recommendations for actions that can be taken by the insurance industry, Flood Re, landlords, local authorities, Government and others to help enable homes and businesses to access sufficient insurance cover for flooding, while also informing any future policy decisions in this area:

- Four recommendations focus on the role of insurers, insurance brokers and their representative bodies in helping customers find the most suitable flood insurance to cover individual needs.
- Two recommendations focus on the need for landlords to make sure tenants are adequately supported in the case of a flood event.
- Two recommendations relate to the need for further evidence gathering at a national scale, through a repeat of a national 2018 survey on the affordability and availability of insurance.
- One recommendation calls for Flood Re to reduce the cost of its contents insurance premium for Council Tax band A and B properties.
- Other recommendations focus on the need for increased awareness of flood risk for communities, highlighting the role of Local Authorities, the Environment Agency and representative bodies.

The report will be published today on Gov.uk.

This Review is essential in identifying some of the barriers that are in place for residents in high flood risk areas and understanding how we can take positive action to improve the protection available to residents moving forward.

The Government will be working with the insurance industry, Flood Re and the Environment Agency to explore the recommendations within the report and will respond formally to the recommendations in due course.

## **NATO Parliamentary Assembly**

[HLWS547]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** My right hon Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs (Dominic Raab) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The hon. Member for Lanark and Hamilton East (Angela Crawley) has replaced the hon. Member for Dunfermline and West Fife (Douglas Chapman) as a Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

## **Presumption of Parental Involvement Review**

[HLWS555]

**Baroness Scott of Bybrook:** My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Alex Chalk) has made the following Written Statement.

"On the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020, the Government published the *Final Report on Assessing Risk of Harm to Children and*

*Parents in Private Law Children Cases*, alongside an Implementation Plan. The Report contained a number of recommendations from a Panel that included external experts, and the Implementation Plan set out how the Government proposed to address the recommendations.

One of the recommendations made by the Panel was "that the presumption of parental involvement be reviewed urgently in order to address its detrimental effects."

I am pleased to announce the commencement of a review into the presumption of parental involvement in child arrangements, and certain other private law children proceedings. This review will focus on the application of the presumption and the statutory exception in cases where there are allegations or other evidence to suggest that involvement of the parent would put the child at risk of harm.

The Review will focus both on the courts' application of the presumption, as well as on the impact on children's welfare of the courts' application of these provisions. In particular, the Review will examine:

(i) how courts are applying sections 1(2A), (2B) and (6) of the Children Act 1989, which together require courts to presume, in child arrangements and certain other private law children proceedings, that involvement of a parent in the child's life will further the child's welfare, unless there is evidence to suggest that involvement of that parent would put the child at risk of suffering harm, and to define involvement as 'involvement of some kind, either direct or indirect, but not any particular division of a child's time';

(ii) and the impacts on children's welfare of the courts' application of these provisions

This is an important, and complex, issue and this approach is intended to identify whether any reforms are needed in this area, and if so, what kind (legislative or otherwise), and to ensure that any conclusions and recommendations are rooted in a solid understanding of the effect of the presumption and its exception, and the evidence base surrounding its application.

I am establishing an Advisory Group to guide the evidence gathering for this important Review. The Advisory Group members will be:

- Rachel Thomas, Welsh Children's Commissioner's Office
- Nicole Jacobs, the Domestic Abuse Commissioner
- Peter Jackson LJ
- HHJ Michelle Corbett
- Jacky Tiotto, CEO Cafcass
- Matthew Pinnell, Cafcass Cymru
- Tammy Knox, Resolution
- Michael Lewkowicz, Families Need Fathers

The evidence that this Review will gather will include a case file review, input from those working in the family courts and an academic literature review of how the

presumption is currently applied and the impact of parental involvement on the wellbeing of the child.

The Ministry of Justice will follow a competitive tender process to identify the most appropriate individuals to conduct the evidence review.

I anticipate being able to update the House before summer recess with the outcomes of the Review."

## Prosperity Fund Annual Report 2019-20

[HLWS549]

**Lord True:** I wish to inform the House of the publication of the Prosperity Fund's fourth Annual Report for the Financial Year 2019/20.

Over the last four years, the Prosperity Fund has aimed to promote economic growth and reduce poverty in developing countries. As well as contributing towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Fund has responded to the increasing demand from developing countries to build deeper trade, investment partnerships, and economic relations with other countries.

I am placing a copy of the Prosperity Fund Annual Report 2019/20 in the library of both Houses. The publication of the report reflects the Government's continuing commitment to transparency in the delivery of Official Development Assistance.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Prosperity Fund Annual Report 2019/20 [FCDO0029 Prosperity Report 2019-20 v5.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2020-11-05/HLWS549/>

## Rough Sleeping

[HLWS552]

**Lord Greenhalgh:** My Rt Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (Robert Jenrick) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

Today, in light of the national restrictions, I have announced targeted, additional support for areas with higher numbers of rough sleepers, to enable local authorities to protect the most vulnerable in our society from the effects of COVID-19.

This continues our ongoing work to support rough sleepers, to keep them safe during the pandemic and to provide a long-term sustainable end to rough sleeping.

This Government is committed to ending rough sleeping and we have already taken huge steps to working with local authorities and their partners to protect rough sleepers during the pandemic. The Government is spending over £700 million to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping this year alone.

I am today launching the Protect Programme which builds on the ongoing success of Everyone In and ensures we are protecting the most vulnerable in our communities

during the 4-week period of restrictions and across the winter period.

This programme will see Government working intensively with a selection of local areas with the highest levels of rough sleeping, backed by £15 million of funding.

Throughout the pandemic, we have worked closely with local authorities and the sector to offer vulnerable people safe accommodation and support. That work is ongoing and by September we had successfully supported over 29,000 people, with over 10,000 still in emergency accommodation and nearly 19,000 provided with settled accommodation or move on support.

These efforts have been backed by significant government support:

- Over £6.4 billion provided to councils to help them to manage the impacts of COVID-19, which we have been clear includes their work to support rough sleepers. This is alongside wider additional funding for councils to support local test, trace and contain activities, and their local businesses.
- Worked with councils to develop tailored local plans to support rough sleepers over the coming months.
- A £266 million Next Steps Accommodation Programme aims to ensure that as few people as possible return to the streets. This includes the £91.5 million allocated to 274 councils in September to fund their individual local plans for rough sleepers over the coming months, and £150 million which is being used to bring forward 3,300 new homes for rough sleepers this year.
- £112 million provided to local areas through the Rough Sleeping Initiative.
- A £10 million Cold Weather Fund for all local authorities to bring forward COVID-secure accommodation this winter; a new £2 million Transformation Fund for the voluntary sector; and comprehensive guidance on reopening night shelters more safely, where not doing so would endanger lives.

In light of the recently brought in national restrictions, we will work with local authorities and their partners, to build on this work and make sure that they have updated plans in place to protect some of the most vulnerable in our society.

All councils in England will be asked to update their rough sleeping plans and consider interventions for anyone sleeping rough.

We recognise that areas with high numbers of rough sleepers will require an increased health focus alongside accommodation for those sleeping rough, prioritising those who are clinically vulnerable. This support will continue throughout winter. The Protect Programme will provide £15 million, alongside targeted Government support, to ensure additional support for rough sleepers is available over this winter period in the areas that need it most.

We will set out further detail about how local areas can access this additional support under the Protect Programme imminently and I encourage all relevant partners and local authorities to consider how they can best use the available support to protect the most vulnerable.

## UK's Future Trading Relationship with New Zealand: Negotiations

[HLWS553]

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

The second UK-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiating round took place from 19th October to 2nd November. Negotiators carried out 46 sessions over two weeks, covering all areas of the proposed FTA, and bringing us closer to agreeing an ambitious FTA. Between round one and round two both sides shared 35 draft texts and 25 position papers, which enabled detailed and constructive talks.

The talks underscored both countries' commitment to removing trade barriers and creating new opportunities for business, and a belief that a deep and dynamic agreement can send a clear signal to the world that both the UK and New Zealand are prepared to fight protectionism and advance free and fair trade.

There has been encouraging progress on numerous areas of common interest. In the area of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, both sides reaffirmed their ambition to agree a chapter that will enable these businesses to fully benefit from the FTA. Productive conversations were also held on trade and the environment and promoting clean growth, where both countries are working closely together to support sustainable outcomes across the agreement.

Discussions also demonstrated shared ambition in trade in services, particularly exploring opportunities for the recognition of professional qualifications, as well as exploring innovative provisions to promote sustainable finance and diversity in the financial services sector. Our negotiations on digital trade also underlined shared aspirations, and a mutual intent to agree a cutting-edge chapter.

The groundwork was laid for the exchange of initial goods market access offers as well as positive discussions in the areas of Rules of Origin and Customs on agreeing

simple, modern customs procedures that consider current and future supply chains.

The UK and New Zealand are both keen to continue the momentum of discussions, and the third negotiating round is expected to take place in January 2021.

Below is a summary list of those areas discussed in the round, which continued to take place by video conference:

- Anti-Corruption
- Competition
- Consumer Protection
- Customs
- Digital trade
- State-to-State Dispute Settlement
- Environment and Clean Growth
- Financial Services
- Good Regulatory Practice
- Trade in Goods
- Indigenous Trade
- Intellectual Property
- Investment
- Labour
- Legal & Institutional
- Procurement
- Remedies
- Rules of Origin
- Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
- Services (including Cross Border Trade in Services, Professional Business Services, Transport and Delivery Services, and Movement of Natural Persons)
- Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
- State Owned Enterprises
- Technical Barriers to Trade
- Telecoms
- Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment
- Trade for Development

Any deal the UK Government agrees will be fair and balanced and in the best interests of the whole of the UK. We remain committed to upholding our high environmental, labour, food safety and animal welfare standards in our trade agreement with New Zealand, as well as protecting the National Health Service (NHS).

## Written Answers

Monday, 9 November 2020

### Algeria: Asylum

Asked by *Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what arrangements they have in place with the government of Algeria to address any issues with asylum seekers from either the UK or Algeria. [HL9577]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The UK does not have any specific arrangements in place with the government of Algeria 'to address any issues with asylum seekers from either the UK or Algeria'.

Asylum policy applies to all nationalities, including of course Algerians.

### Armed Forces: Medals

Asked by *Lord Walney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to establish a working group reporting to the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals to consider whether to introduce a special service medal for current and former submariners who have served on patrol in the ongoing Operation Relentless. [HL9898]

**Baroness Goldie:** The Government appreciates the courage shown and sacrifices made by all our brave Service men and women, including those who have served in the Submarine Service as part of Operation Relentless. However, there are no plans to introduce a special service medal. Since 2010, our submariners receive the Deterrent Patrol Pin recognising the professionalism, dedication and commitment displayed by those who have deployed on ballistic missile submarine patrols. Former members of the Service are entitled, and encouraged, to apply for the pin in recognition of their previous service.

### Arzoo Raja

Asked by *Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Pakistan about the case of Arzoo Raja and her abduction, forced conversion and forced marriage. [HL9612]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We are monitoring Arzoo Raja's case. The UK Government strongly condemns child, early and forced marriage and the forced conversion of women and girls in Pakistan, including from religious minorities. We regularly raise at a senior level our concerns about Freedom of Religion or Belief, women and girls' with the Government of Pakistan at a senior level. Most recently, I raised our concerns about child, early and forced marriage and forced conversion of

women and girls with Pakistan's Human Rights Minister, Dr Shireen Mazari, on 19 October.

### Astute Class Submarines

Asked by *Lord Walney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Programme Design and Definition phase of the SSN(R) programme. [HL9966]

Asked by *Lord Walney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the replacement for the Astute-class SSN Royal Navy submarines will take the form of another submarine. [HL9967]

**Baroness Goldie:** The programme to deliver the first of Class of an SSN Replacement for the Astute Class submarines is currently in the Programme Definition and Design Phase, which aims to identify potential capability solution choices. Therefore, it is too early to determine what the capability solution will be.

### Asylum: Glasgow

Asked by *Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to improve the management of temporary accommodation for asylum applicants in Glasgow; whether they intend to consult (1) the Scottish Refugee Council, and (2) Glasgow MPs, on this matter; and whether any such consultation will incorporate (a) mental health provision, and (b) the use of contractors. [HL9479]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Glasgow provides a safe haven and welcome to Asylum Seekers and we are very grateful for the support the city provides.

We are committed to ensuring that the services provided to the people we support are of the required quality. The Home Office has commissioned an evaluation of the accommodation and support services offered to asylum seekers in Glasgow during COVID-19 – seeking feedback from MPs and the voluntary sector.

Meanwhile the Home Office continues to work with Glasgow City Council (GCC) LA and the Scottish Government via the Glasgow Partnership Board and the Regional Delivery and Procurement Group regular (currently bi weekly meetings) to explore all accommodation procurement options available and ensure appropriate support is provided.

However, the Home Office does not directly commission health services. These are provided through the Asylum Health Bridging Team, part of the Glasgow City Council Health and Social Care Partnership.

It should also be noted that the reduction of contingency accommodation in Glasgow is dependent upon both LA sign off for accommodation procurement requests and the progressing those cases that are in the LAs remit



including working with Home Office to process cases that have had their asylum application concluded.

### **Au Pairs: Spain**

*Asked by Lord Willis of Knaresborough*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Spanish au pairs will (1) be covered by UK–Spain reciprocal healthcare arrangements after 1 January 2021, or (2) require separate health insurance to work in the UK. [HL9606]

**Lord Bethell:** Regardless of any future healthcare arrangements, people who have moved to the United Kingdom or European Union before 31 December 2020, will continue to have life-long reciprocal healthcare rights provided they remain covered under the terms of the Withdrawal Agreement. This means existing healthcare arrangements will not change for those UK nationals who are resident in EU and EU citizens in the UK before 31 December 2020, for as long as they are living in that country and covered by the agreement.

For people not covered by the Withdrawal Agreement, the future of reciprocal healthcare arrangements between the UK and EU are subject to negotiations, which are ongoing.

The UK has set out that it is ready to work to establish practical, reciprocal healthcare provisions with the EU for the future. The UK is open to arrangements that provide healthcare cover for tourists, short-term business visitors and service providers. These arrangements could benefit UK nationals and EU citizens travelling or moving between the UK.

### **Balkans: EU Action**

*Asked by The Earl of Sandwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many EU development projects they support in the Western Balkans; and what plans they have to support such projects after January 2021. [HL9794]

**Baroness Sugg:** The UK contributes towards EU development projects in the Western Balkans, through the Heading IV section of the EU's 2014-2020 Multi-Annual Financial Framework Budget (MFF). Over the 2014-2020 MFF, the EU has allocated funding totalling around €6.5 billion for the Western Balkans, and the UK has contributed on average approximately 12.5% towards the costs of these programmes.

The Withdrawal Agreement commits the UK to continue to make payments to the EU from 01 January 2021, as part of the UK's Reste-a-Liquider (RAL) contributions to the EU budget. We anticipate that this will include continued funding to support programmes in the Western Balkans until approximately 2025. The UK will not be contributing to EU programming under the 2021-2027 MFF.

### **Borders: Northern Ireland**

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any EU officials will be involved in inspecting (1) agricultural produce, (2) foods, or (3) other goods, entering Northern Ireland from Great Britain after 31 December. [HL9634]

**Lord True:** Further to Article 12(1) of the Northern Ireland Protocol, the authorities of the United Kingdom are responsible for implementing and applying the provisions of Union law made applicable by the Protocol. This includes the administering of checks on agri-food moving from Great Britain to Northern Ireland, from 1 January 2021.

### **British Nationals Abroad: Syria**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the request by the Executive Council of the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria, for the repatriation of foreign nationals in Al-Hol camp; and whether they raised the number of British nationals in any related discussions. [HL9648]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK Government is clear that those individuals who have fought for, or supported Daesh, whatever their nationality, should face justice and accountability through prosecution in the most appropriate jurisdiction: often in the region where the crimes took place. Officials have reiterated this position in routine discussions with the local authorities in north-east Syria, including in relation to individuals who have travelled from the UK. We are aware that some British nationals are living in displaced persons camps in Syria but due to the circumstances on the ground we are not in a position to make an accurate estimate of the number.

### **Broadband**

*Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are on track to meet their target of full-fibre, gigabit-capable broadband by 2025. [HL9575]

**Baroness Barran:** The Government remains committed to delivering nationwide gigabit connectivity as soon as possible. Our ambition is to deliver this by 2025. We recognise that this is a challenging ambition. We support industry's plans to deliver gigabit broadband to the most commercial parts of the UK (c.80% of the country) and will continue to take action to remove barriers to deployment to help them deliver this by 2025.

Building Digital UK (BDUK) is currently in the process of mobilising the new £5 billion UK Gigabit Programme which was announced in the Spring Budget. Procurements will commence in 2021.

According to Thinkbroadband (<https://labs.thinkbroadband.com/local/>) as of 27 October, coverage at UK premises for different broadband speeds is currently:

- Superfast (30Mbps) = 96.50%
- Ultrafast (100Mbps) = 63.27%
- Gigabit (1,000Mbps) = 27.52%
- Full Fibre (Gigabit+) = 17.49%

Virgin Media are in the process of activating gigabit services across their entire network by the end of 2021, and this currently covers over 52% of the UK. BT Openreach and CityFibre also have multi-billion pound fibre rollout programmes underway so a leap in gigabit coverage during 2021 is anticipated. This planned build predominantly covers urban areas so DCMS's focus is on stimulating build in the more rural and disadvantaged areas of the UK where the commercial market will not build unaided.

The government has invested significant amounts in digital infrastructure over the last decade. The DCMS portfolio of active projects is currently c.£4 billion (detailed below) and in the Spring Budget, a further £5 billion of investment was announced for the hardest to reach areas of the UK. More details regarding the programme will follow in the Autumn Spending Review.

### Bus Services

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of calls for reforms to, and new investment in, bus services by the Local Government Association transport spokesperson Councillor David Renard on 28 October. [HL9772]

**Baroness Vere of Norbiton:** In order to ensure that essential bus services can continue to operate throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government is providing an unprecedented amount of support to the bus sector. In addition to the Coronavirus Bus Support Service Grant (CBSSG), worth up to £27.3 million per week and funded by Central Government, we continue to ask Local Authorities to pay out concessionary bus fares at budgeted, pre-COVID, levels. Allowance for this has been made as part of their Local Revenue Grant.

### Business: Billing

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the results of the survey they published in September on extending the scope and powers of the Prompt Payment Code. [HL9557]

**Lord Callanan:** We have received over 400 responses to our survey on suggested reforms of the Prompt

Payment Code and officials are currently analysing those responses.

We plan to publish the new Code principles before the end of the year but only after the views of those who took the time to respond have been given the consideration they deserve.

### Cabinet Office: Advertising

*Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they last conducted a review of the effectiveness of their advertising campaigns and the related costs; and what were the results. [HL9667]

**Lord True:** Government constantly monitors and gains insight on public awareness. We use regular evaluations to maximise the impact of our campaigns across the UK.

Cabinet Office publishes expenditure on COVID-19 and other national campaigns on a rolling monthly basis on gov.uk as part of routine government transparency arrangements.

### China: Coronavirus

*Asked by Baroness Eaton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 21 October (HL8918), what assessment they have made of any difficulties in reconciling the objective for a full investigation into the origins of COVID-19, with the statement that the government of China "has to be part of the solution". [HL9632]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** It remains important that there is a full and robust international investigation into the origins of Covid-19, to understand why the outbreak happened, why it was not stopped earlier and what can be done to manage any outbreak in the future. Work is underway on the review and investigation into the origins of the virus as agreed by the World Health Assembly in May. We will continue to work closely with the WHO and international partners, including China, to ensure that it is independent, evidence-based, transparent and rigorous so that the right lessons are learned. This is consistent with recognition that China is an important member of the international community. Its size, rising economic power and influence make it an important partner in tackling the biggest global challenges, including global health issues.

### China: Iran

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the implications of the Iran-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership for (1) the UK, and (2) the future of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. [HL9489]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We understand that the media reporting that the Iran-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership has been finalised is premature. Until final details of the deal become public, we are unable to make a full assessment of the implications. Our priority remains to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability. We remain committed to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) however Iran's continued reduction in compliance has seriously undermined the non-proliferation benefits of the deal. To preserve it Iran must engage with the JCPOA's Joint Commission and Dispute Resolution Mechanism (which we triggered with E3 partners on 14 January) and return to compliance.

### China: Taiwan

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by the US National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien to the Aspen Security Forum on 16 October, what is their strategic assessment of the prospects of offensive action by the government of China against Taiwan. [HL9491]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We are concerned by any action which raises tensions in the Taiwan Strait and risks destabilising the status quo. Her Majesty's Government continues to monitor the situation closely, and considers the Taiwan issue one to be settled by the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait through constructive dialogue.

### China: Uighurs

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of the decision of the Subcommittee on International Human Rights in the Canadian Parliament to designate actions by the government of China against its Uyghur population to be a genocide; and what plans they have, if any, to enable an appropriate judicial authority in the UK (1) to consider the same evidence, and (2) to reach a determination, on this matter. [HL9458]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We are aware of the decision of the Subcommittee on International Human Rights in the Canadian Parliament. It is the long-standing policy of the British Government that any judgment as to whether war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide have occurred is a matter for independent judicial decision. Our approach is to seek an end to all violations of international law, and to prevent their further escalation, irrespective of whether these violations fit the definition of specific international crimes.

### Christianity

*Asked by Lord McCrea of Magherafelt and Cookstown*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to protect Christians from persecution around the world. [HL9656]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Defending the right to Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) for all is a priority for the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. As the Minister of State responsible for Human Rights, I reiterated this message in my tweet to mark International Freedom of Religion or Belief Day on 27 October. The UK Government remains committed to implementing the recommendations from the Bishop of Truro's independent Review on persecuted Christians in full. Work is continuing to implement the recommendations in a way that will bring real improvements in the lives of those persecuted because of their faith, belief, or those of no religious belief. Of the recommendations, 17 have already been, or are in the process of being, implemented. One of those recommendations related to the establishment of the UK's Global Human Rights ('Magnitsky') sanctions regime. This regime came into effect on 6 July and allows us to designate those who commit serious human rights abuses or violations, including those who target individuals on the grounds of their religion or belief. We also launched the John Bunyan Fund for FoRB in August 2019, through which we have funded 15 research projects helping address the challenges faced by different communities, such as Christians, Yazidis, and Humanists, as well as cross-cutting issues such as migration and the double vulnerability experienced by women from minority faith backgrounds. We continue to work with international partners, including through the International Religious Freedom or Belief Alliance, to combat religious persecution worldwide.

### Climate Change Cabinet Committee

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the membership of the Climate Action Strategy Committee; how many times it has met since October 2019; and whether its minutes are published. [HL9483]

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the membership of the Climate Action Implementation Committee; how many times it has met; and whether its minutes are published. [HL9484]

**Lord True:** It is a long-established precedent that information about the discussions that have taken place in Cabinet and its Committees, and how often they have met, is not normally shared publicly.

Further details of the membership and terms of reference for Cabinet Sub-Committees are published on gov.uk at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-cabinet-committees-system-and-list-of-cabinet-committees>.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

List of Cabinet Committees and their membership  
[Cabinet\_Committee\_list\_and\_public\_ToRs.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-10-22/HL9483>

## Climate Change Convention

*Asked by Baroness Boycott*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what scrutiny mechanisms they plan to propose to Parliament for the scrutiny of COP26 sponsorship agreements. [HL9515]

*Asked by Baroness Boycott*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to limit sponsorship for COP26 (1) to companies which have a plan to half their emissions by 2030, and (2) to companies that have disclosed plans that are aligned with the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees. [HL9516]

*Asked by Baroness Boycott*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much funding they expect to raise from sponsorship for COP26; and whether they will provide a breakdown of that funding. [HL9517]

*Asked by Baroness Boycott*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan (1) to publish the historic and current emissions of any COP26 sponsors, or (2) to place a requirement on potential sponsors to publish their historic and current emissions. [HL9520]

**Lord Callanan:** Sponsorship is an important part of our funding arrangements for COP26, supporting the successful delivery of an event with the level of ambition required to tackle the urgent challenge of climate change; and enhancing value for money for taxpayers. The names of any confirmed sponsor will be published on the COP26 website. The Government will conduct due diligence on all potential sponsors and ensure compliance with rigorous standards. Environmental transparency and disclosure is vital to track progress towards a net zero economy, and this is one of the criteria that the Government is using to assess potential sponsors. The Government has set strict sponsorship criteria for COP26 and will only partner with companies who have set net-zero commitments by 2050 or earlier, and who have published a credible and aligned short-term action plan to achieve this. The Government is encouraging companies

with strong climate credentials to apply for sponsorship through the COP26 website.

*Asked by Baroness Boycott*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what budget has been set for the UK to host COP26. [HL9518]

**Lord Callanan:** Discussions on costs for COP26 are currently ongoing, and final budgets are yet to be confirmed.

*Asked by Baroness Boycott*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have for a public engagement strategy for COP26, following the report by Bright Blue, Going Greener? Public Attitudes to Net Zero, published 12 October, which stated that 58 per cent of people asked did not think that the UK would reach net zero by 2050. [HL9519]

**Lord Callanan:** In preparation for COP26, the Cabinet Office has set up a dedicated engagement team that will facilitate engagement with businesses, wider civil society and youth, and cities and regions on COP26. This will ensure that the UK brings along all of society in the global transition to a net-zero economy and in the delivery of an ambitious and inclusive COP26 summit. We will continue to engage the public as we develop our plans for reaching net zero emissions by 2050.

## Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-pacific Partnership

*Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of their progress to date in relation to their membership of the Trans-Pacific Partnership. [HL9627]

**Lord Grimstone of Boscobel:** We hope to be able to apply for formal accession of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) in early 2021. This continues to be a priority for the government and a key part of our trade negotiations programme.

We have engaged with all eleven member countries at both ministerial and official level, an approach that aligns with the accession process for new CPTPP members, and all CPTPP members have welcomed our interest in accession. In particular, Japan underlined their commitment to supporting the UK's accession during the Secretary of State's visit to Japan to sign the UK-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

## Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

*Asked by Baroness Barker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why they ceased publication of Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme data by local authority area in May 2020. [HL9459]

*Asked by Baroness Barker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to publish Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme data by local authority area from May 2020 onwards. [HL9460]

*Asked by Baroness Barker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to publish Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme data by UK Parliamentary constituency. [HL9461]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** HM Revenue and Customs published statistics on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme in August 2020 which included a breakdown of the number of employments furloughed at both local authority and Parliamentary constituency level. Those statistics provided figures on the cumulative total number of employments furloughed at any time between March 2020 and June 2020 by local authority and Parliamentary constituency.

In addition to this, the latest issue of these statistics, published in October 2020, included data on the number of jobs furloughed at local authority and Parliamentary constituency level as at 31 August. Both of these breakdowns also split the figures for each area by gender and are based on claims received until the end of September. Both of these statistics releases can be found on the Internet at the addresses in the footnote to this answer.

HMRC published local authority and Parliamentary constituency breakdowns in the June, July and August CJRS statistics, but these were temporarily removed from the September release. HMRC did not cease publication of these statistics in May.

The temporary removal of the local authority and Parliamentary constituency breakdowns from the September release was done in order to enable the statistics to be released in a timely manner, while dealing with the additional work associated with substantial changes to the data and the statistics following the introduction of the flexible furlough element of the job retention scheme.

HMRC continue to monitor the use of these statistics and make improvements as necessary.

Footnote text:

August 2020 Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme statistics can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/coronavirus-job-retention-scheme-statistics-august-2020>.

October 2020 CJRS statistics can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/coronavirus-job-retention-scheme-statistics-october-2020>.

## Coronavirus: Disease Control

*Asked by The Earl of Shrewsbury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, or plan to make, of the use of (1) tunnel, and (2) pod, disinfection systems to protect against COVID-19. [HL9443]

*Asked by The Earl of Shrewsbury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the substances used in (1) tunnel, and (2) pod, disinfection systems; and what were the results of any such assessment. [HL9444]

**Baroness Stedman-Scott:** Her Majesty's Government's assessment is that disinfectants (that may be used in tunnel and pod disinfection systems) which are used to control/kill harmful organisms such as bacteria and viruses etc. can pose risks to humans, animals and the environment due to their intrinsic properties and associated use patterns, and as such are strictly regulated under the Biocidal Products Regulation 528/2012 (EU BPR).

In respect of Covid-19, Her Majesty's Government's position on the use of tunnel and pod disinfection systems, formed and based upon a report produced by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on cleaning and disinfecting of environmental surfaces (Covid-19 Situation Report 115), is that it is not recommended for individuals to be sprayed with disinfectant under any circumstances. WHO Situation Report 115 concludes that spraying individuals with disinfectant could be physically and psychologically harmful and would not reduce an infected person's ability to spread SARS-CoV-2 through droplets or contact.

## Coronavirus: Disinformation

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the human cost of misinformation spread by social media during the COVID-19 pandemic; and what estimate they have made, if any, of the number of people who did not follow public health guidance as a result of social media posts which shared misinformation about the pandemic who subsequently required treatment for COVID-19. [HL8872]

**Lord Bethell:** The Department has made no specific assessment.

## Coronavirus: International Cooperation

*Asked by Lord Lancaster of Kimbolton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Sugg on 30 October (HL9430), what mechanisms they have put in place to

assess the effectiveness of their financial contribution to the work of the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator. [HL9852]

**Baroness Sugg:** The Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator is a coalition of partners, including the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Wellcome Trust, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, Unitaid, the Global Fund, the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), and others. The UK is a founding member of the ACT-Accelerator, and provides strategic guidance through representation on the ACT-Accelerator Facilitation Council.

The UK funds leading organisations that are committed to delivering the ACT-Accelerator's objectives. The breakdown of these financial contributions is outlined in the Written Answer HL9851. FCDO funding agreements with these partners set out objectives for UK funding, and are subject to rigorous programme management procedures, including routine financial and results reporting, audits, and annual reviews. The UK is an active participant in governance boards and committees for multi-donor funded organisations, including Gavi and CEPI, and works with other donors to set objectives, monitor performance, and ensure strong financial management and reporting.

*Asked by Lord Lancaster of Kimbolton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Sugg on 30 October (HL9430), what assessment they have made of whether their financial contribution to the work of the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator is Official Development Assistance compliant. [HL9853]

**Baroness Sugg:** The breakdown of the UK's financial contribution to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) is outlined in the Written Answer HL9851. This includes up to £548 million for the COVAX Advance Market Commitment, up to £250 million of UK aid to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), up to £40 million to the COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator, and up to £23 million to the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND).

We have assessed this spend, and the vital work it supports, to be eligible as Official Development Assistance (ODA) under the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) ODA Directives. In line with these Directives, the primary purpose of the UK's ODA spend in this area is to promote the welfare and economic development of developing countries, and address the problems they face due to COVID-19. This includes ensuring that organisations supported to drive the research and development of effective vaccines, diagnostics, and treatments negotiate access agreements with private sector partners, and prioritise products that are suitable to the contexts, systems, and population needs of people in developing countries. This will be crucial in

mitigating the humanitarian and economic crisis they face from the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Coronavirus: Quarantine

*Asked by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many fixed penalty notices were issued for failure to self-isolate between 28 September and 14 October. [HL9513]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The UK Border Force issued 16 fines up to the 14<sup>th</sup> October, to travellers who had failed to provide contact details at the border.

These figures do not include fines issued by the police. The National Police Chiefs' Council regularly publishes data on the number of fines issued by police forces in England and Wales only under the new emergency health regulations including those issued under the International Travel Regulations.

These statistics are available here: <https://news.npcc.police.uk/releases/>.

## Crime

*Asked by Lord Farmer*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the current level of intergenerational transmission of criminal offending, broken down by gender. [HL9526]

**Baroness Scott of Bybrook:** Families and friends can be a positive influence on reducing reoffending. Strengthening the ties individuals have with their families and friends is one of the many important factors to successful rehabilitation and reducing intergenerational crime.

The Ministry of Justice is working collaboratively with the Department for Education and the Welsh Government to ensure that effective support is available within the community for children of prisoners to reduce the likelihood of intergenerational offending.

The specific information you have requested is not held centrally by the Ministry of Justice. We do not collect data on the criminal conviction status of the parents or children of those who come into contact with the Criminal Justice System. Therefore, it would not be possible to do any analysis on either the proportion of offenders who had parents with a criminal conviction, or offenders with children who have a conviction.

In the absence of holding this data ourselves, we rely on estimates from research studies, such as the MoJ SPCR survey in 2005/6 which found that 37% of prisoners reported having family members who had been convicted of a non-motoring criminal offence.

## Crossrail 2 Line: Railway Stations

*Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have held with Transport for London on plans for a

Chelsea station on King's Road in proposals for Crossrail 2; and whether such plans are still included in the latest proposals. [HL9475]

**Baroness Vere of Norbiton:** Given current affordability constraints, TfL have confirmed that they are not in a position to prioritise investment in Crossrail 2. In the funding agreement reached with the Mayor and TfL on 31 October 2020 it was agreed to prioritise safeguarding activity for the project. The Department for Transport and TfL are now in discussion on updating the safeguarding of the route for the project.

### Cyprus: Diplomatic Relations

Asked by *Lord Maginnis of Drumglass*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they formally congratulated Ersin Tatar on his recent election as President of Northern Cyprus; if so, when; and whether the UK High Commissioner treats the governments of the Republic of Cyprus and Northern Cyprus equally diplomatically. [HL9550]

**Baroness Sugg:** The British High Commissioner was in contact with Mr Ersin Tatar on 20 October, following his election as leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, to congratulate him on his new role and express hope for an early return to Cyprus settlement talks. The Turkish Cypriot community is recognised in Cyprus' constitution. As such, whilst the UK does not recognise the self-declared "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" and does not treat the Turkish Cypriot community equally diplomatically, we do engage with the Turkish Cypriot community.

### Dairy Products: Northern Ireland

Asked by *Lord Kilclooney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of changes to the sale of Northern Ireland dairy milk products in (1) Great Britain, (2) the EU, (3) nations with which the UK has a trade agreement, and (4) nations with which the EU but not the UK has a trade agreement, that will take effect after 31 December. [HL9540]

**Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park:** The UK Government has guaranteed in legislation, via the Internal Market Bill, unfettered access for Northern Ireland's businesses to the rest of the UK internal market from 1 January 2021, ensuring that trade from Northern Ireland to Great Britain continues as it does now. That will mean no declarations, tariffs, new regulatory checks or customs checks, or additional approvals for goods from Northern Ireland businesses to be placed on the UK market. The UK Government has also laid a Statutory Instrument, ensuring a continuity of arrangements for goods from Northern Ireland moving directly into Great Britain from 1 January 2021. This will be available only to Northern Ireland businesses.

There will be no change to the movement of goods between Northern Ireland and EU Member States, including Ireland. The EU is obliged under Article 5 of the Northern Ireland Protocol (NIP) to guarantee tariff free, frictionless access to the Single Market in any scenario from 31 December 2020.

The NIP ensures that Northern Ireland remains in the UK's customs territory. We will negotiate and deliver trade deals on behalf of the whole United Kingdom. Northern Ireland exporters will therefore enjoy the preferential access we negotiate with trading partners around the world.

As part of the UK's customs territory, after 31 December 2020, Northern Irish producers will no longer be able to access preferential trading arrangements under the EU's free trade agreements. As part of the UK's ability to pursue an independent trade policy, the UK Government has, in under two years, agreed trade agreements with 51 countries that have agreements with the EU. Total UK trade with these countries was worth £144 billion in 2019.

### Digital Technology

Asked by *Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to close the digital divide. [HL9574]

**Baroness Barran:** We continue to take steps to roll out gigabit capable broadband to every home and business in the UK, including a £5bn investment ensuring the whole of the UK benefits from a world class broadband infrastructure. Current gigabit coverage is over 27% of the UK and growing quickly, this is compared to under 5% just two years ago. Mobile coverage is also improving, thanks to our landmark Shared Rural Network agreement with the mobile network operators - the first of its kind in the world - 95% of the UK will have 4G coverage by the end of 2025.

The introduction of the Digital Entitlement means that adults with no or low digital skills can undertake new digital qualifications up to Level 1 free of charge. The Government also supports the Future Digital Inclusion Programme. Since 2014, the programme has helped over 1.4 million people to gain the digital skills they need for life and work.

In response to Covid-19 the Government invested over £195 million to support remote education. Part of this included delivering over 220,000 laptops and tablets over the summer term for vulnerable and disadvantaged children who would not otherwise have access. We are also making available 250,000 additional laptops and tablets (100,000 of these have been delivered since September) for disadvantaged children to supplement this in the event face-to-face schooling is disrupted as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

## Domestic Abuse

Asked by **Baroness Lister of Burtersett**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish the outcome of the Coercive or Controlling Behaviour Offence—Review of Effectiveness before the Second Reading of the Domestic Abuse Bill; and if not, when they plan to publish it. [HL9547]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Coercive or controlling behaviour is an insidious crime with far reaching impacts for victims. That is why it has been explicitly included in the definition of domestic abuse in the Domestic Abuse Bill.

The Government is committed to ensuring that abuse in all its forms is properly identified and effectively tackled. We are, therefore, carefully considering the review of the coercive or controlling behaviour offence. It remains our intention to publish the review in time to inform the Lords' stages of the Domestic Abuse Bill.

## Educational Institutions: Freedom of Expression

Asked by **Baroness Tonge**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the letter by the Secretary of State for Education to university vice-chancellors about the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism, what steps they are taking to ensure that freedom of speech is safeguarded in educational institutions. [HL9589]

**Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay:** Universities are required by law to uphold freedom of speech, allowing academics, students, and visiting speakers to challenge ideas and to discuss controversial subjects. In state-funded schools, it is a requirement to teach a broad and balanced curriculum in a way that encourages freedom of speech. We have made clear that if universities do not act to uphold free speech, the government will.

The right to free speech, however, does not include the right to harass others or incite them to commit acts of violence or terrorism. Universities also have responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 regarding discrimination and harassment, as well as responsibilities under the Prevent duty.

The government urges higher education (HE) institutions to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of antisemitism. The Department for Education considers this to be an important tool in tackling antisemitism and a strong signal that HE institutions take these issues seriously.

As autonomous institutions, this decision rests with individual HE institutions, but the government will explore all mechanisms to make sure all HE institutions sign up to this.

We are exploring a range of legislative and non-legislative options to ensure that free speech and

academic freedom are protected at our universities and the Department for Education will set out further steps in due course.

## Environment Protection

Asked by **Baroness Jones of Whitchurch**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer from Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park on 19 October (HL8726), what will be the status of environmental complaints involving the UK currently under consideration by the EU if they are unresolved when the transition period ends on 1 January 2021. [HL9482]

**Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park:** Unresolved environmental complaints that are currently under consideration can continue to be considered by the EU after the transition period. As specified in the Agreement on the withdrawal of the UK from the EU, with limited exceptions the Commission will continue to be competent for administrative procedures initiated before the end of the transition period, and the EU Court of Justice will continue to have jurisdiction over such cases. In addition, the withdrawal agreement includes a further four years from the end of the transition period, during which the Commission may bring cases before the Court of Justice for alleged infringements of EU law that occurred before the end of the transition period.

## Family Planning: Finance

Asked by **Baroness Tonge**

To ask Her Majesty's Government with which governments they have discussed the case for having dedicated budget lines for contraception in national sexual and reproductive rights strategies. [HL9684]

**Baroness Sugg:** The UK is proud to be a global champion for sexual and reproductive health and rights. We promote funding for quality contraception services in national budget planning, a key way to ensure the sustainability of family planning services in the long term.

We do not centrally track every country where we have had these discussions, but can confirm that we strive to support the countries we work in to have a dedicated budget line for contraception in their national strategies, through multilateral dialogue or bilateral dialogue. For example, we support 12 countries (Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, DRC, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia) to provide SRHR services and increase national budgets for contraceptives through the UK's Women's Integrated Sexual Health (WISH) programme. Our support to the Global Financing Facility helps assist in the implementation of plans and budgets for women and children's health, including contraception in 36 countries. Finally, in 69 countries our support to FP2020 helps to promote and support family planning.



## Financial Institutions: EU Law

*Asked by Lord Myners*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish their response to the European Commission's review of the Alternative Investment Fund Management Directive, and in particular the question on the delegation of portfolio management by funds in the EU to entities based in third countries. [HL9567]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** The UK is a global leader in asset management and UK firms manage portfolios for clients located around world, including in the EU. The government is a strong supporter of portfolio delegation as an international norm in cross-border financial services that ensures investors around the world have access to the best investment expertise. The Treasury engages with EU counterparts on a range of issues and publishes consultation responses where it is appropriate to do so.

Through the Asset Management Taskforce and other engagement, the Treasury continues to work closely with industry leaders to identify opportunities to promote the UK asset management sector and the interests of the investors it serves.

## Fireworks: Safety

*Asked by Baroness Clark of Kilwinning*

To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the cancellation of organised fireworks displays this year, what steps they are taking (1) to ensure bonfire night safety, and (2) to prevent firework related injuries. [HL9463]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government is taking action to promote the safe and considerate use of fireworks through a public awareness campaign which was launched on 20th October. The campaign includes messaging for consumers on how to buy, store, use and dispose of fireworks safely.

Fire and rescue authorities were provided with materials, through the Home Office Fire Kills campaign, to support this Government campaign and deliver firework safety messages locally.

More information on the Government's Firework Safety campaign is available on gov.uk: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/opss-launches-firework-safety-campaign>

## Food: Prices

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the extent of food price rises in the event of the UK and the EU not agreeing a deal on their future relationship; and what plans they have, if any, to increase pensions and other benefits to help people to cover these costs. [HL9579]

**Baroness Stedman-Scott:** The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions is required by law to conduct an annual review of benefit and pension rates to determine whether they have retained their value in relation to the general level of prices or, in some cases, earnings. The measure used for prices is the Consumer Price Index, which measures the aggregate change in prices of a sample of items that represent the spending patterns of a typical household, including food items.

## Football: Coronavirus

*Asked by Lord Macpherson of Earl's Court*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to recent comments by the chairman of Accrington Stanley Football Club that "clubs below the Premier League have never been at higher risk", what plans they have to encourage the Premier League to provide financial support to struggling clubs in the English Football League. [HL9787]

**Baroness Barran:** Football clubs are often the bedrock of our local communities and it is vital they are protected. That is why the Government has provided an unprecedented financial support package for businesses, which many football clubs have benefitted from.

We have worked closely with football throughout the pandemic, including getting the Premier League and English Football League (EFL) back behind closed doors, which released vital broadcasting revenue. Having spent heavily in the recent transfer window, professional football has the means to support clubs through the pandemic and we continue to urge the EFL and Premier League to finalise a deal as soon as possible.

## Fraud: Telephone Services

*Asked by Lord McCrea of Magherafelt and Cookstown*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to stop older people from being targeted by scam telephone calls. [HL9657]

**Baroness Barran:** The Government recognises that nuisance and scam calls can be particularly stressful and damaging for the most vulnerable in society. The Government has taken a range of actions to reduce the number of nuisance calls including banning cold calls from pension providers unless the consumer has explicitly agreed to be contacted. We have been working with National Trading Standards to supply call blocking devices to some of the most vulnerable in society.

The Government has been running the Take Five fraud awareness campaign designed to urge the public and businesses to take time to consider whether a situation they find themselves in is genuine. The campaign equips the public to more confidently challenge fraudulent approaches – be they face-to-face, on the telephone or online. Specific advice on phone scams and phishing can be found at [www.takefive-stopfraud.org.uk](http://www.takefive-stopfraud.org.uk).

With regards to fraud more generally, the government has recently launched a gov.uk page that contains easy-to-follow steps to spot potential frauds and to avoid them. It also signposts advice and support to those who may unfortunately have fallen victim. This page can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-fraud-and-cyber-crime>

## Gambling

*Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many adult gaming centres are currently in operation in the UK. [HL9624]

**Baroness Barran:** Data held by the Gambling Commission shows that there were 1,431 adult gaming centres in operation as of 31 March 2020.

## Gaza Strip: Nurses

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about the restrictions which prevent nurses who live in Gaza from being able to reach Makassed Hospital where they work. [HL9593]

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the breast cancer appeal by Medical Aid for Palestinians, what steps they are taking to support women in Gaza with breast cancer to get treatment. [HL9594]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We remain deeply concerned about restrictions on freedom of movement between Gaza and the West Bank. Israeli restrictions severely restrict the movement of medical professionals, patients and families from Gaza, hampering the provision of quality health services. Our Embassy in Tel Aviv regularly raises the matter of medical permits, and the issue of movement and access, with the Israeli authorities. A lasting resolution to the situation is needed that will ensure that all those who are in need of medical attention and their families have unimpeded access to healthcare provisions.

## Gender Recognition: Health Services

*Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the current waiting time for NHS patients to receive (1) an assessment, and (2) treatment, in relation to gender identity services; what was the maximum waiting time for such treatment before the COVID-19 pandemic; whether the current waiting time has decreased in the last three months; and what steps they are taking to clear the backlog of those waiting for treatment. [HL8906]

**Lord Bethell:** We currently do not routinely collect data on the number of patients waiting and maximum waiting times for gender identity clinics.

Data in October 2019, which informed the work programme aimed at improving access to gender services, showed there were more than 9,500 individuals waiting for a first appointment. Of this, approximately 3,400 individuals had been waiting between 52 and 103 weeks; and circa 2,100 individuals had been waiting for over two years. The median waiting time for a first appointment is more than two years for patients who were referred in October 2019.

To address this rise in demand, three new services have been established in Cheshire and Merseyside, Manchester and London. These services will be evaluated as pilots for a new delivery model, with planning underway for further services to be established nationwide.

## Government Departments: Overseas Aid

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 20 May (HL4189), which Government departments applied to the Integrated Activity Fund for funding during the (1) 2016/17, (2) 2018/19, and (3) 2020/21, financial years; and which of those applications were granted. [HL9495]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Integrated Activity Fund (IAF) was managed by the Cabinet Office during 2016/17 and detailed information is not held by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. In 2018/19 the IAF received applications for funding from a number of government departments. The IAF was replaced by the Gulf Strategy Fund for 2020/21. Applications for funding were received from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Trade, the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, HM Revenue & Customs and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS). Funding for DCMS was not approved.

## Gyms and Swimming Pools: Coronavirus

*Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of swimming pool and gym closures during the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL9671]

**Baroness Barran:** Sports and physical activity are incredibly important for our physical and mental health, and are a vital weapon against coronavirus. That's why we made sure that people could exercise at least once a day even during the height of lockdown - and why we opened up grassroots sport and leisure facilities as soon as it was safe to do so.

As announced by the Prime Minister on Saturday from Thursday until Wednesday 2 November there will be

significant restrictions on some sectors of the economy including the closure of indoor and outdoor leisure. Outdoor gyms and playgrounds will remain open. Exercise and recreation outdoors will be allowed with your household or on your own with one person from another household.

It is not possible to isolate the specific impact of swimming pool and gym closures on physical activity levels because people can substitute this with other activities such as running and cycling.

## H2O Asset Management

*Asked by Lord Myners*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps (1) they, or (2) the Financial Conduct Authority, have taken to ensure that the pricing of funds managed by H2O Asset Management is based on fair valuation of portfolio investments. [[HL9566](#)]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** This is a matter for the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), which is operationally independent from Government. The question has been passed on to the FCA. The FCA will reply directly to the noble Lord by letter. A copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

## High Speed 2 Railway Line

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the decision to pause the development of HS2 Phase 2B East and to reduce the maximum number of trains on Phase 1 from a planned 18 to 10, what plans they have to review (1) the design of the approaches to Euston station, and (2) the option of terminating all 10 HS2 services at the Old Oak Common station. [[HL9507](#)]

**Baroness Vere of Norbiton:** The Phase One trunk section is being constructed with the capability to operate up to 18 trains per hour and the Government remains committed to bringing the benefits of high speed rail to the East Midlands, Yorkshire and beyond. The Integrated Rail Plan will consider how Phase 2b of HS2 can be delivered with other major rail investments in the North and Midlands to ensure these are scoped and designed as part of an integrated network, and to make sure people see the benefits of better services more quickly.

In response to the Oakervee Review conclusions, the Department for Transport has commissioned a study looking into the design and construction efficiency of the future Euston station as a whole, including considering options to simplify the HS2 approaches into the station. The study is ongoing and the selection of an optimised design and delivery strategy, will include consideration of all relevant engineering and operational factors.

Advice from HS2 Ltd is that no more than 6 trains per hour can reliably be operated from Old Oak Common within the existing station design. There are no current

plans to consider terminating all HS2 services at Old Oak Common.

## High Speed 2 Railway Line: Construction

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the creation of a content target for UK companies for the construction of the Dogger Bank Wind Farm, what plans they have to create a similar target for High Speed 2. [[HL9762](#)]

**Baroness Vere of Norbiton:** There are currently no plans to set a target for UK companies on HS2. HS2 Ltd has an excellent track record of supporting British businesses; over 2,000 businesses have delivered work so far on the project, 98% of these are UK-based, and 70% are SMEs. The project already has 13,000 workers in the UK employed on it and the construction of Phase One will see HS2 create and sustain a further 22,000 jobs over the coming years, with many more in businesses and factories around the country through an estimated 400,000 supply chain contract opportunities. HS2 Ltd estimate that 95% of those contract opportunities will be won by UK based businesses, with around two thirds being SMEs.

## High Speed 2 Railway Line: Institution of Civil Engineers

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they commissioned the Institution of Civil Engineers to independently review the options for the HS2 tunnel approaches to Euston; if so, when they will publish the report of that review; and where that review will be published. [[HL9619](#)]

**Baroness Vere of Norbiton:** In response to the Oakervee Review conclusions, the Department for Transport has commissioned a study looking into the design and construction efficiency of the future Euston station as a whole including considering options to simplify the HS2 approaches into the station.

As part of the study, an independent panel of experts was convened with the support of the Institution of Civil Engineers to consider the proposed design of the HS2 approach tunnels into the station. The study is ongoing and the selection of an optimised design and delivery strategy will include consideration of the work carried out by the Institution of Civil Engineers and all relevant engineering and operational factors. A further update on the outcomes of this work will be reported in the next HS2 Parliamentary Report.

## High Speed 2 Railway Line: Iron and Steel

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the breakdown in (1) money, and (2) tonnes of steel, awarded to (a) British suppliers, and (b) non-British

based suppliers, of the contracts awarded for constructional steel products for High Speed 2 to date. [HL9763]

**Baroness Vere of Norbiton:** Whilst HS2 Ltd does not currently have any plans to directly buy steel, it does apply a strategic and transparent approach to the sourcing of steel for the HS2 Programme through its Tier 1 contractors and their supply chains. HS2 Ltd ensures a fair procurement process which complies with UK procurement law and the Government policy for the procurement of steel. The contractors involved in the delivery of HS2 have only recently commenced their procurement of steel for the HS2 programme and therefore very little of the 1.3 million tons needed for Phase One has so far been procured.

UK produced and fabricated steel already delivering for HS2:

- Cleveland Bridge in Darlington for the design, production and installation of 1,130 tonnes worth of steel girders, for modular bridges near our Interchange station site in Solihull.
- Caunton Engineering in Nottinghamshire for 2,400 tonnes of structural steel.
- Celsa Steel in Cardiff for 1,800 tonnes of loose steel and rebar.

Other Contracts:

- Eiffage Metal have a contract for fabrication of viaduct plate sections (9000 tonnes), the source of the actual steel for this contract is yet to be determined.

### High Speed 2 Railway Line: Passengers

*Asked by Lord Walney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the assumptions about passenger growth contained in the HS2 Phase One full business case, published on 15 April, remain accurate following the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; and what plans they have to revise this business case. [HL9597]

**Baroness Vere of Norbiton:** The rapid development and the uncertain outcome of the COVID-19 outbreak mean it has not yet been possible to undertake specific analysis to determine its impact on HS2. The Department for Transport is working with colleagues across Government to understand the impact on transport demand and the pandemic's wider effect on the economy, and how this will affect future business cases for transport infrastructure investment.

The Full Business Case for Phase One published in April looked at both high and low demand scenarios, underpinned by population and economic growth forecasts. That analysis showed that even in a scenario where demand is relatively low, there is still a clear case for pressing ahead with HS2.

We are confident that the strategic case for HS2, including its subsequent stages to Crewe, Manchester and

Leeds remains clear, and that there remains a case for increasing capacity on the UK rail network, bringing cities closer together and levelling up regions across the UK. HS2 also remains key to achieving net-zero by 2050, a commitment which remains unchanged despite the challenges presented by the pandemic.

### Higher Education

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the Higher Education Policy Institute Demand for Higher Education to 2035, published on 22 October; and what steps they are taking to increase higher education capacity in England. [HL9587]

**Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay:** The government notes the attached report by the Higher Education Policy Institute 'Demand for Higher Education to 2035' published on 22 October, and the points it makes about higher education (HE) capacity in England.

This government wants our universities and other HE providers to focus relentlessly on outcomes for the individual, skills for the nation, and rigorous academic standards. Excellent outcomes are key to filling our productivity gap, fuelling our economy, and creating opportunities. It is vital that a fair and open post-16 education system offers genuine opportunity and levelling up across the entire nation, with equity between technical, vocational, and academic routes.

As part of the Post-18 Education Review, the government is carefully examining the Augar Report and its recommendations, including those that would affect capacity. We plan to respond to the Post-18 Review alongside the Spending Review.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL9587\_report [HL9587 'Demand for Higher Education to 2035' report.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-10-26/HL9587>

### Holiday Accommodation: Taxation

*Asked by Baroness Gardner of Parkes*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to reports that AirBnB will share data with HMRC about the earnings of hosts in the UK for the years 2017/18 and 2018/19, what steps they are taking to ensure all short term letting agencies do the same; and what plans they have to share this data with local councils to ensure properties in their areas are let for only 90 days of short term lettings a year. [HL9469]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) receive data routinely from a variety of sources. This data supports compliance activity to reduce the size

of the gap between the tax which is owed and that which is paid.

HMRC understand that the short-term property letting market is a rapidly evolving sector and are working in partnership with companies such as Airbnb to address the tax consequences of these changes, supporting taxpayers in ensuring they are aware of their tax obligations and pay the right tax at the right time.

HMRC are bound by a strict duty of confidentiality as laid down in the Commissioners for Revenue & Customs Act (CRCA) 2005 with respect to all of the information they hold in connection with their functions. HMRC officials may share information only in the limited circumstances set out in legislation, which include disclosures for the purposes of HMRC's functions, through specific information sharing legislative gateways.

### Hong Kong: Immigrants

*Asked by Lord Green of Deddington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 17 September (HL7646), what are their (1) 'central', and (2) 'high', range estimates for the number of people with British National (Overseas) status who will arrive in the UK (a) in the first year, and (b) over five years, of the new immigration route. [HL9534]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Further details of the new Hong Kong British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) Visa were put before Parliament on 22 October. This included an Impact Assessment which set out the projected numbers of BN(O)s who might come to the UK under the new BN(O) route.

The impact assessment can be found here: [https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukia/2020/70/pdfs/ukia\\_2020070\\_en.pdf](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukia/2020/70/pdfs/ukia_2020070_en.pdf)

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Impact Assessment - HK BNO - Oct 2020 [Impact Assessment - HK British Nationals (Overseas) Visa - Oct 2020.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-10-26/HL9534>

### House of Lords: Catering

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask the Senior Deputy Speaker what assessment has been made of the continued application of the catering subsidy for food and drink purchased by members of the House of Lords; and what plans there are, if any, to discontinue the application of that subsidy for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL9578]

**Lord Laming:** The Senior Deputy Speaker has asked me, as Chair of the Services Committee, to respond on his behalf.

The net cost of catering has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic caused by a reduction in revenue because there have been limited catering outlets open (due to fewer Members and staff on site each day) and no banqueting events have taken place since March. The largest cost which impacts the subsidy is payroll and the Administration has continued to pay staff in full each month. Arrangements have been made for variable hours staff to receive pay averaging that which would have been expected prior to the pandemic. Catering management have reviewed the catering operations in view of the continuing effects of COVID-19 and have put mitigations in place, including:

- Stopping the recruitment process to fill current vacancies and any leavers;
- Reducing the items available in the outlets currently open without detriment to quality. This means reducing food costs, production time, and food waste;
- Curtailing expenditure on trading overheads where possible;
- Ensuring the staffing rotas are managed effectively to offer resilience in the COVID-secure workplace.

The financial impact of the pandemic on catering services will remain under review.

### Ibrahim Mounir

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the appointment of Ibrahim Mounir to the role of Acting General Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood; and what assessment they have made of any threat posed by his presence (1) to national security, and (2) to their international relations. [HL9551]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We do not comment on individuals, but the Government keeps under review the views promoted and activities undertaken by the Muslim Brotherhood, including their associates in the UK. Any allegations of threats to UK national security or misuse of charity funding within the UK are robustly investigated and appropriate action taken.

*Asked by Lord Robathan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any Minister or Government representative has met Ibrahim Mounir since his appointment as Secretary General of the International Organisation of the Muslim Brotherhood. [HL9674]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** There have been no meetings between Ibrahim Mounir and Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office officials or Ministers since the conclusion of the 2015 Muslim Brotherhood Review.

## Immigrants: Detainees

Asked by *Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the Chief Inspector of Prisons Report on an unannounced inspection of the detention of migrants arriving in Dover in small boats, published on 23 October; and what steps they intend to take to address the key concerns expressed in that report. [HL9505]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government have accepted nineteen of the recommendations made in Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons report, in full or part, and rejected only one (access to social media sites).

The report and recommendations have been considered and the Government's response has been published <https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2020/10/23/fact-sheet-short-term-holding-facilities-and-processing-centres-for-small-boats-crossings/>. We would refer to the measures and improvements listed there.

We take the welfare of people in our care very seriously and are committed to ensuring our triaging and short-term holding facilities are safe, secure and humane and follow the latest guidance from Public Health England.

We are adhering to our statutory duties in all aspects, from safeguarding children, to providing the necessary medical requirements to those who have undertaken this dangerous journey.

## Insolvency

Asked by *Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many pre-pack administrations were referred to the Pre Pack Pool in each week since May. [HL9555]

**Lord Callanan:** There were 20 referrals to the Pre-Pack Pool between 1 May 2020 and 27 October 2020.

The table below shows the number of referrals for each week where referrals were received. For all other weeks there were zero referrals.

Referrals made to the Pre-Pack Pool between 1 May 2020 and 27 October 2020

<i>Week commencing</i>	<i>Number of pre-pack referrals</i>
01-Jun-20	1
08-Jun-20	1
15-Jun-20	1
29-Jun-20	1
06-Jul-20	4
13-Jul-20	5
10-Aug-20	1
24-Aug-20	2
28-Sep-20	2
19-Oct-20	2

Asked by *Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will list all the meetings or communications that have taken place between the Insolvency Service and the Pre Pack Pool. [HL9556]

**Lord Callanan:** The Pre-Pack Pool was established in 2015. Since then, the Insolvency Service has had numerous meetings and communications (in the form of e-mails, letters and telephone conversations) with the directors of Pre-Pack Pool Ltd and the Pre-Pack Pool Oversight Group. The Oversight Group comprises the Pool directors and representatives from the insolvency regulatory bodies, R3 the trade body for insolvency professionals and other interested stakeholders.

My reply to the noble Lord on 3rd August 2020 to Question [HL7302](#) advised that officials from the Insolvency Service had attended three meetings with the Pre-Pack Pool Oversight Group in 2019 and one in 2020. Since that reply, they have had one further meeting with the directors of Pre-Pack Pool Limited.

## Integrated Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy Review: Expenditure

Asked by *The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the implications of the decision to conduct a one-year spending review for the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy. [HL9487]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** In light of the decision to move to a one-year spending review, the Government is considering the implications for the completion of the Integrated Review and will provide an update in due course.

## Intensive Care: Older People

Asked by *Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether hospitals in England used the triage tool to assess whether to admit elderly patients to intensive care between March and August; if so, whether age was the only criteria used to make such assessments; what assessment they have made of the impact of that system on the provision of care to all those that needed it; and who (1) devised, and (2) authorised, that tool. [HL9501]

**Lord Bethell:** Claims that frail and elderly patients were denied care in wave one of the coronavirus pandemic, in part because of a triage tool which was developed for use if the National Health Service was overwhelmed, are categorically untrue. Guidance to help clinicians make rational, evidence-based decisions in the event of intensive care units being overwhelmed was commissioned by the NHS England National Medical Director and the four United Kingdom Chief Medical Officers but work was halted when it became clear the NHS would not be overwhelmed.

## International Freedom of Religion or Belief Day

Asked by *Baroness Anelay of St Johns*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to mark International Freedom of Religion or Belief Day on 27 October. [HL9504]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Promoting the right to Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) for all is one of the UK's longstanding human rights priorities and we welcome the focus that this International Day brings on FoRB. Noting the COVID-19 pandemic, we have used our social media channels to mark this year's International FoRB day, underlining our commitment to FoRB for all. As Minister responsible for Human Rights, I also participated in an event on 27 October which focused on the linkage between the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative and Freedom of Religion or Belief. We will continue to raise awareness of religious persecution and stand up for the rights of members of minority communities around the world.

## Iraq and Syria: Refugees

Asked by *Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review (1) al-Hol camp, and (2) other displaced persons camps in north-east Syria and Iraq, with regard to (a) the work of government authorities, (b) the work of the UN and other voluntary agencies, (c) the return home of displaced persons, (d) the resettlement elsewhere of displaced persons, and (e) the most effective use of aid. [HL9537]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK regularly tracks the situation at Al Hol and other internally displaced persons' (IDP) camps, and we are aware of the Syrian Democratic Council's (SDC) announcement on 4 October, regarding reintegrating Syrians from Al Hol camp into local communities. We understand these transfers will take place gradually, and are raising with the SDC the need to ensure returns are voluntary, informed and in line with International Humanitarian Law. The UK continues to support IDP/refugee camps in North East Syria, funding UN agencies and NGO partners to provide life-saving aid such as food, water and shelter. The UK has committed £33 million to help humanitarian agencies respond to the COVID-19 threat in Syria, including in IDP camps where cramped, challenging conditions make social distancing and cleaning measures difficult to implement. The FCDO has rigorous and robust checks to ensure aid goes to the people that need it, delivers value for money and protects against aid diversion. We also use third-party independent monitors to support our delivery partners and verify that aid is being delivered as intended.

In Iraq, there are up to 252,000 people living in IDP camps, which we continue to support with shelter, medical care and clean water. We are concerned about recent camp closures in Baghdad, and continue to raise

this with the authorities and UN leadership. We are working closely with the Government of Iraq and the UN to support durable solutions for those displaced by conflict which are safe, voluntary, sustainable, and non-discriminatory.

## Israel: Convention on Cluster Munitions

Asked by *Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about that government's decision not to be party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. [HL9590]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK calls on any states not already party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions to accede without delay and actively supports universalisation. The UK routinely makes statements in support of the Convention and its comprehensive ban on cluster munitions, including at the UN General Assembly. Widespread practical implementation of the Convention will yield lasting humanitarian benefit. Her Majesty's Government is committed to seeing the CCM become a global Convention.

## Israel: Palestinians

Asked by *Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 20 October (HL8837), whether they have identified "any provocative action" by Palestinians which has (1) undermined cooperation between the government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, and (2) led to the (a) demolition of property, (b) destruction of farmland, or (c) eviction of people from homes, in the West Bank. [HL9683]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The conflict between Israelis and Palestinians is deeply complex. Actions by both sides have damaged trust. We consistently call for an immediate end to all actions that undermine the viability of the two-state solution, including terrorism, anti-Semitic incitement, settlement expansion, and the demolition of Palestinian property in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Steps to transform the situation in Gaza are also needed. We are encouraging both sides to maintain calm and avoid taking actions which make peace more difficult to achieve.

## Israel: UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Asked by *Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel about reports that that government has refused to provide new visas for the staff of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. [HL9647]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We are aware of the difficulties officials of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights have faced in renewal of the visas necessary to remain in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs). The UK, alongside international partners, raised our concern with the Government of Israel on 26 October. The UK also raised this issue with the Mission of Israel to the UN in Geneva on 8 September. We call upon the Government of Israel to fully respect the fundamental rights and freedoms of human rights defenders and organisations and to allow them to freely operate in Israel and OPTs. We continue to make clear that a strong, vibrant civil society is in Israel's own interest. As a friend of Israel, we would be concerned by any developments that may undermine this commitment.

### Kosovo: Serbia

*Asked by The Earl of Sandwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made representations to facilitate dialogue between the governments of Serbia and Kosovo; if so, what progress they have made; and what plans they have to make such representations alongside the EU after January 2021. [HL9793]

**Baroness Sugg:** The UK Government welcomes the recent resumption of the Dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo facilitated by HRVP Josep Borrell and EU Special Representative Miroslav Lajčák. We support the Dialogue process as the best way of reaching a comprehensive, sustainable and legally binding normalisation agreement that enhances regional stability and benefits the people of both countries. Following our exit from the EU, our active involvement has continued. We are in regular contact with the Dialogue facilitators, international partners, and the governments of Serbia and Kosovo, working to support the negotiations in Brussels.

### Law Enforcement Data Service

*Asked by Lord Wasserman*

To ask Her Majesty's Government who is the Director of the National Law Enforcement Data Programme. [HL9498]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Steve Thomson is the Programme Director for the National Law Enforcement Data Programme

*Asked by Lord Wasserman*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect the national roll-out of the National Law Enforcement Data Programme (1) to begin, and (2) to be completed. [HL9602]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The National Law Enforcement Data Programme (NLEDP) is delivering the Law Enforcement Data Service (LEDS). NLEDP is due to begin the roll out of LEDS from quarter two 2021. LEDS

will complete its roll out of PNC replacement functionality by quarter three 2023, and for PND replacement functionality by quarter three 2024.

*Asked by Lord Wasserman*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their current estimate of the total cost of (1) designing, (2) building, and (3) rolling out, the National Law Enforcement Data Programme. [HL9603]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The total cost for the delivery of the National Law Enforcement Data Programme is £263M. This is as stated in the 2019 Business Case and includes programme cost to date but excludes costs associated with risk and optimism bias. Due to the parallel activity associated with design, build and delivery the costs are grouped. Any further breakdown of costs would be artificial due to the complexity of delivery.

NLEDP is currently producing a new Business Case which will include updated costs which is due for approval in April 2021.

*Asked by Lord Wasserman*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what arrangements are in place to ensure that Police and Crime Commissioners are fully consulted at all stages in the design, build and roll out of the National Law Enforcement Data Programme. [HL9604]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** A Police and Crime Commissioner represents PCCs on the National Law Enforcement Data Programme (NLEDP) Board, along with an officer from their representative body, the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC). As members of the Programme Board they are a part of the delivery and assurance of NLEDP and are consulted throughout every stage of the programme.

The PCC and APCC representatives are responsible for briefing other PCCs through their normal channels and regular updates are given to the PCCs' technology and digital portfolio group and General Meetings of all PCCs.

The PCC and APCC representatives also attend the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) Chief Constables Reference Group for NLEDP that consists of Police Chief Constables regularly meeting to discuss and scrutinise programme delivery.

### Leader of the House of Commons: 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 Commons at (1) SCS1, (2) SCS2, (3) SCS3, and (4) SCS4, grade. [HL9428]

**Lord True:** The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.



I refer the noble Lady to the answer given to PQs HL8861 and HL8862 as below -

Cross civil service information can be found at the Diversity and Inclusion dashboard at: <https://public.tableau.com/profile/cabinet.office.diversity.and.inclusion#!/vizhome/CivilServiceDiversityandInclusionDashboard/Introduction?publish=yes>.

As the dashboard's data tables show 7% of Cabinet Office Senior Civil Servants declared that they were from an ethnic minority.

18% of Cabinet Office overall civil servants declare that they are from an ethnic minority. Details of individual grades will not be disclosed to avoid identifying individuals.

### **Maher al-Akhras**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel for the release on medical and compassionate grounds of Maher al-Akhras. [HL9535]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Officials in Tel Aviv have raised this case with the Government of Israel. 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.

### **Marriage: Humanism**

*Asked by Baroness Clark of Kilwinning*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to give humanist marriages legal recognition in England and Wales. [HL9522]

**Baroness Scott of Bybrook:** The Government announced in June 2019 that the Law Commission will conduct a fundamental review of the law on how and where people can legally marry in England and Wales. As part of that review, the Government invited the Law Commission to make recommendations about how marriage by humanist and other non-religious belief organisations could be incorporated into a revised or new scheme for all marriages that is simple, fair and consistent. The Government will decide on provision on the basis of the Law Commission's recommendations.

The Law Commission published a consultation paper on 3 September 2020 as part of its review and will welcome responses from all.

### **Mental Health Act 1983 Independent Review**

*Asked by Baroness Thornhill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they monitor progress in implementing the recommendations of the final report of the Independent Review of the Mental Health Act 1983 Modernising the Mental Health Act: increasing choice, reducing compulsion, published on 6 December 2018; and what plans they have to report to Parliament on progress made. [HL9588]

**Lord Bethell:** We remain committed to publishing a White Paper which will set out the Government's response to Sir Simon Wessely's Independent Review of the Mental Health Act 1983 and pave the way for reform of the Act. We aim to publish before the end of the year.

### **Mental Health Services: Coronavirus**

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of modelling by the Centre for Mental Health which indicates that up to 10 million people in England, including 1.5 million children and young people, will need new or additional mental health support as a direct consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic; what plans they have to consult (1) the NHS, and (2) local authorities, about this issue; and what assessment they have made of the funding required to meet mental health support needs. [HL9269]

**Lord Bethell:** We are considering the Centre for Mental Health modelling report as well as other relevant emerging evidence as part of our ongoing monitoring of the potential impact of COVID-19 on mental health.

We recognise that there is the potential for the COVID-19 pandemic to impact on people's mental health and wellbeing. As such, we are working with the National Health Service, Public Health England and others, including local authorities to gather evidence and assess the potential longer-term mental health impacts of COVID-19.

As part of our plans for the NHS, as set out in the NHS Long Term Plan, there will be a comprehensive expansion and transformation of mental health services over the next five years with additional funding of £2.3 billion a year by 2023/24. Over half of this will go to improving community mental health services and services to help people experiencing mental health crises.

*Asked by Lord McCrea of Magherafelt and Cookstown*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support people suffering from mental health problems either caused or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL9653]

**Lord Bethell:** We recognise the impact of the pandemic on people's mental wellbeing, potentially leading to the onset of new mental health difficulties as

well as exacerbating existing problems. We have released tailored guidance on the 'Every Mind Matters' website and GOV.UK giving advice and practical steps for people to support their mental health and wellbeing.

National Health Service mental health services have remained open for business throughout this time, including delivering support digitally and by phone. For those with severe needs or in crisis, NHS mental health providers have set up 24 hours, seven days a week urgent mental health helplines. We have also provided over £10 million funding for mental health charities supporting people through the pandemic.

We remain committed to investing at least £2.3 billion of extra funding a year into mental health services by 2023-24 through the NHS Long Term Plan.

### **Motorways: Safety**

*Asked by Lord Goodlad*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made by Highways England in improving the safety of smart motorways. [HL9831]

**Baroness Vere of Norbiton:** The Government is committed to improving safety, which is why the Secretary of State published an evidence stocktake and tasked Highways England with delivering an 18-point action plan. Highways England will implement the action plan in full and has already started work, including the provision of additional emergency areas on the M25 and making all emergency areas more visible by introducing a bright orange surface and better, more frequent signs.

Highways England will deliver all the remaining actions, including the provision of stopped vehicle detection on all-lane running (ALR) motorways within 36 months and the conversion of dynamic hard shoulder to ALR by the end of March 2025.

### **Music: Coronavirus**

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to support self-employed and freelance workers within the live music industry. [HL9680]

**Baroness Barran:** Our world-beating live music industry would be nothing without the people who work in it, and we are working hard to help provide financial support to freelancers in this sector.

Over two thirds of eligible people in the cultural sectors have benefitted from the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS). We've supported the self-employed with over £13 billion in grants and the Chancellor has increased the generosity of the scheme from 40% to 80% of people's profits for November, in order to reflect recent changes to the furlough scheme. This also increases the total level of the grant from 40% to 55% of trading profits for 1 November 2020 to 31 January 2020.

In addition, more businesses will be able to access additional support as deadlines for applications for government-backed loan schemes and the Future Fund have been further extended until 31 January 2021.

The Arts Council England has made £119 million available to individuals, with £23.1 million already distributed and £95.9 million currently available to apply for via open funds.

The £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund will benefit freelancers, because it will invest in organisations and help them to reopen, and restart performances. So far, over £500m has been announced from the Culture Recovery Fund to protect cultural organisations across England, almost a fifth of which has gone to the music sector.

### **Muslim Brotherhood**

*Asked by Lord Robathan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the report by Sir John Jenkins Muslim Brotherhood review: main findings, published in December 2015, what recent assessment, if any, they have made of the Muslim Brotherhood. [HL9673]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government remains committed to reviewing any groups or individuals whose actions may pose a national security threat to the UK. These reviews are undertaken on the basis of credible evidence and we will continue to consider any new evidence on the Muslim Brotherhood's activities against the UK's legal thresholds.

### **Nagorno Karabakh: Armed Conflict**

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that the Russian military is using the Krasukha electronic warfare system on Azerbaijan's TB-2 Bayraktar drones in the Nagorno-Karabakh region. [HL9782]

**Baroness Sugg:** The UK Government has made no such assessment. We are clear that there can be no military solution to the current conflict and continue to urge Armenia and Azerbaijan to undertake substantive negotiations under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group.

### **National Crime Agency: Overseas Aid**

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 20 May (HL4189), how many successful applications were made to the Integrated Activity Fund by the National Crime Agency in the 2019/20 financial year; and what was the value of each of those applications. [HL9494]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We do not disclose information related to IAF projects to maintain the confidence and confidentiality of our Gulf partners.

### Newspaper Press and Radio: Coronavirus

*Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to support local independent (1) newspapers, and (2) radio stations, during the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL9668]

**Baroness Barran:** Local news coverage provides a vital service - supplying information about local public affairs, holding local decision-makers to account, and providing a forum for community discussion. The Government's manifesto recognises their role, committing to "support local and regional newspapers, as vital pillars of communities and local democracy".

It has been an absolute priority to ensure we do all we can to support local news outlets during this crisis, as well as supporting commercial and community radio. This includes bringing forward the commencement of zero-rating of VAT on e-newspapers to May 2020, and reaching agreement with Arqiva, the UK's TV and radio transmission provider, to provide six months discount charges which has benefited small local commercial radio stations.

Government also worked to ensure local media could operate during the Covid-19 lockdown period. We designated journalists and other key media ancillary staff as 'key workers'; issued guidance to local authorities on the importance of newspaper delivery; took steps to ensure the use of 'keyword blocklisting' technology was not disproportionately limiting news publishers' online advertising revenues for Covid-19 related stories; and implemented a significant public information campaign, using local and national press and commercial radio to extend the reach of these campaigns.

We continue to work closely with local news organisations to assess the effectiveness of our media support measures and the impact of Coronavirus-related government policy, including the current tiered restrictions, on their ability to continue supporting their communities.

### NHS: Discrimination

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to introduce a formal definition of racism and discrimination for the NHS. [HL8896]

**Lord Bethell:** The statutory definition of racism is set out in the Equality Act 2010 (section 9). Key statutory definitions of discrimination are set out in sections 13, 19, 26 and 27 of the same Act.

There are no plans, of which we are aware, to introduce different formal definitions of racism or discrimination

for the National Health Service that would differ from the statutory definitions.

### Nigeria: Violence

*Asked by Lord Pendry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the scale of attacks carried out by Nigerian security forces on protestors in Nigeria; and what assistance they are providing to programmes in that country that aim to strengthen the freedom of expression and the rule of law. [HL9740]

**Baroness Sugg:** The UK Government is deeply concerned by violence during protests in Lagos and other major cities in Nigeria, which has tragically claimed lives. Our thoughts are with the families of all those affected. The Foreign Secretary issued a statement on 21 October calling for the Nigerian Government to urgently investigate reports of brutality by its security forces and hold those responsible to account. The Minister for Africa repeated this message to the Nigerian Foreign Minister on 23 October. We welcome President Buhari's decision to disband the Federal Special Anti-Robbery Squad (FSARS) and the establishment of judicial panels of inquiry to investigate allegations of brutality by the security services. It is vital these panels receive full police and military cooperation. They must investigate all incidents, including in Lagos, properly.

The UK Government has supported police reform in Nigeria. We will continue to work with the Nigerian Government and international and civil society partners to improve the accountability and responsiveness of the Nigerian Police Force in line with its human rights obligations. The Nigerian authorities must uphold human rights and the rule of law, investigate any incidents of police brutality and hold those responsible to account. Through our CSSF-funded Nigeria Policing Programme, which ended in March 2020, FSARS officers participated in training on amended Nigerian police guidance designed to improve human rights, training on public finance, and community policing workshops. The Nigeria Policing Programme was part of our Security and Justice Reform Programme, which is working to help deliver a criminal justice system that better protects the human rights of all Nigerians.

### Office for Environmental Protection: Finance

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer from Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park on 19 October (HL8726), whether the interim Office of Environmental Protection will have the resources to begin to investigate complaints prior to the granting of formal powers to do so when it is established in law. [HL9480]

**Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park:** Members of the public will be able to submit complaints about alleged failures of public authorities to comply with environmental law to Defra's interim environmental governance secretariat from the start of next year until the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) begins its statutory functions. The secretariat will assess complaints received against the criteria specified in the Environment Bill to determine if they will fall within the remit of possible investigation by the OEP.

The secretariat will have the resources to conduct these processes, interacting with the complainants and public authorities in question to gather further information where needed. It will assess the information received and pass it on to the OEP once established, so that the OEP can determine which complaints to consider further through the exercise of its legal functions including formal investigations and, where necessary, enforcement.

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer from Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park on 19 October (HL8726), whether the Office of Environmental Protection will be granted additional resources to deal with any backlog of complaints occurring following the delay in its establishment. [HL9481]

**Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park:** As specified in the Environment Bill, the Secretary of State will provide the OEP with the resources that he considers reasonably sufficient to enable the OEP to carry out its functions. This will include consideration of what resources the OEP will need to handle complaints, including those passed to it from the interim arrangements. Defra will agree the OEP's resourcing with HM Treasury through a budget that will be announced after the Environment Bill achieves Royal Assent.

## **Pakistan: Religious Freedom**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they last discussed reports of abductions, forced conversions and forced marriages of women and girls from religious minorities in Pakistan with the government of Pakistan; and what was the outcome of those discussions. [HL9611]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK Government strongly condemns child, early and forced marriage and forced conversion of all women and girls in Pakistan, including from religious minorities. We regularly raise at a senior level our concerns about Freedom of Religion or Belief, women and girls' rights and gender equality with the Government of Pakistan at a senior level. Most recently, I raised our concerns about child, early and forced marriage and forced conversion of women and girls in Pakistan, including from religious minorities with Pakistan's Human Rights Minister, Dr Shireen Mazari, on 19 October.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to raise (1) forced conversion, (2) forced marriages, (3) abductions, and (4) abuse, of religious minority women and girls at international fora dealing with human rights. [HL9613]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK Government strongly condemns forced marriages, forced conversions, abductions and abuse of women and girls from religious minorities around the world. The UK is a world-leader in the fight to stamp out the practice of forced marriage, with our dedicated Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) leading efforts to combat it both at home and abroad. The FCDO also tackles child marriage through a range of other programmes, including on women and girls' empowerment and girls' education. Making progress on ending child marriage will remain a key focus, including as part of our work to deliver the Prime Minister's commitment to champion 12 years of quality education for girls.

We recognise that women and girls from religious minorities can often suffer because of both their gender and their faith. That is why we ensure that our human rights policy work considers the intersectionality of human rights, for example the importance of addressing the specific difficulties experienced by women from religious minority communities. One example of our work in this area is related to the UK's commitment to Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, which I lead on as the Prime Minister's Special Representative. We are working with international faith and belief leaders to issue a 'Declaration of Humanity' which calls for the end of sexual violence in conflict and to tackle the stigma so often faced by survivors. We will continue to raise these issues with our international partners and in multilateral fora such as the UN.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to target their Official Development Assistance to Pakistan on methods and programmes that provide effective measures to prevent abductions, forced conversions and forced marriages of girls from minorities in Pakistan. [HL9614]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Our Aawaz II Accountability, Inclusion and Reducing Modern Slavery Programme will spend £39.5 million over 5 years (2018 - 2024) across the Pakistani provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. This will continue to be our main ODA-funded programmatic tool for addressing issues affecting marginalised and vulnerable groups in Pakistan until 2024.

The UK Government strongly condemns child, early and forced marriage and forced conversion of all women and girls in Pakistan, including from religious minorities. We regularly raise at a senior level our concerns about Freedom of Religion or Belief, women and girls' rights and gender equality with the Government of Pakistan.

Most recently, I raised our concerns about child, early and forced marriage and forced conversion of women and girls in Pakistan, including from religious minorities, with Pakistan's Human Rights Minister, Dr Shireen Mazari, on 19 October.

### **Palestinians: Children**

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to reports that school children in Palestine have been subjected to violence by the Israel Defence Force and Israeli settlers, what steps they plan to take to protect the rights of such children under Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. [HL9592]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We repeatedly call on Israel to abide by its obligations under international law and have a regular dialogue with Israel on legal issues relating to the occupation, including the treatment of Palestinian children. We continue to stress the importance of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population, in particular the need to protect children, and urge restraint in the use of live fire. In instances where there have been accusations of excessive use of force, we have advocated swift, transparent investigations.

### **Patents and Trade Marks: Legal Profession**

*Asked by **Lord Smith of Finsbury***

To ask Her Majesty's Government why they are seeking to add trade mark and patent attorneys to the list of legal professions excluded from automatic recognition of professional qualifications in Clauses 22–27 of the United Kingdom Internal Market Bill. [HL9583]

**Lord Callanan:** By adding patent and trade mark attorneys to the list of excluded legal professions, we are putting them outside the scope of the recognition provisions of the Bill completely and seeking to preserve the status quo in relation to these professions and associated regulated legal activities. This brings them in line with the other legal professions excluded under Clause 25(6), in acknowledgment of the different legal systems of the UK.

Registered trade mark and patent attorneys are authorised to carry out certain reserved legal activities in England and Wales, more commonly associated with other legal professionals. By excluding the professions of trade mark and patent attorney from the recognition provisions of the Bill, we will prevent these provisions being used in a way that is not intended by the legislation governing trade mark and patent attorneys and regulated legal activities. This will ensure IPReg will continue to be able decide whether and how trade mark and patent attorneys should be allowed to carry out the regulated

legal activities it is designated to regulate in different parts of the UK.

As trade mark and patent attorneys are currently regulated UK-Wide, we appreciate that accessing the professions or the associated activities may not be an issue currently. However, should the regulation of these professions change in the future, this amendment will ensure that they will not be impacted by the recognition provisions in the Bill.

### **Police**

*Asked by **Baroness Harris of Richmond***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the need to ensure that workforce representation in policing reflects the communities in which officers will serve. [HL9474]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The police officer workforce is more diverse than ever before. The most recently published Police Officer Uplift data show that as at 30 June 2020 Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic officers represented 7.4% of all police officers.

The Government has been clear that forces must do more to become representative of the communities they serve. Attracting a broad range of talent, cultures and backgrounds to a career in policing is a core ambition in our drive to recruit 20,000 extra police officers.

We are supporting forces with a variety of attraction and recruitment strategies, whilst delivering a campaign that's been designed to reach the widest and most diverse audience possible including those who have never considered a policing career.

Innovative schemes such as Police Now are making the police workforce more diverse than ever before; showing that we can attract the brightest and best into policing, whilst introducing new perspectives into policing some of the country's most challenging neighbourhoods.

Retention and progression also play a crucial role, particularly in enabling officers and staff to move into more senior and more specialised ranks and roles.

### **Police National Computer**

*Asked by **Lord Wasserman***

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the Police National Computer (PNC) was last unavailable to police forces in England and Wales due to a power outage at the PNC Data Centre at Hendon; and how long it took to restore the PNC to normal service. [HL9497]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Prior to the power outage experienced this week, the previous occasion when we believe PNC would have been unavailable to police forces in England and Wales due to a power outage would have been on 21st June 2012. It took approximately 339 minutes to restore service.

## Police: Recruitment

*Asked by **Baroness Harris of Richmond***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in their campaign to recruit 20,000 new police officers. [HL9472]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** As at 30 June 2020, 4,336 additional officers have been recruited towards the target of 20,000 and will be trained to rise to the policing challenges of the future.

All forces have prioritised recruitment. I am extremely grateful to those brave men and women who have signed up to join the police and keep our communities safe.

The next official data will be published on 29 October.

*Asked by **Baroness Harris of Richmond***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the age profile of those recruited through their campaign to recruit 20,000 new police officers. [HL9473]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government is delivering on the people's priorities by recruiting an additional 20,000 police officers over the next three years.

The 20,000 officer uplift is a once in a generation opportunity to enable all forces become more representative of the communities they serve. We are already seeing applications from a wide range of candidates with diverse backgrounds and from a range of ages who are bringing particular skills and experience to the police service.

Amendments to Police Regulations made this year mean that individuals can apply to join the police at 17 years of age for appointment on reaching 18 years, opening the way for more candidates wishing to apply to join the police.

## Prisoners

*Asked by **Lord Farmer***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average distance from home that (1) adult prisoners, (2) imprisoned young offenders, and (3) imprisoned juvenile and child prisoners were held each year since 2009, broken down by gender. [HL9527]

*Asked by **Lord Farmer***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people in prison have experienced (1) emotional, (2) physical, and (3) sexual abuse, broken down by gender. [HL9528]

*Asked by **Lord Farmer***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people currently in prison spent time in care as children, broken down by gender. [HL9530]

*Asked by **Lord Farmer***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people in prison have dependent children with whom they were

living prior to sentencing, broken down by gender. [HL9531]

**Baroness Scott of Bybrook:** The information requested is not held centrally and could not be collated without incurring disproportionate cost, as individual records would need to be analysed.

We acknowledge that distance from home can be a real challenge for the maintenance of family ties, and that this is particularly acute in the female estate. HM Prison and Probation Service is committed to ensuring that prisoners are accommodated as close as possible to their resettlement communities and families. We have introduced a range of measures to minimise the impacts of any suspension to visits, due to local restrictions. The Help with Prison Visits Scheme is also available for assistance where close relatives on a low income are able to apply for financial assistance on a means tested basis to facilitate visits to relatives in custody.

This included introducing almost 1,500 secure mobile PIN phone handsets to contact family, provided additional pin credit for calls, and introduced video calls which are currently operating in over 100 prisons across England and Wales.

Close proximity of is one of the key factors considered when choosing where to place prisoners, particularly for those on short sentences or nearing release, where they need to rebuild family ties, secure housing and health services and look for work. In the female estate, this is inevitably more challenging, as the smaller population means there are significantly fewer establishments more widely spread.

We are committed to tackling domestic abuse and to supporting vulnerable individuals, such as female offenders who have experienced domestic abuse, to ensure they can rebuild their lives. We also acknowledge the need for improved collection and transparency of data on primary carers in prison and their dependents in the community. Information on a prisoner's caring responsibilities and children living in the community is monitored locally by prison Governors and Directors to ensure the appropriate support can be provided to women and their families.

We will continue to provide additional support to enable prisoners to maintain contact and support where prison regimes are restricted and will keep this under regular review especially for offenders and families with vulnerability issues.

## Public Houses: Codes of Practice

*Asked by **Lord Mendelsohn***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have (1) to review the operation of the Pubs Code, (2) to publish a report of the findings of that review, and (3) lay a copy of that report before Parliament, as required by section 46 of the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015. [HL9558]

**Lord Callanan:** The report on the findings of the first statutory review of the Pubs Code and the Pubs Code Adjudicator will be published and laid before Parliament as soon as practicable.

### Public Lending Right: Coronavirus

*Asked by Lord Dubs*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to provide increased funding for the Public Lending Right during the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL9716]

**Baroness Barran:** The Government has recently completed a consultation on the Public Lending Right (PLR) Scheme rate per loan for the 2019 -20 PLR scheme year. The consultation sought views on the proposal to increase the rate per loan. We intend laying a Statutory Instrument to vary the rate per loan later this year to ensure eligible authors can receive payments by the end of this financial year.

There are no plans to increase the overall amount of the PLR central fund. The British Library administers the PLR Scheme on behalf of the Government and the funding level of the PLR would form part of the consideration of British Library's overall funding at a future spending review.

### Public Libraries: Finance

*Asked by Lord Dubs*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to provide more funding for public libraries. [HL9715]

**Baroness Barran:** The Government is providing local councils with unprecedented support during the pandemic with a £4.3 billion package, including £3.7 billion which is not ringfenced and £600 million to support social care providers. This is part of a wider package of almost £28 billion which the Government has committed to support local areas, with funding going to councils, businesses and communities. The 2020 Spending Review will look at pressures facing the sector and provide them with the certainty they need to aid financial planning.

### Pupils: Quarantine

*Asked by Lord Baker of Dorking*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many students at (1) secondary schools, (2) sixth forms, and (3) University Technical Colleges, did not attend in the week ending 16 October because they were isolating or quarantined; and how many of those students had access to a computer and an internet connection to facilitate remote learning. [HL9348]

**Baroness Berridge:** I refer the noble Lord to the answer I gave to question HL9006, available here: <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-12/hl9006>.

Keeping close track of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases in schools is a priority for the Government. Public Health England (PHE) leads in holding data on infection, incidence and COVID-19 cases overall. PHE have published data on COVID-19 incidents by institution, including educational settings. This data is updated weekly and the most recent data can be found online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-covid-19-surveillance-reports>.

The Department collects data on the number of schools that have indicated that they have sent children home due to COVID-19 containment measures. We are currently looking at the quality of that data with a view to publishing it as part of the official statistics series. The series includes published data on school openings and attendance, which shows that at a national level approximately 99.7% of state funded schools were open as of 15 October. Of the small proportion (0.3%) of schools that were closed on 15 October, almost all were due to COVID-19 related reasons. Approximately 89% of all children on roll in all state funded schools were in attendance on 15 October. This data is updated weekly and can be found at:

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

The Department does not hold data on the number of students self-isolating who do not have access to a computer and an internet connection.

### Radiotherapy: Medical Equipment

*Asked by Baroness Finlay of Llandaff*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure the timely (1) supply, and (2) transit, of replacement radiotherapy machine parts into the UK following 31 December. [HL9468]

**Lord Bethell:** The Department, in consultation with the devolved administrations and Crown Dependencies, is working with trade bodies, product suppliers, and the health and care system to make detailed plans to help ensure continued supply of medicines, medical products and equipment to the whole of the United Kingdom at the end of the transition period.

### Railways: Pensions

*Asked by Baroness Clark of Kilwinning*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they plan to have with the general secretaries of the trade unions which represent workers in the railway sector about the Railways Pension Scheme. [HL9462]

**Baroness Vere of Norbiton:** HMG has had contact with the rail trade unions' General Secretaries regarding the Railways Pension Scheme, but at present has no future plans for discussion.

## Referendums: Scotland and Wales

Asked by **Lord Roberts of Llandudno**

To ask Her Majesty's Government on what basis they are able to refuse consent for Scotland and Wales to hold referendums. [HL9581]

**Lord True:** For the devolved administrations to hold a referendum in relation to any reserved matter, an order under the Scotland Act 1998 or Government of Wales Act 2006, or Westminster primary legislation, would be required.

## Reoffenders

Asked by **Lord Farmer**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the reoffending rates for prisoners who receive visits from family members, broken down by gender. [HL9529]

**Baroness Scott of Bybrook:** Families and friends can be a positive influence on reducing reoffending. Strengthening the ties individuals have with their families and friends is one of the many important factors to successful rehabilitation and reducing intergenerational crime.

Information relating to reoffending and individuals who receive visits from their family whilst in prison, are recorded on separate case management systems and therefore the information requested is not readily available without incurring disproportionate cost.

The latest published data on reoffending rates for prison leavers was published on 29<sup>th</sup> October. While information relating to those in receipt of visits is not available, the rates broken down by gender can be found in table A2 at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/930448/proven-reoffending-oct18-dec18-3-monthly.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/930448/proven-reoffending-oct18-dec18-3-monthly.ods).

## Road Traffic

Asked by **Baroness Randerson**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the level of road traffic across England in the first two weeks of October (1) this year, and (2) in 2019; and what estimate they have made of the percentage of workers in England who returned to work in offices and other regular places of work in those two weeks this year rather than working from home. [HL10003]

**Baroness Vere of Norbiton:** To monitor the use of the transport system during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Department publishes 'Transport use by mode: Great Britain' on a weekly basis. This includes an estimate of the change in traffic on Great Britain's roads. The table below provides (1) the daily estimates for the first two weeks of October 2020. The figures are presented as a percentage of the road traffic on the same day of the week in the first week of February 2020. (2) Equivalent figures are not available for 2019.

The Office for National Statistics publishes 'Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain' on a weekly basis. The second table below presents the statistics on the percentage of working adults by location of work for the first weeks of October 2020.

*Table A: Road traffic use as a percentage of the equivalent day in the first week of February 2020: Great Britain<sup>1</sup>*

Date <sup>1</sup>	Cars	Light Commercial Vehicles	Heavy Goods Vehicles	All motor vehicles
01/10/2020	86%	98%	105%	89%
02/10/2020	87%	99%	102%	90%
03/10/2020	85%	100%	111%	87%
04/10/2020	86%	102%	116%	89%
05/10/2020	86%	103%	106%	91%
06/10/2020	84%	100%	105%	88%
07/10/2020	86%	101%	106%	90%
08/10/2020	84%	98%	104%	88%
09/10/2020	88%	100%	104%	91%
10/10/2020	91%	107%	114%	94%
11/10/2020	94%	113%	122%	98%
12/10/2020	85%	102%	106%	89%
13/10/2020	83%	100%	105%	88%
14/10/2020	84%	99%	106%	88%
15/10/2020	84%	99%	104%	88%
16/10/2020	88%	101%	104%	91%

Source: DfT Transport use by mode, Great Britain

<sup>1</sup>. Although daily data is being reported, direct comparisons of change should not be made between weekdays and weekends/bank holidays. For road traffic there is a different profile on weekend days compared to weekdays.

*Table B: Proportion of working adults<sup>1</sup> in Great Britain by location of work*

	30 Sept to 4 Oct	7 Oct to 11 Oct	14 Oct to 18 Oct
Both worked from home and travelled to work	14%	11%	11%
Travelled to work only	48%	54%	49%
Worked from home only	22%	23%	25%
Neither worked from home nor travelled to work – furloughed <sup>2</sup>	2%	1%	1%



	30 Sept to 4 Oct	7 Oct to 11 Oct	14 Oct to 18 Oct
Neither worked from home nor travelled to work – other 3	15%	11%	14%

Source: ONS Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Great Britain

1. Base population for percentage: working adults. The working adult population is those that said they had a paid job, either as an employee or self-employed; or they did any casual work for payment; or they did any unpaid or voluntary work in the previous week.

2. Caution should be used when interpreting the furlough response categories as this is not a labour force survey. Official estimates on the levels of furloughing are available in 'Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy and society'.

3. The main reasons for respondents neither working from home nor travelling to work (other) in the past 7 days include temporary closure of business or workplace, on annual leave or sick leave, variable hours, being on maternity or paternity leave or being unable to work because of caring responsibilities.

4. Percentages may not sum to 100 because of rounding.

### Roads: Police

Asked by *Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many responses there were to the roads policing review: call for evidence which closed on 5 October; and when they expect to publish their response to any such evidence received. [[HL9714](#)]

**Baroness Vere of Norbiton:** There have been 149 responses to the Roads Policing Review call for Evidence. We are planning to publish our response in Spring 2021.

### Sahel: Violence

Asked by *Lord Pendry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the governments in the Sahel region about (1) addressing the Central Sahel crisis, and (2) prioritising efforts to address gender-based violence. [[HL9739](#)]

**Baroness Sugg:** The UK is deeply concerned about the deteriorating security situation and humanitarian crisis in the Sahel. We are committed to working with the G5 Sahel countries and international partners to build long-term peace and stability, protect civilians and ensure our humanitarian support is able to reach those most in need. We have raised concerns about the escalating violence and allegations of human rights violations at the UN Security Council and in the region. We have called for all

parties to respect human rights and international humanitarian law, and have urged G5 governments to ensure those responsible are brought to justice. The Minister for Africa, James Duddridge, attended the first meeting of the Sahel Alliance General Assembly and the sixth Summit of the G5 Leaders in Mauritania on 25 February 2020. At the meetings, the Minister reaffirmed the UK's efforts to improve security and encourage development in the Sahel.

We advocate regularly for a humanitarian response that protects those affected by conflict and violence, including women and girls. On 15 October 2020, the UK co-hosted a side event with the Norwegian Refugee Council and OCHA, calling for strengthened civilian-military coordination to improve humanitarian access in the region. This was followed by a Ministerial Roundtable, including G5 governments, on 20 October 2020 where the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict and Minister of State, Lord Ahmad, announced an additional £8 million for the UK's humanitarian programme in the Sahel. Through our leadership on gender in the Sahel Alliance, we work collectively with other donors to increase the impact of investments on gender equality, and to encourage G5 governments to protect the fundamental rights of women and girls.

### School of Advanced Study

Asked by *Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the implications of the School of Advanced Study's proposals to close the Institute of Commonwealth Studies and the Institute of Latin American Studies (1) for the Commonwealth community, and (2) for the UK's post-Brexit relations with Latin America; what representations they are making to the School of Advanced Study about the implications of these proposals; and what plans they have, if any, to provide support to help maintain these institutes. [[HL9539](#)]

**Lord Callanan:** Universities are independent, autonomous organisations and are therefore responsible for their decisions relating to research priorities and which activities to support. We would expect universities to regularly review and develop their strategic research priorities, and that this may result in some internal restructuring to better support these priorities.

### Sharing Economy: Conditions of Employment

Asked by *The Lord Bishop of Oxford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the impact, and (2) the effectiveness, of requiring employers in the gig economy to provide workers and contractors with a

written statement of their core terms of employment. [HL9569]

**Lord Callanan:** In response to the Taylor Review, the Government recognised that there was a significant lack of awareness among individuals and employers about applicable rights and responsibilities in non-standard contracts. We therefore amended legislation so that the Employment Rights Act 1996 entitles both employees and workers to receive a written statement of employment particulars that sets out the position regarding remuneration and hours of work etc.

It is now a statutory right to receive a written statement setting out the main particulars of their employment and the employer must provide the principal statement on the first day of employment and the wider written statement within 2 months of the start of employment.

Though the Government regularly takes views from businesses, business groups, and unions on the impact and effectiveness of employment rights legislation, we do not currently have plans to review the impact or implementation of this specific requirement.

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Oxford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they are (1) monitoring, and (2) enforcing, the requirement to provide all workers and contractors in the gig economy with a written statement of their core terms of employment. [HL9568]

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Oxford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many companies have been subject to sanctions or enforcement action for failing to provide workers and contractors in the gig economy with a written statement of their core terms of employment in (1) 2019, and (2) 2020. [HL9570]

**Lord Callanan:** Since 6 April 2020, it is now a statutory right for workers to receive a written statement setting out the main particulars of their employment. The employer must provide the principal statement on the first day of employment and the wider written statement within 2 months of the start of employment and failure of an employer to provide one could risk legal action. If an individual has not been provided a written statement, individuals must first informally raise the issue with their employer. If individuals still do not receive one, they can raise a formal grievance.

Enforcement of this right is carried out in the Employment Tribunal system whereby employees who do not receive a written statement, or who believe it to be inaccurate or incomplete, may refer the matter to an employment tribunal. Tribunals can then clarify what particulars should have been provided to employees. The particulars clarified in this way can be used as evidence in any claim arising from breaches of the employee's terms and conditions.

The following table shows the number of claims the Employment Tribunals have received in relation to

'Written Statement of terms and conditions.' This is not broken down by economic sector nor does it show the outcomes of the claims. Further information on this breakdown can be accessed via the GOV.UK website.

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Quarter</i>	<i>Type of Jurisdiction Complaint</i>
<i>Written statement of terms and conditions</i>		
2019/20	Q1	352
	Q2	327
	Q3	295
	Q4r	313
2020/21	Q1	203

r = figures have been revised as part of an annual reconciliation exercise

### Shipping: Carbon Emissions

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of their decision to conduct a one-year spending review on investment in maritime decarbonisation. [HL9506]

**Baroness Vere of Norbiton:** The Government has decided to conduct a one-year spending review, prioritising its response to Covid-19 and focusing on supporting jobs.

The Clean Maritime Plan, published in July 2019, outlines the UK's pathway to zero carbon emissions in domestic maritime. Further plans on the decarbonisation of the maritime sector will be included in the Transport Decarbonisation Plan.

### Sizewell C Power Station

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to use the Regulated Asset Base model for the financing of the proposed Sizewell C nuclear power station; and what assessment they have made of the impact of those plans on total Government borrowing. [HL9552]

**Lord Callanan:** In 2019, the Government consulted on a Regulated Asset Base (RAB) as a possible funding model. A RAB has the potential to reduce the cost of raising private finance for new nuclear projects, thereby reducing consumer bills and maximising value for money for consumers and taxpayers. We will publish our response to the consultation in due course.

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to take a direct financial stake in the Sizewell C nuclear power project; and if so, whether any decision to do so would need to occur after the conclusion of the planning process. [HL9553]

**Lord Callanan:** The Government is looking at options for the financing of new nuclear projects. In 2019, we consulted on a Regulated Asset Base as a possible funding model that could attract private finance with the potential to bring significant investment for future nuclear projects at a lower cost to consumers, enabling low carbon power to be delivered at scale. We will respond in due course.

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the potential for delay in the consideration of the planning application for the Sizewell C nuclear power project as a result of changes made to submitted proposals by EDF Energy. [HL9554]

**Lord Callanan:** The timetable for examining each application for development consent for nationally significant infrastructure projects is for an Examining Authority, appointed by the Planning Inspectorate, to decide. In finalising a timetable, the Examining Authority will take account of the need to ensure that all parties to an examination have an opportunity to consider and comment on the application under consideration. Once the examination commences, the timetable will follow the statutory provisions set out in the Planning Act 2008.

### Soy Sauce: Imports

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of all soy sauce that was imported into the UK in 2019 was from (1) the EU, and (2) Japan. [HL9744]

**Lord Grimstone of Boscobel:** In 2019 the percentage of UK imports of soy(a) sauce from (1) the EU was 47.5% and (2) Japan was 14.9%.

### Soy Sauce: Japan

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the tariff for soy sauce entering the UK from Japan under existing EU trade arrangements; and what the tariff will be under the UK-Japan trade deal. [HL9745]

**Lord Grimstone of Boscobel:** The tariff for soy(a) sauce entering the UK under the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) is 0%.

The tariff for soy(a) sauce entering the UK under the UK-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) will be 0%.

Had the UK not signed the agreement, the tariff for soy(a) sauce entering the UK under the UK Global Tariff (UKGT) would have been 6%.

### Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion of Belief

*Asked by Baroness Anelay of St Johns*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to appoint a UK Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion of Belief, following the resignation Rehman Chishti MP on 14 September. [HL9503]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** All FCDO Ministers raise concerns about human rights violations and abuses, including on Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB), where appropriate. This work is longstanding. As the UK Minister of State for Human Rights, I also champion and lead on FoRB as part of my wider responsibilities and through multilateral fora including the United Nations.

### Sports: Finance

*Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the financial position of the grassroots sports sector. [HL9672]

**Baroness Barran:** Sports and physical activity providers and facilities are at the heart of our communities, and play a crucial role in supporting adults and children to be active.

Government has provided unprecedented support to businesses through tax reliefs, cash grants and employee wage support, which many sport clubs have benefited from. An income scheme announced in July by the Secretary of State for Local Government, aims to support local authorities who have incurred irrecoverable loss of income from sales, fees and charge which they had reasonably budgeted for. On 22 October, the Government announced a £100m support fund for local authority leisure centres. In addition, Sport England's Community Emergency Fund has also provided £210 million directly to support community sport clubs and exercise centres through this pandemic.

We are continuing to work with organisations to understand what they need and how we may be able to support them.

### Syria: Military Intervention

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic about the progress it has made in investigating alleged violations of international law in Syria, and in particular, the alleged use of white phosphorus by Turkey in Northern Syria; and what assessment they have made of the current weapon classification of white phosphorus. [HL9502]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK Government has regular discussions with the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry (COI) on the Syrian Arab Republic about its investigations of alleged violations of international law in Syria, and welcomed the Commission's latest report presented to the Human Rights Council in September 2020. As the COI is the international body responsible for investigating alleged violations of international law in Syria, the UK encourages it to investigate all allegations of violations and abuses of international law in Syria. The COI reported on Turkey's 'Operation Peace Spring' in their March 2020 report to the Human Rights Council, including on particular cases of hostilities, and called on the Turkish authorities to launch their own investigations into these and to make the findings public. It did not specifically report on the use of white phosphorus. We have continued to make clear that white phosphorus is a legitimate obscurant, but any targeting of civilians is against International Humanitarian Law.

### Television Licences: Concessions

*Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the removal of the TV licence concession for the over-75s on their loneliness strategy. [HL9576]

**Baroness Barran:** The future of the over 75s concession is the responsibility of the BBC, not of the government. The government is disappointed with the BBC's decision to restrict the over 75 licence fee concession to only those in receipt of pension credit. We recognise the value of free TV licences for over-75s and believe they should be funded by the BBC. The BBC must ensure that it supports those affected by its decision and we expect it to do so with the utmost sensitivity.

More broadly, the government remains committed to working with partners across society to tackle loneliness, including for people over 75. Earlier this year we announced new action to support social connection during the Covid-19 pandemic, including new funding for loneliness charities, guidance for the public, and the new Tackling Loneliness Network.

### Temperature: Verkhojansk

*Asked by Lord Lilley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Callanan on 6 October (HL8378), what reasons they have for assuming that the set of residuals is stationary. [HL9545]

**Lord Callanan:** The assumption of stationarity of the residuals is well established in the peer reviewed literature. Recent examples of this can be found in the following papers:

Kew, Sarah F., Sjoukje Y. Philip, Geert Jan van Oldenborgh, Gerard van der Schrier, Friederike EL Otto,

and Robert Vautard. "The exceptional summer heat wave in southern Europe 2017." *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society* 100, no. 1 (2019): S49-S53.

Yiou, Pascal, Julien Cattiaux, Davide Faranda, Nikolay Kadyrov, Aglae Jézéquel, Philippe Naveau, Aurelien Ribes et al. "Analyses of the Northern European summer heatwave of 2018." *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society* 101, no. 1 (2020): S35-S40.

Leach, Nicholas J., Sihan Li, Sarah Sparrow, Geert Jan van Oldenborgh, Fraser C. Lott, Antje Weisheimer, and Myles R. Allen. "Anthropogenic influence on the 2018 summer warm spell in Europe: the impact of different spatio-temporal scales." *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society* 101, no. 1 (2020): S41-S46.

Further to the written answer provided on 6 October (HL8377), the plot placed in the Library of the House shows that the GEV distribution is a good fit to the data, which supports the assumption that the distribution of residuals may be adequately modelled as stationary.

*Asked by Lord Lilley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Callanan on 6 October (HL8377), whether they will place a copy of a quantile-quantile plot of a GEV distribution against the distribution of June maximum temperatures at Verkhojansk during 1926–2020, that includes data from 2020 in particular, in the Library of the House. [HL9546]

**Lord Callanan:** Further to the written answer provided on 6 October (HL8377), the plot placed in the Library of the House uses data over 1926 – 2019. The 2020 value is not included in the fit of the GEV itself, as is standard scientific practice to avoid biasing the fit by the extreme value of interest. It is well established that the selection of a series in which a very large extreme has occurred means that the return time of this value is likely to be much larger than the length of the dataset itself. This means the time series would give an artificially low view of the return time compared to reality. However, as requested, we have provided an additional quantile-quantile plot that does include the 2020 value in the fit – which we provide subject to these caveats.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL9546 Plot [HL9546\_Plot.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-10-26/HL9546>

### Thailand: Politics and Government

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the recent pro-democracy protests in Thailand, what is their assessment of the current political situation in that country. [HL9488]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We are following the protests in Thailand closely. The UK believes that the right to peaceful protest is a fundamental freedom that should be guaranteed in democratic societies. We continue to urge restraint and proportionality in any response to peaceful protest, encourage all sides to respect the rule of law and basic freedoms, and refrain from violence. It is vital that political space in Thailand can be maintained so that a peaceful and productive dialogue can take place.

To that extent, we welcomed the lifting of the Declaration of the Serious Emergency Situation in Bangkok on 22 October, and the announcement of a dedicated Parliamentary session on 26 and 27 October. We hope that these will meaningfully address the concerns of the protesters.

### Third Sector: Coronavirus

*Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to support the voluntary and community sector during the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL9571]

**Baroness Barran:** Charities play an invaluable role in this country, which is why we have committed an unprecedented £750 million in targeted funding so that they can continue their vital work through the coronavirus outbreak. This included £60 million which was distributed via the Barnett formula to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to support charities on the frontline of the response.

The Government also matched public donations to the BBC's "Big Night In" charity appeal, with over £70 million being distributed by Comic Relief, Children in Need and the National Emergencies Trust to charities on the frontline. Our £85 million Community Match Challenge has secured an additional £85m of match funding from charities, funders and philanthropists for good causes.

An additional £150 million from dormant bank and building society accounts has been unlocked to help charities, social enterprises and individuals in vulnerable financial circumstances during the coronavirus outbreak.

Charities, social enterprises and other types of civil society organisations, have benefited from wider Government support such as the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, and are eligible for the new Job Support Scheme.

### Tolls: Greater London

*Asked by Lord Goodlad*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the Mayor of London about ending (1) the temporary rise in cost, and (2) the extension of the hours of operation, of the Congestion Charge; and what has been the outcome of any such representations. [HL9471]

**Baroness Vere of Norbiton:** The Government has agreed a further extraordinary funding and financing package for TfL of up to £1.7bn to ensure the continuation of public transport services in London.

Transport in London is devolved and decisions around the congestion charge are a matter for the Mayor. As part of this deal the mayor agreed that the current temporary changes to the daily charge, operating hours and days of the Congestion Charge will be maintained as a continuing response to the coronavirus pandemic.

### Trade Agreements

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the level of influence that the UK electorate will have over new trade deals. [HL9580]

**Lord Grimstone of Boscobel:** HM Government will always negotiate Free Trade Agreements that best serve the interests of Britain's businesses, consumers and communities.

As champions of the British people, Parliamentarians have a key role to play in our new independent trade policy. That is why HM Government is engaging with Parliament – and others from across the country – at all stages of our trade negotiations with Australia, New Zealand and the United States. Our approach provides for strong levels of scrutiny when compared to similar parliamentary democracies and is appropriate to our constitutional arrangements.

The Department for International Trade will continue to make sure that future Free Trade Agreements are negotiated and implemented subject to such scrutiny, whilst protecting the national interest.

### Trade Agreements: Japan

*Asked by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what geographic protection has been secured for (1) English products, (2) Northern Irish products, (3) Scottish products, and (4) Welsh products, in the Trade Agreement between the United Kingdom and Japan for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership. [HL9620]

**Lord Grimstone of Boscobel:** The new agreement includes all UK geographical indications in the previous agreement: Stilton Blue Cheese, Stilton White Cheese, West Country Farmhouse Cheddar, Scotch Whisky, Scottish Farmed Salmon, Irish Cream, and Irish Whiskey.

New protected recognition for more iconic UK goods will be possible under the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), with the possibility to increase Geographical Indications (GIs) from seven under the terms of the previous agreement to around 70 as soon as next year. These could include English sparkling wine, Yorkshire Wensleydale and Welsh lamb, Arbroath Smokies, Jersey royal potatoes, Kentish ale, Cornish Clotted Cream, and Irish poteen.

*Asked by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what tariffs have been agreed for the sale of meat from (1) the UK to Japan, and (2) Japan to the UK, in the Trade Agreement between the United Kingdom and Japan for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership. [HL9621]

**Lord Grimstone of Boscobel:** Under The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), we have secured reduced tariffs on key British products such as beef and pork, as well as reduced tariffs for flagship Japanese products into the UK, like Japanese beef and bluefin tuna. Further detailed information on tariff lines for individual products is available in the now published agreement text and parliamentary report.

### Trade Agreements: Northern Ireland

*Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Grimstone of Boscobel on 12 October (HL8578), whether they intend to carry out similar Scoping Assessments on the potential impact on Northern Ireland of other new Free Trade Agreements. [HL9626]

**Lord Grimstone of Boscobel:** The Government is committed to an inclusive and transparent trade policy. We have published scoping assessments for agreements with the United States, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand. These scoping assessments set out the potential economic impacts on all nations and regions of the UK, including Northern Ireland. We will publish impact assessments following the conclusion of negotiations which will include an assessment of the impacts on UK regions and nations.

### Transport for London: Finance

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the letter sent by Baroness Vere of Norbiton to Transport for London (TfL) on 31 July, whether the suspension of free travel for 11 to 17 year olds in London, as a condition of Government financial support for TfL during the COVID-19 pandemic, has been implemented; if not, why not; and what plans they have to insist upon that suspension as a condition of funding. [HL9866]

**Baroness Vere of Norbiton:** The Government agreed a further finance package for TfL of up to £1.7bn to ensure the continuation of essential services.

This deal is clear that while the national tax payer will continue to fund free travel to school for children who qualify under national legislation, if the Mayor wishes to maintain free travel for all under 18's, over and above the English baseline, he must raise the money to pay for this.

### Transport: Coronavirus

*Asked by Lord Walney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, what plans they have to re-assess official predictions of (1) medium, and (2) long term passenger growth in (a) international flights, (b) domestic flights, (c) long distance rail travel, and (d) motorway usage. [HL9596]

**Baroness Vere of Norbiton:** A new long-term forecast for travel demand in international and domestic flights is not feasible due to the uncertainty arising from COVID-19 concerning forecasting and appraisal. The Government is monitoring the evolving situation and engaging regularly with industry on their forecasts.

We have conducted long distance rail demand scenarios using assumptions on potential drivers subject to ongoing update, refinement and review. We will continue to review and evaluate the evidence for motorway usage. Our priority is to understand potential impacts resulting from COVID-19 following the update of road forecasts.

We plan to issue updated guidance in February on how to incorporate the impact of COVID-19 in medium and long-term forecasts for transport. More widely, the Government will continue to closely monitor the impact of the pandemic and to consider how to reflect this uncertainty with other drivers, including technological change and travel behaviour.

### Trident Submarines

*Asked by Lord Walney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the expected dates for the Dreadnought-class of SSBN submarines to be in service. [HL9968]

**Baroness Goldie:** As set out in the 2019 Annual Update to Parliament on the UK's future nuclear deterrent, the Dreadnought submarine programme is on track for the First of Class, HMS Dreadnought, to enter service in the early 2030s. The planned in-service dates of submarines are withheld as disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the Armed Forces.

### West Bank: Demolition

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the visit by Heads of Mission and representatives of countries, including the UK, to Umm al-Kheir and Khirbet al-Majaz on 19 October, what steps they are taking to prevent the future (1) eviction of Palestinians from, and (2) demolitions of civilian structures in, the South Hebron Hills area of the West Bank. [HL9591]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK has made clear to the Israeli authorities our serious concern at the increase in demolitions of Palestinian structures in the

West Bank and in East Jerusalem. In all but the most exceptional of circumstances demolitions are contrary to International Humanitarian Law. The Minister for the Middle East and North Africa raised our particular concern about the potential demolition of ten structures in the South Hebron Hills with the Israeli Ambassador to the UK on 29 October. The UK is focused on preventing demolitions and evictions from happening in the first place through our legal aid programme, which supports Bedouin communities and Palestinians facing demolition or home eviction in both the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

### **West Bank: Housing**

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have raised objections to the approval of new settlement homes in the West Bank with the government of Israel; what assessment they have made, if any, of the number of new settlement homes that have been advanced in the West Bank this year; and what is their assessment of the impact of the increase in new settlement building on prospects for a two-state solution between Israel and Palestine. [HL9492]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We consistently call for an immediate end to all actions that undermine the viability of the two-state solution, including settlement expansion within the West Bank. As the UK made clear on 16 October, in a joint statement alongside France, Germany, Italy and Spain, we are deeply concerned by the recent decision taken by the Israeli authorities to advance more than 4,900 settlement building units in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Our Embassy in Tel Aviv raised our concern with the Government of Israel on 13 October, alongside European partners. The UK's position on settlements is clear. They are illegal under international law, present an obstacle to peace, and threaten the physical viability of a two-state solution. Settlement expansion is also a counterproductive move in light of the positive developments of normalisation agreements reached between Israel, United Arab

Emirates, Bahrain and Sudan. We urge Israel to halt settlement expansion immediately. We are encouraging both sides to maintain calm and avoid taking actions which make peace more difficult to achieve.

### **Youth Investment Fund**

*Asked by Baroness Morgan of Cotes*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to announce the initial funding allocations to be made from the previously announced Youth Investment Fund. [HL9559]

**Baroness Barran:** DCMS officials continue to assess how COVID-19 is impacting on young people and youth services. We will keep engaging with the youth sector as plans for the Youth Investment Fund develop, and expect to publish further details in due course.

### **Zimbabwe: Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative**

*Asked by Baroness Anelay of St Johns*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they made to the government of Zimbabwe about joining the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative; and what has been the outcome of any such representations. [HL9615]

**Baroness Sugg:** Zimbabwe has in the past expressed an openness to joining the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), which the UK would support if it were to happen. We engage the Government regularly on progress towards signing EITI, most recently during the WTO Trade Policy Review of Zimbabwe, in which the UK questioned Zimbabwe on progress on their stated commitment to make progress towards signing EITI in 2020. As well as in country engagement from British Embassy officials, EITI Board Chair, Helen Clarke, visited Zimbabwe in February of this year.

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