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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
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HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

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|---|--|
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| Earl Howe | Deputy Leader of the House of Lords |
| Lord Agnew of Oulton | Minister of State, Treasury and Cabinet Office |
| Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Minister of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office |
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| 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 |
| Baroness Bloomfield of Hinton Waldrist | Whip |
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| Earl of Courtown | Deputy Chief Whip |
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| 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 |
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Written Statements

Thursday, 7 January 2021

Covid-19: Support for Business

[HLWS687]

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

Following my announcement yesterday that the government is providing £4.6 billion of UK-wide funding to support hardest hit businesses, I am pleased to share further details regarding these grants.

Throughout this crisis, our economic priority remains the same: to protect jobs. We have already set out our economic package of support for businesses over the Winter, including: monthly grants for closed businesses worth up to £3,000 per month; 100% business rates relief for all eligible retail, hospitality and leisure premises in 2020/21; extending the furlough scheme to April; extending the 100% government-backed COVID-19 lending schemes to March; and providing further SEISS grants to support the self-employed to April.

But given further national restrictions announced by the Prime Minister on Monday that will prevent further spread of the virus, the government will provide additional support to the most affected businesses, worth £4.6 billion across the United Kingdom.

All business premises in England which are legally required to close, including Retail, Hospitality and Leisure, can claim a new one-off grant of up to £9,000. The one-off additional grant each business premises will receive depends on their rateable value.

- Businesses with a rateable value of £51,000 or over will receive grants of £9,000

- Businesses with a rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000 will receive grants of £6,000
- Businesses with a rateable value of £15,000 or under will receive grants of £4,000

This one-off grant is in addition to the existing monthly closed grants of up to £3,000 per month that businesses continue to be eligible for. These grants are worth over £1 billion in total per month.

We expect over 600,000 business premises in England to benefit from these grants. Businesses can receive multiple grants, as they are eligible on a per premises basis. Local authorities will receive the funding for the one-off grants next week, and we encourage them to make payments to businesses as soon as possible.

In addition to these one-off grants, we are making available discretionary funds of £500m to local authorities in England to enable them to support their local businesses. This builds on the £1.1 billion discretionary funding (worth £20 per head of population) which local authorities in England have already received to support their local economies and help businesses impacted.

This announcement also includes £729 million of funding for the devolved administrations as part of the unprecedented upfront funding guarantee. The total of the guarantee is reviewed regularly to ensure it reflects all additional funding and was most recently increased by £800 million to £16.8 billion on 24 December. The Government is likely to increase this shortly to take into account any further expected increases in support in England.

This support will help businesses get through this difficult period through to the Spring. We will take further decisions about our economic response to coronavirus and how best to support the economy, businesses and jobs at the Budget on the 3rd March.

Written Answers

Thursday, 7 January 2021

Gambling

Asked by *The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

Her Majesty's Government, further to the statement in Government Response to the House of Lords Gambling Industry Committee Report: Social and Economic Impact of the Gambling Industry, published on 8 December, that gambling advertising did not correlate to gambling participation among 11 to 24 year olds, what plans they have to undertake a review of the effects of gambling advertising on children as part of the Gambling Act Review. [[HL11616](#)]

Asked by *The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

Her Majesty's Government, further to Government Response to the House of Lords Gambling Industry Committee Report: Social and Economic Impact of the Gambling Industry, published on 8 December, how many gambling operators have been sanctioned due to breaches of rules committed by contracted affiliates. [[HL11617](#)]

Baroness Barran: The government launched its Review of the Gambling Act 2005 on 8 December with the publication of a Call for Evidence. As part of the wide scope of that Review, we have called for evidence on the benefits or harms of allowing gambling operators to advertise. We welcome any relevant evidence, including on the effects of gambling advertising on children.

The Gambling Commission has worked closely with the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) on the issue of affiliates in recent years and has tightened its Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice (LCCP). As a result, many operators have scaled back or terminated their affiliate programmes to come into line with regulatory expectations. Affiliate advertisement standards have also improved markedly as a result of the joined up work of the Commission and the ASA.

Due to ongoing compliance work, there has rarely been the need to take enforcement action against operators. Where there has, three gambling operators have been sanctioned due to breaches of rules committed by contracted affiliates since 2018/19.

Occupational Health

Asked by *Baroness Mone*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what (1) discussions they have had with, and (2) guidance they have provided to, employers about ways to support employees to be healthier whilst they are at work. [[HL10087](#)]

Lord Bethell: The Government and arm's length bodies, including the Health and Safety Executive and Acas, work with a range of stakeholders to equip employers with the knowledge and confidence to support health in the workplace. This includes help to adapt workplaces and working practices and provide inclusive working environments.

In 2019, Public Health England and Business in the Community published online toolkits to help employers support staff mental and physical health. We continue to work with Business Leaders via the 'Thriving at Work Leadership Council' to promote mental health resources available online. In 'Health is Everyone's Business' we consulted on proposals to support employers to prevent health-related job loss, including by expanding access to occupational health services. We anticipate that a response will be available by the end of the year.

Sports: Drugs

Asked by *Lord Moynihan*

Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the UK Anti-Doping Agency's capability to test for (1) gene editing, and (2) synthetic messenger RNA, to meet the ban on the non-therapeutic use of genes, genetic elements and cells as set out in the World Anti-Doping Agency Code, that have the capacity to enhance athletic performance; and whether they are collecting and storing samples for such testing in the future. [[HL11599](#)]

Baroness Barran: It is the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) role to approve new testing processes. WADA has not yet developed a test for gene editing due to the complexities in identifying gene doping. To mitigate the threat of gene doping, WADA has a Gene and Cell Doping Expert Group which provides direction to its Health, Medical and Research Committee. The Committee develops strategies to prevent and detect non-therapeutic manipulation of gene/protein in sport.

WADA has approved tests for RNA, but these are only being used in experimental environments for research, and not yet by anti-doping organisations (including UK Anti-Doping).

UK Anti-Doping split the samples they collect from each athlete into "A" samples which are analysed, and "B" samples which are stored securely for potential future tests. Samples can be stored for up to 10 years.

Suicide: Gambling

Asked by *The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to Government Response to the House of Lords Gambling Industry Committee Report: Social and Economic Impact of the Gambling Industry, published on 8 December, how they intend to record gambling related suicides. [[HL11547](#)]

Lord Bethell: As detailed in the Government's response to the Committee's Report, we have no plans to separately identify gambling-related suicides as, amongst other things, coroners do not usually provide what might be understood as the 'reason' for a suicide in their verdicts, which would seriously compromise the reliability and, therefore, the validity of any resulting data.

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