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**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

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Written Statements

Thursday, 12 November 2020

Avian Influenza: Kept Birds

[HLWS565]

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

High Pathogenicity H5N8 Avian Influenza has been circulating in Europe in recent weeks. There have now been two diagnosed cases in poultry in the UK, in Cheshire and Herefordshire, as well as several findings in wild birds in south-west England. The risk of further H5N8 incursion in wild birds across the UK remains high and has recently been raised to medium for poultry. We will continue to undertake comprehensive disease surveillance over the coming weeks and months.

Public Health England advises that the risk to public health is very low and the Food Standards Agency has said there is no food safety risk for UK consumers.

In response to the risk to poultry and other captive birds, the Department has put in place a statutory Avian Influenza Prevention Zone. The Zone requires keepers across the country to take additional steps to introduce enhanced biosecurity measures and to protect poultry and other captive birds from contact with wild birds. Some of these measures apply to all keepers, including those with small flocks or pet birds. They include:

- cleansing and disinfection of equipment, vehicles and footwear when moving between bird premises;
- effective vermin control;
- reducing movements of people to the essentials for the birds' welfare, collecting eggs and feeding;
- keeping records of poultry, captive birds and egg movements;
- ensuring that buildings are maintained and that repairs are carried out without delay where water or other contamination may penetrate.

The Zone will remain in place indefinitely but will be kept under review and amended as necessary in the light of any changes in circumstances. We have also made changes to licensing arrangements to prohibit events such as bird shows.

Given that the disease is spreading across Europe, the introduction of this Zone has been co-ordinated with the Devolved Administrations and Scottish and Welsh Governments are introducing similar measures. Northern Ireland officials, who have been in the discussions, are reviewing their risk assessment which will inform their next steps.

We have tried and tested procedures for dealing with such animal disease outbreaks and a strong track record of controlling and eliminating previous outbreaks of avian flu in the UK. Our actions are in line with established

practice and with the processes followed in previous years. Avian Influenza Prevention Zones, for example, were introduced in England, Scotland and Wales in 2018. We are working closely with operational partners, devolved administration colleagues and the industry.

The detections of H5N8 in poultry or captive birds have been dealt with effectively by the Animal and Plant Health Agency. We have taken robust action, imposing zones of up to ten kilometres (six miles) around infected premises to limit the risk of disease spreading, and culling birds humanely and to high biosecurity standards.

Looking forward, the Department will keep the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone under review and will consider amendments to reflect any changes to the level of risk of incursion to wild birds and poultry as well as any further scientific, veterinary and ornithological advice.

We have not yet required mandatory housing of all poultry and captive birds as part of our response to the disease risk. However, such a measure remains under active review as a potentially important step.

We continue to urge bird keepers to be vigilant for any signs of disease, ensure they are maintaining good biosecurity on their premises, seek prompt advice from their vet and report suspect disease to APHA (as they must do by law).

We strongly advise keepers to register on the Poultry Register so as to receive notifications and disease alerts. This is mandatory for all those with flocks of over 50 birds. Registration is easy and can be found at: www.gov.uk/guidance/bird-gatherings-licences.

HMICFRS's Report: National Crime Agency and Regional Organised Crime Units

[HLWS563]

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

The National Crime Agency (NCA) leads the fight against serious and organised crime (SOC). It has the power to task other law enforcement partners and a capability, with local to international reach, to disrupt the impact of SOC on the UK.

This is the seventh HMICFRS inspection of the NCA and examines the relationship between the Agency and the Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCU). The focus is specifically on the collaboration arrangements, the role of the NCA's Regional Organised Crime Coordinators (RCCs), coordination and support of operational activity, threat prioritisation and integration and co-location.

I have asked HMICFRS to publish the report. It will be published today and will be available online at www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk. I will arrange for a copy to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The inspection found that NCA and ROCUs are working well in a number of areas of law enforcement.

The NCA's provision of specialist capabilities to the network, such as Protected Persons and Kidnap and Extortion is seen as a positive example. Meeting structures for tasking and co-ordinating operational activity work well, with ROCUs and the NCA represented at regional and national level. National tasking of regional cyber and Undercover Online (UCOL) assets is judged as mature and efficient. The report also emphasises a number of areas for improvement including the need for greater interoperability and a more systematic approach to joint working; a clearer understanding within ROCUs of the roles and responsibilities of the NCA; and more effective duty management within the NCA's control room to ensure monitoring of the location and availability of its operational resources.

It is for the NCA's Director General to respond to these recommendations.

The inspection also identified a need to review current funding arrangements for ROCUs; consider changes to legislation that would allow NCA to task ROCUs directly; and as part of the Review of the Strategic Policing Requirement, consider how greater emphasis is placed on national threats such as SOC by Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables. These recommendations are being taken forward by my officials.

Justifying Authority for New Nuclear Power: Departmental Responsibility

[HLWS568]

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

Responsibility for the transferred from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 6 October 2020.

Ministerial Response Correction to Health Protection (Coronavirus, Collection of Contact Details etc and Related Requirements) Regulations 2020

[HLWS567]

Lord Bethell: I would like to apologise for any confusion that arose from my statement on 7 October 2020, regarding the collection of customer, visitor and staff contact details regulations. In my statement, I said that "the initial fine is £1,000 and is reduced to £500 for prompt payment. In response to my noble friend Lady McIntosh, as I understand it, no first offence would incur a fine."

To clarify, enforcing officers do have the ability to issue fixed penalty notices immediately upon the breach occurring. A fixed penalty notice can be issued for a number of breaches of the requirements in the regulations, including failure to:

i) display an official NHS QR poster;

ii) request and then retain certain contact details, whether through a digital advanced booking system or non-digital logbook; or

iii) refuse entry to individuals who do not provide their details to hospitality venues only.

The first offence may therefore incur a fine of £1,000, which is reduced to £500 if paid within 14 days – though the officers retain the right to their discretionary approach under existing enforcement principles.

The Government will continue to engage with local authority enforcement officers and keep these enforcement measures under review.

Notification of Contingent Liability

[HLWS562]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: My right honourable friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Rishi Sunak) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of England decided at its meeting ending on 04 November to ask for an expansion in the maximum limit of purchases that may be undertaken by the Asset Purchase Facility (APF). This will encompass up to £150 billion of further purchases of gilts to support the economy.

In light of the recent economic conditions, the MPC judged further asset purchases financed by the issuance of central bank reserves should be undertaken to enable the MPC to meet its statutory objectives, and thereby support the economy. I have therefore authorised an increase in the total size of the APF of £150 billion. This will bring the maximum total size of the APF from £745 to £895 billion.

In line with the requirements in the MPC remit, the amendments to the APF that could affect the allocation of credit and pose risks to the Exchequer have been discussed with Treasury officials. The risk control framework previously agreed with the Treasury will remain in place, and HM Treasury will keep monitoring risks to public funds from the Facility through regular risk oversight meetings and enhanced information sharing with the Bank.

There will continue to be an opportunity for the Treasury to provide views to the MPC on the design of the schemes within the APF, as they affect the Government's broader economic objectives and may pose risks to the Exchequer.

The Government will continue to indemnify the Bank and the APF from any losses arising out of, or in connection with, the facility. If the liability is called, provision for any payment will be sought through the normal supply procedure.

A full departmental Minute has been laid in the House of Commons providing more detail on this contingent liability.

Planning Act 2008 Applications: A303

[HLWS564]

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

I have been asked by my Right Honourable Friend, the Secretary of State, to make this Written Ministerial Statement. This statement concerns two applications made under the Planning Act 2008 relating to the A303.

The first application concerns the proposed construction by Highways England of a new two-lane dual carriageway for the A303 between Amesbury and Berwick Down in Wiltshire (also known as the “A303 Stonehenge” application), which the Secretary of State has today approved.

The second application concerns the proposed construction by Highways England of a continuous dual carriageway on the A303 linking the Podimore Roundabout and the Sparkford Bypass.

Under section 107(1) of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State must make his decision within 3 months of receipt of the Examining Authority’s report unless exercising the power under section 107(3) to extend the deadline and make a Statement to the House of Parliament announcing the new deadline. The Secretary of State received the Examining Authority’s report on the A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Development Consent Order application on 12 September 2019 and the deadline for a decision was previously extended from 12 December 2019 to 17 July 2020, and then further extended until 20 November 2020 to allow for further work to be carried out.

The deadline for the decision is to be further extended to 29 January 2021 (an extension of just over two months) to enable further information to be provided by the Applicant and the Defence Infrastructure Organisation regarding outstanding concerns pertaining to the issue of bird strike.

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

Service Justice System

[HLWS566]

Baroness Goldie: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (The Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I am today informing the House that, after further and full consideration of an earlier decision announced in

February 2020 in response to the Service Justice System (SJS) Review, I have taken a decision to maintain jurisdictional concurrency when dealing with cases of murder, manslaughter and rape when committed by Service personnel in the UK.

Currently, decisions on which jurisdiction should deal with criminal offences in the UK by Service personnel are made by the SJS and Civilian Justice System (CJS) policing and prosecutorial authorities on a case-by-case basis. My intent is to seek views on what improvements can be made to the protocols which guide those decisions and which have developed since Parliament last expressed its view on this subject.

In considering the recommendations made by the Service Justice System Review, I have come to the conclusion that, having agreed to take forward 79 other recommendations, including assurance around the quality of investigations, the SJS is capable of dealing with these offences when they occur in the UK, as well as overseas. The Service Justice System Review strongly supported the continued existence of the SJS and sets out a sound roadmap for its future.

I am not, therefore, content to accept the first recommendation in the Review which would undermine the principle of concurrency between the SJS and CJS which is set out in the current legislation. While there will not be a presumption that either system takes primacy over the other, I plan to retain the current role of the Director of Public Prosecutions (in relation to cases in England and Wales) of having the final say of where a case is tried in the unlikely event of disagreement about where the case should be handled.

In light of this decision, my department will lead an exercise with SJS and CJS policing and prosecutorial authorities to revise all current guidance around jurisdiction for criminal offending by service personnel in the UK. That exercise will include public engagement on factors to be considered relevant in guiding the case-by-case allocation decisions. Parliament will have an opportunity to consider these matters when parliamentary time allows, and I intend to bring forward proposals to place the arrangements for allocating cases between the SJS and CJS on a statutory basis.

My department will be engaging with the devolved administrations in Scotland and Northern Ireland to consider the corresponding arrangements that should exist there.

Written Answers

Thursday, 12 November 2020

Accountancy: Standards

Asked by **Baroness Bowles of Berkhamsted**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Callanan on 24 September (HL8051), what progress they have made on forming an agreement with the International Financial Reporting Standards Foundation; and when preparations for any such agreement began. [HL9756]

Lord Callanan: The Government has reached an agreement with the IFRS Foundation to publish a consolidated text of UK-adopted international accounting standards and the agreement will be signed shortly.

The Government began preparations for an agreement in January 2019.

Asked by **Baroness Bowles of Berkhamsted**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Callanan on 24 September (HL8051), what is the proposed fee payable to the International Accounting Standards Board; and how that fee will be funded. [HL9759]

Lord Callanan: The fee payable to the IFRS foundation is commercially sensitive and falls below the public disclosure threshold. The Government believes that the agreement with the IFRS Foundation reflects good value for money due to the wide use and acceptance of IFRS amongst the major financial capitals across the world, and the fact that the Standards promote transparency and investment. The agreement also ensures that the UK will be able to continue to influence the independent, not-for-profit, global standard setting body, to ensure that Standards meet the needs of UK companies and investors.

The inaugural fee will be funded by Government and our intention is that future payments will come from the FRC's general levy on preparers of accounts.

Asia: Intelligence Services

Asked by **Lord Blencathra**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the comment on 14 October by the Director General of MI5 that MI5 is "looking to do more against Chinese activity", what representations they intend to make to the other members of the Five Eyes alliance on the possibility of including additional countries geographically close to China, and in particular (1) India, (2) Japan, (3) Taiwan, and (4) South Korea, in that alliance. [HL9755]

Lord True: The UK works closely with partners across the world and through a range of formal and informal multilateral fora, including the UN, the G7 and G20,

NATO, Five Eyes and the E3. We strongly value our long-standing relationship with our Five Eyes partners and will continue to work closely with them in pursuit of shared policy interests.

Bank Services: Interest Rates

Asked by **Lord Myners**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to investigate the socioeconomic consequences for consumers of banks charging negative real interest rates. [HL9788]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The Government believes that individuals, regardless of their background or income, should have access to useful and affordable financial products and services.

The independent Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of England sets the Bank Rate to meet the objectives set out in its remit of maintaining price stability and subject to this, supporting the economic policy of the Government, including its objectives for growth and employment. The MPC is sensitive to the effect of low interest rates on savers and does consider the effect monetary policy decisions have on all households.

Commercial banks make commercial judgements that influence the degree of pass-through from changes in Bank Rate into retail interest rates, with conditions in financial markets and in the banking sector also influencing interest rates paid on deposits or charged for lending. The Government does not seek to intervene in these commercial decisions.

Bounce Back Loan Scheme and Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme

Asked by **Lord Myners**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Callanan on 17 September (HL7806), whether they have reconsidered their decision to not publish the identity of recipients of loans taken out under (1) the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme, and (2) the Bounce Back Loan Scheme; and on what grounds, if any, they have reconsidered. [HL9789]

Lord Callanan: Details of individual aid awards under the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme and Bounce Back Loan Scheme will be published where required on the European Commission's Transparency Aid Module in due course.

Asked by **Lord Myners**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Callanan on 17 September (HL7806), when they expect to publish the identity of recipients of loans taken out under (1) the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme, and (2) the Bounce Back Loan Scheme; and under what conditions they would publish such information. [HL9790]

Lord Callanan: Details of individual aid awards under the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme and Bounce Back Loan Scheme will be published where required on the European Commission's Transparency Aid Module in due course.

Climate Change Convention

Asked by Baroness Boycott

To ask Her Majesty's Government what the vetting process will be for organisations applying to host COP26 fringe meetings and events; and what plans they have to publish that process. [HL9760]

Lord Callanan: We are looking to work and partner with organisations committed to taking positive action to tackle climate change. We will be launching a registration process for organisations wanting to be involved in UK Government managed events around COP26 in the new year. The process is currently under development and further detail will be released in due course.

Asked by Baroness Boycott

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that sponsors and other organisations involved with COP26 are demonstrably committed to tackling climate change; and what criteria they intend to use to assess that commitment. [HL9761]

Lord Callanan: The Government has set strict sponsorship criteria for COP26 and will only partner with companies who have committed to or set net-zero commitments by 2050 or earlier, and have a credible and aligned short-term action plan to achieve this. We conduct due diligence on all potential sponsors, and ensure compliance with our standards. The Government is encouraging companies with strong climate credentials to apply for sponsorship through the COP26 website.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

Asked by The Earl of Clancarty

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Liverpool will be included within the list of ports designated under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. [HL9764]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: Liverpool Seaforth port will be designated as a Point of Entry and Exit (PoE) for CITES-listed specimens at the end of the Transition Period.

We will continue to work with port operators, industry and other Government departments such as Border Force, HM Revenue & Customs and Cabinet Office to analyse trade flows and will designate further PoE where this is feasible so as to provide additional routes for traders.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species: Musical Instruments

Asked by The Earl of Clancarty

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to introduce procedures for the inspection of materials protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora when transporting musical instruments between Great Britain and Northern Ireland from 1 January 2021. [HL9765]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: After the Transition Period, controls implementing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) will apply to the movement of CITES specimens between Great Britain (GB) and Northern Ireland (NI). This is as a result of our international obligations under CITES, and the operation of the Northern Ireland Protocol. Such movement between NI and GB will require CITES documentation, for example import and export permits or a Musical Instrument Certificate. All CITES specimens must be moved through a designated point of entry and exit where documentation must be presented for endorsement by Border Force officials. As a result of the NI Protocol, NI will be treated as part of the EU's customs territory and the permits and checks usually required under CITES will not be required for movements between NI and EU Member States.

Asked by The Earl of Clancarty

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to amend the musical instrument certificate application form FED0172 to remove the obligation to provide the owner's details; and, if so, what procedure will be required to do so. [HL9767]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: We do not have immediate plans to amend the musical instrument certificate (MIC) application form to remove the obligation to provide details of the owner of the instrument. However, we will keep this under review and will be discussing the need for additional guidance on how to apply for a MIC with stakeholders from the sector.

Coronavirus: Mortality Rates

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government what the fatality rate from COVID-19 is among (1) individuals with a residence permit with the condition of no recourse to public funds, and (2) individuals who are not subject to the residency condition of no recourse to public funds. [HL9704]

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

Dear Lady Bennett,

As National Statistician and Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority, I am responding to your Parliamentary Question asking what the fatality rate from COVID-19 is among (1) individuals with a residence permit with the condition of no recourse to public funds, and (2) individuals who are not subject to the residency condition of no recourse to public funds (HL9704).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes statistics on deaths in England and Wales. Mortality statistics are based on the information provided by doctors and coroners through death registration, which focuses on the causes of death and does not include all the circumstances of the deceased. We are unable to provide figures related to residency status.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Sir Ian Diamond

Digital Technology: VAT

Asked by *Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have collected data on the number of businesses prepared for the ending of access to the VAT MOSS system on 31 December; and what plans they have to seek an extension of access to VAT MOSS for UK businesses. [HL9705]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: VAT MOSS is an EU simplification. The UK will lose access to this at the end of the transition period and will not be seeking an extension. There are approximately 2,000 UK businesses registered on the VAT MOSS system in the UK. Businesses can continue to use the VAT MOSS system if they register in an EU Member State after the transition period. HMRC have published guidance on this and will also be contacting all businesses registered on the VAT MOSS system in the UK to explain the options available to them.[1]

[1] The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pay-vat-when-you-sell-digital-services-to-eu-consumers-from-1-january-2021>

Gender: Disability

Asked by *Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office is retaining the Department for International Development's (1) commitment to 'leave no one behind', and (2) strategies on gender and disability. [HL9843]

Baroness Sugg: Leaving no-one behind is an essential element of the mission of the FCDO, alongside building shared global prosperity, eradicating extreme poverty, tackling climate change, strengthening the international rule of law and global security, and promoting universal human rights and free, open societies.

As part of the creation of FCDO as a new Department we are refreshing and building on existing strategies, as well as developing new approaches where appropriate. We do not see the core ambitions of the Strategic Vision for Gender Equality nor the Disability Inclusion Strategy changing. Advancing gender equality and women's and girls' rights are a core part of this Government's mission, including fulfilling every girl's right to 12 years of quality education. The advancement of the inclusion of persons with disabilities is as important now as when the strategy was published in 2018 - the new department will strive to ensure the aims of the strategy are realised. The Government remains steadfast in its commitment to these agendas.

Independent Commission for Aid Impact: Reviews

Asked by *Lord Bruce of Bennachie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to encourage (1) stakeholders of, and (2) users of reports by, the Independent Commission for Aid Impact to contribute to the review of that Commission's role; whether that review will consider any views submitted after 11 November; what plans they have to invite a member of the House of Commons International Development Committee to be a member of the team conducting the review; whether they plan to seek external challenge to the outcome of the review; and if so, by whom. [HL9981]

Baroness Sugg: The Review Team has published Terms of Reference for the Review of the Independent Commission for Aid Impact and sought feedback from the public. They have also asked for written information from a range of stakeholders; and are conducting a series of interviews and roundtables. The Review Team will consider written views from members of the public until 11 November.

This is an internal departmental review. The International Development Committee is being consulted and there will be a small panel of independent experts to provide challenge to the review.

Infrastructure: Rural Areas

Asked by *The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to their decision to launch a one-year Spending Review, whether their multi-year capital allocation for priority infrastructure projects includes projects in rural areas, in particular (1) the Community Housing Fund, especially for rural affordable housing schemes, and (2) the Village Hall Improvement Grant Fund. [HL9791]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: While it would not be appropriate to respond in detail on plans for the Comprehensive Spending Review at this time, the Government recognises that village halls provide vital hubs for communities to connect, collaborate and

celebrate, and that the community-led housing sector offers significant potential for helping to meet housing need across England in rural and urban areas.

Kickstart Scheme

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to extend the eligibility criteria for applications to the Kickstart Scheme. [HL10193]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The Kickstart Scheme provides funding to create new job placements for 16 to 24 year olds on Universal Credit who are at risk of long term unemployment. Guidance on eligibility has been published on the gov.uk/kickstart website. As of the 11th November 2020 we have received 4,359 applications and 19,672 Kickstart placements have been approved; we will keep the eligibility for the scheme under review, but have no current plans to extend it.

Labour Market: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the Resolution Foundation Jobs, jobs, jobs; evaluating the effects of the current economic crisis in the UK labour market, published on 27 October. [HL9751]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The Government considers the findings and views from a wide range of organisations, including the Resolution Foundation. The UK, along with many other countries around the world, has experienced a severe recession caused by coronavirus. In response, the Government has increased the support available to protect jobs and support businesses.

To support those in employment, the government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) will remain open until December, with employees receiving 80% of their current salary for hours not worked, up to a maximum of £2,500.

To support young people, the Government launched a £2 billion Kickstart Scheme, creating hundreds of thousands of new, fully subsidised jobs for young people at risk of long-term unemployment, as well as a guaranteed foundation of support for young people on Universal Credit.

Musical Instruments: Customs

Asked by The Earl of Clancarty

To ask Her Majesty's Government what will be the threshold number of (1) musical instruments, and (2) other related equipment, at which the holder will be required to purchase an ATA carnet for temporary export and import. [HL9766]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The current process for ATA Carnets with convention countries outside the EU will

apply to relevant imports and exports with the EU at the end of the transition period. This means that from January 2021, ATA Carnets will become one of the options available to both businesses and individuals when temporarily moving goods between the UK and EU countries.

Use of an ATA Carnet is optional and is a commercial decision on whether it is the most cost-effective method in each specific circumstance. There is no specific threshold for the use of an ATA Carnet.

In the UK, ATA Carnets are administered by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI). Further information on obtaining and using an ATA Carnet can be found by contacting the LCCI.

Oak Processionary Moth

Asked by Lord Framlingham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what has been the incidence of oak processionary moth in the UK in 2020 to date. [HL9771]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Forestry Commission has an annual programme of surveillance in place. This year, the Commission has enhanced its surveillance programme within the UK Protected Zone as a precaution in response to an increased number of intercepts of Oak Processionary Moth in 2019.

Oak Processionary Moth is established in most of Greater London and in some surrounding counties. In June and July 2020, it was found on a very small number of trees at five sites within the Protected Zone, in the English counties of Sussex, Oxfordshire, Bedfordshire and Cheshire. Swift action was undertaken to eradicate recent findings, including surveillance, tracing work and the removal of caterpillars and infested trees.

Operation Mincemeat

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the files 'CAB93/7' relating to Operation Mincemeat are (1) still held in 10 Downing Street, (2) available for viewing, and (3) if so, under what conditions. [HL9797]

Lord True: The Cabinet Office holds the original CAB 93/7, it contains no material related to Operation Mincemeat. A version is held by The National Archives (TNA). Consultation of the volume held by TNA would need to be made by appointment, a service currently suspended owing to national restrictions. Details of how to arrange a visit are available here: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/visit-us/>.

Orchestras: Tax Allowances

Asked by Baroness Stuart of Edgbaston

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to amend the scope of the Orchestra Tax Relief to include digital-only performances. [HL9747]

*Asked by **Baroness Stuart of Edgbaston***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to temporarily increase the percentage claimable under Orchestra Tax Relief for the 2021/22 tax year. [HL9748]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: In 2019-2020 the Government provided £18 million of support to 565 orchestral productions through the Orchestra Tax Relief. While all tax reliefs are kept under review, the Government is not planning changes to the Orchestra Tax Relief at this time.

The Government has provided support to the cultural sector during the pandemic through the £1.57bn Culture Recovery Fund. To date, £409 million in grant funding has been awarded to over 2,000 cultural organisations in England, including orchestras, music venues, galleries, theatres, museums and festivals.

The Government has also extended the temporary reduced VAT rate for hospitality and tourism to 31 March 2021. This will continue to apply to admission to attractions across the UK, including concerts, theatres, exhibitions and similar events.

Palestinians: Food

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the statement by the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East that "people are going through the garbage" for food in Gaza, and (2) the case for increasing the funding of that agency for the provision of food aid. [HL9964]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK remains concerned about the ongoing humanitarian situation in Gaza. We are a longstanding supporter to UNRWA and in 2020/2021 we are providing £51 million to support UNRWA to provide essential services to the 5.6 million Palestinian refugees in Gaza, the West Bank, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. £1 million of this is specifically for food aid in Gaza.

In addition to our support to UNRWA for the refugee population, the UK is providing £2.5 million to the World Food Programme to provide food and cash assistance for some of the most vulnerable Palestinians, mainly in Gaza.

Plants: Imports

*Asked by **Lord Framlingham***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to tighten the rules governing importation of trees and shrubs after 31 December. [HL9770]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: From January 2021, trees, shrubs and other plants entering Great Britain from the EU will be subject to third country import requirements. Controls on the highest risk products from the EU will apply immediately following the end of the transition

period. This includes requirements to pre-notify, the need for a phytosanitary certificate to accompany regulated consignments and physical inspections on imports once they have arrived in Great Britain. It is already the case that imports of regulated plants and plant products from non-EU countries are subject to import controls.

The UK intends to ensure that its Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) regime remains appropriate to address the risks it faces. The UK plant health services already conduct risk-based checks at the border in relation to imports from non-EU countries. The checks undertaken are determined according to an assessment of the risk presented by the import of different plants and goods from different origins. This risk assessment and risk management approach will apply to SPS goods from the EU from 1 January 2021.

For plants (including trees and shrubs) and plant products, a common import regime will ultimately apply to all third countries, so any changes will apply equally to EU and non-EU countries. Notwithstanding the phasing in of controls, any changes to GB's import requirements from the end of the transition period will apply to all third countries (including the EU).

Defra, with the devolved administrations, actively monitors and reviews plant health risks and the government will respond as needed to ensure UK biosecurity continues to be protected.

Poverty

*Asked by **Baroness Hodgson of Abinger***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office is retaining the Department for International Development's commitment to maintaining poverty reduction as the primary objective of UK spending. [HL9841]

Baroness Sugg: The Government will prioritise the bottom billion, the very poorest around the world, as part of our core mission. This is in our national interest and it will project the UK as a force for good in the world. For example, during the coronavirus pandemic, the UK has provided £15 million to UNICEF to protect vulnerable children, and a further £5 million to the Education Cannot Wait fund, supporting emergency education in conflict countries. Furthermore, the UK has allocated £119 million of aid to provide relief to over 6 million people and help prevent famine in countries hit by conflict and COVID-19.

*Asked by **Baroness Hodgson of Abinger***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office will continue to target UK aid to the poorest countries and people. [HL9842]

Baroness Sugg: Reducing poverty will be at the beating heart of the FCDO. The Foreign Secretary has appointed Nick Dyer as the first ever envoy on famine

prevention and humanitarian affairs, and we have allocated a new £119 million package to look at the threat of the coronavirus and of famine more generally across the bottom billion.

Protection: Court Orders

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to adopt the European Union Protection Measures Regulation (606/2013) into domestic law. [HL9887]

Baroness Scott of Bybrook: The Withdrawal Agreement negotiated by the Government ensures the EU 'Protection Measures Regulation' (606/2013) will continue to apply to protection measures in both the UK and EU Member States where a certificate is issued before the end of the transition period.

In relation to protection measures where certificates are issued after the end of the transition period, the Mutual Recognition of Protection Measures in Civil Matters (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (SI 493 of 2019) provides that an incoming protection measure from an EU Member State shall continue to be recognised and will be enforceable in England and Wales and Northern Ireland.

However, the instrument also removes the ability for the courts of England and Wales and Northern Ireland to issue an outgoing certificate, which is required for recognition and enforcement in an EU Member State under the Protection Measures Regulation. This is because we cannot legislate unilaterally to restore the reciprocity of approach, without which the court of an EU Member State could simply ignore protection measures issued by courts in the UK.

These issues are devolved to Scotland. I understand the Scottish Government is considering its position.

Remote Working: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord McKenzie of Luton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what safety advice and guidance they have made available for individuals who (1) choose, and (2) are required, to work from home. [HL9942]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: Under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, all employers are under a duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare at work of all their employees. This duty extends to those working from home, either temporarily or permanently.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has published guidance on its website for employers and home workers (<https://www.hse.gov.uk/toolbox/workers/home.htm>). The guidance covers all workers who work from home and includes information on working alone, working without supervision, ways to keep in touch and guidance on mental health, stress and wellbeing. It also covers

practical guidance on setting up workstations, display screen equipment (DSE) and how to prevent musculoskeletal disorders.

The DSE guidance is intended to provide a flexible, proportionate and pragmatic approach for employers and employees on managing low-risk activities during a time when the Government advice is for people to work from home where it is possible to do so.

The HSE guidance emphasises the need for employers to keep health and safety arrangements for home working under review.

Rolls-Royce: Finance

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the total funding they have given to Rolls-Royce this year for their operations in the UK; what is the purpose of any such funding; and what additional funding they have offered. [HL9777]

Lord Callanan: The Government's financial support for Rolls-Royce is provided via various routes, including support for their exports and research and development (R&D) in areas such as civil aerospace, civil nuclear, and defence. This year, the Government's support has included funding through the Bank of England's Covid Corporate Financing Facility and a partial guarantee by UK Export Finance of a 5-year, £2 billion commercial term-loan facility.

One of the Government's key funding streams is through Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation. For the 2019/2020 competition year of the Aerospace Technology Institute programme, Rolls-Royce have had grant offers totalling £63,374,303 to support total project costs of £143,203,408. This money will be paid out across the life of the projects.

Save as You Earn

Asked by Lord Flight

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of bad leavers from Save As You Earn schemes in each of the last five years. [HL9720]

Asked by Lord Flight

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the total value of savings held by bad leavers participating in Save As You Earn schemes, before they exited, in each of the last five years. [HL9721]

Asked by Lord Flight

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the total value forfeited in share growth as a result of participants in Save As You Earn schemes exiting as bad leavers in each of the last five years. [HL9722]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The Save As You Earn (SAYE) scheme is a tax-advantaged employee share scheme offered by the Government.

A “bad leaver” from a SAYE scheme is a participant that does not meet the good leaver provisions as defined in the legislation at paragraph 34 of Schedule 3 to the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003.

HMRC collects data at the points at which employees enter or leave SAYE schemes but this does not directly include data on “bad leavers”.

UK Endorsement Board

*Asked by **Baroness Bowles of Berkhamsted***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the role of the UK Endorsement Board in insurance accounting; what authority the Board has to exercise its functions; what is the composition of the Board; and how the Board is funded. [[HL9757](#)]

*Asked by **Baroness Bowles of Berkhamsted***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the UK Endorsement Board will be provided with publicly available legal advice to deliver the required endorsement criteria for the adoption of International Accounting Standards; and what processes they have in place to ensure that this advice will be free from conflicts of interest. [[HL9758](#)]

Lord Callanan: We intend to lay an SI in early 2021 that will delegate certain functions in the International Accounting Standards and European Public Limited-Liability Company (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (‘the 2019 Regulations’), including powers to endorse and adopt International Accounting Standards, to the UK Accounting Standards Endorsement Board (UK EB). This includes International Accounting Standards (such as IFRS 17 – Insurance Contracts) that relate to insurance.

Following the appointment of the Chair, we are now preparing to recruit Board Members. We intend that membership of the Board will include preparers of accounts, investors and other users of accounts,

academics and members of accounting firms. This will ensure that the UK EB brings a broad range of experience, backgrounds and expertise to the consideration of International Accounting Standards.

The UK EB will undertake its activities in a transparent manner, and it will be required both to consult before adopting an international standard and to publish the reasons for its decision to adopt an International Accounting Standard in whole or in part. The statutory criteria for adoption are set out in the 2019 Regulations. The UK EB will obtain independent advice when necessary and all Board Members will be required to abide by a conflicts of interests policy.

Veterans: Charities

*Asked by **Lord Walney***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of reduced fundraising for armed forces charities during the COVID-19 pandemic, what additional measures they are taking to enable such charities to deliver support for veterans. [[HL9895](#)]

Baroness Barran: Government is committed to making the UK the best country in the world to be a veteran.

Every year it provides £10 million to the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust, which distributes this as grants to charitable organisations through a range of programmes. This year we have provided an additional £6 million for 100 service charities through the Covid Relief fund, to ensure they can continue to provide their vital services throughout the pandemic. Furthermore, through the Loneliness Covid-19 Fund, the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association has been provided with a grant of £500,000 to support veterans and their families experiencing loneliness throughout the UK.

Charities are also able to apply to access the additional financial support provided through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. Charities can also apply to receive up to £3,000 a month through the Local Restrictions Support Grant if an organisation’s premises is forced to close.

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