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**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

# **HOUSE OF LORDS**

## **WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS**

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

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<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, Treasury and Cabinet Office
<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
<b>Baroness Bloomfield of Hinton Waldrist</b>	Whip
<b>Lord Callanan</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
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<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>Lord Stewart of Dirleton</b>	Advocate-General for Scotland
<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>Lord Wolfson of Tredegar</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Justice
<b>Viscount Younger of Leckie</b>	Whip

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# Written Statements

Monday, 1 March 2021

## Contingencies Fund Advance

[HLWS805]

**Baroness Berridge:** My Rt Hon Friend, The Secretary of State for Education has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The Department for Education has sought a repayable cash advance from the Contingencies Fund of £1,550,000,000.

The requirement has arisen due to increased costs relating to essential expenditure, including that relating to the Covid-19 response. The funds associated with this Estimate will not be released until the Supply and Appropriation Bill achieves Royal Assent in early March 2021.

Parliamentary approval for additional resources of £852,500,000 and capital of £697,500,000 has been sought in a Supplementary Estimate. Pending that approval, expenditure estimated at £1,550,000,000 will be met by repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund.

The cash advance will be repaid upon receiving Royal Assent on the Supply and Appropriation Bill.

## Contingent Liability Notification and Disclosure of Asset Sale

[HLWS806]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** My honourable friend the Economic Secretary to the Treasury (John Glen) today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

I can confirm today that I have laid a Treasury Minute informing the House of certain liabilities that HM Treasury has taken on in authorising the sale of the remaining loan assets and share capital of Bradford & Bingley plc (B&B) and NRAM Limited.

This sale generates proceeds of £5.0 billion for the Exchequer, and will see NRAM, B&B and their subsidiary companies, including Mortgage Express (MX), together with their remaining mortgages and loan portfolios, sold to a consortium comprising Davidson Kempner Capital Management LP (Davidson Kempner) and Citibank (Citi). The majority of the financing for the transaction is being provided by funds managed by Pacific Investment Management Company LLC (PIMCO).

The transaction has been agreed and will complete in two stages. The first stage is the sale of the loans to Citi which is expected to complete within the next few weeks. The second stage is completion of the sale of the companies, and will see the sale of the legal entities of B&B and NRAM to Davidson Kempner. This stage is

subject to the receipt of regulatory approvals from the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and is expected to take place in the summer.

This sale constitutes a significant milestone in the work to achieve the government's aim of returning the institutions brought into public ownership as a result of the 2007-2008 financial crisis to private ownership.

### *Rationale*

It is government policy that where a government asset no longer serves a public purpose, or that purpose can be more efficiently realised with the asset in private ownership, the government may choose to sell that asset, subject to value for money and market conditions being supportive.

The government intervened in the financial sector to preserve financial stability. As this policy objective has now been met, those assets which came into public ownership should be returned to the private sector.

### *Format and Timing*

The government, UK Asset Resolution (UKAR) and UK Government Investments (UKGI) concluded that this sale achieves value for money having:

- i) conducted a rigorous analysis of whether market conditions were conducive for the sale of this portfolio;
- ii) considered whether the transaction had generated sufficient competitive tension to lead to a properly competitive process; and
- iii) conducted an assessment of the fair market value for the assets, including the legal entities of B&B and NRAM.

The sale made use of a structured bidding process, which has been shown to create competitive tension and has been used for previous government asset sales.

### *Customer protections:*

A key element in selecting the successful bidder was the treatment of customers. As in previous UKAR asset sales, bidders were required to agree to a robust package of customer protections before their bids were considered on other factors.

Customers do not need to take any action and can be assured that there will be no changes to the terms and conditions of any loans as a result of this transaction. They will continue to receive the same protections for the lifetime of their mortgage as they do today, and their right to remortgage will be unaffected.

The structure of this transaction also means that the legal title holder and administrator of customers' loans will not change at the point of sale. B&B, NRAM and MX will remain the legal title holders of the loans. Computershare will continue to service the loans.

Only the beneficial owner will change as a result of this sale, and the beneficial owner does not have an active role in the management of customers' loans.

B&B, NRAM, MX and Computershare are all regulated by the FCA. This means that customers will continue to enjoy the protections of the FCA's Treating Customers

Fairly (TCF) principles and its Mortgages and Home Finance: Conduct of Business (MCOB) rules, as well as recourse to the Financial Ombudsman Service.

As the customer protections require that the administrator and legal title holder of these loans will always be an FCA-regulated entity, customers will continue to enjoy the protection of the FCA's rules if the legal title holder of their loans changes again at some point in the future.

#### *Contingent Liability*

On this occasion, due to the sensitivities surrounding the commercial negotiation of this transaction, it was not possible to notify Parliament of the particulars of the contingent liabilities in advance of the sale announcement.

The contingent liabilities HM Treasury is taking on include those which relate to certain warranties and indemnities that were given to the purchasers and which confirm regulatory, legislative and contractual compliance relating to the loans, assets and the share capital of the companies. The maximum contingent liability arising from the warranties and indemnities to the loan assets is approximately £4.9 billion.

The maximum contingent liability arising from the warranties and indemnities relating to the share capital of the companies is c.£290 million (100% of the purchase price of the shares). More information on these contingent liabilities has been set out in a Departmental Minute that has been laid before the House alongside this statement.

#### *Fiscal Impacts*

The impacts on the fiscal aggregates, in line with fiscal forecasting convention, are not discounted to present value. The net impacts of the sale on a selection of fiscal metrics are summarised as follows:

<i>Metric</i>	<i>Impact</i>
Sale proceeds	c.£5.0 billion
Hold valuation	The price achieved is above the hold value range.
Net present value of the assets if held to maturity using Green Book assumptions	
Public Sector Net Investment	Nil
Current Budget	Decreased by: £350m in 2024-25.
Public Sector Net Borrowing	Increased by: £350m in 2024-25.
Public Sector Net Debt	Reduced by £5.0bn (£4.4bn in 2020-21 and £0.6bn in 2021-22)
Public Sector Net Liabilities	Increased by £100 million in 2020-21
Public Sector Net Financial Liabilities	Increased by £100 million in 2020-21

## **Controlling or Coercive Behaviour Offence: Government's Review**

[HLWS803]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My hon Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Safeguarding (Victoria Atkins) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

Today, I am pleased to announce the publication of the Government's Review into the offence of Controlling or Coercive Behaviour (CCB) in an intimate or family relationship (as provided for in section 76 of the Serious Crime Act 2015). The Review follows a commitment made in response to the 2018 consultation on domestic abuse.

The Review considered the available data and research to understand how the CCB offence has been working since its introduction in 2015. It found that since the offence came into force in December 2015, police recorded CCB offences, as well as CCB prosecutions, have increased year on year. These increases demonstrate that the CCB offence is being used across the criminal justice system (CJS), indicating that the legislation has provided an improved legal framework to tackle CCB. However, the Review recognises that there is still room for improvement, particularly with regard to raising awareness of what constitutes CCB among the public and across the CJS, and improving the ability of the CJS to record, evidence and prosecute these crimes. The Review also considered views from a number of stakeholders who expressed concern that the cohabitation requirement within the offence is preventing some victims of this abuse from seeking justice, and poses challenges for police and prosecutors to evidence and charge abusive behaviours that are not captured by other legislation.

The Review made a number of recommendations, including:

- Building on the work of the Office of National Statistics in 2017, to develop robust estimates of the prevalence and characteristics of CCB;
- In consultation with victims and support services, to develop suitable measures for victim outcomes;
- Further work to assess the levels of awareness and understanding of the offence across the criminal justice system.

The Review also recognised calls for legislative change, highlighting in particular the removal of the cohabitation requirement as well as some calls to extend the maximum sentence length and to remove the requirement to evidence a "serious effect" on the victim. As such, the Review made the following research recommendations:

- If legislative changes are implemented, the operation of the legislation should be monitored and reviewed closely to assess the impact and identify any unintended consequences;
- If legislative changes are not made at this time, further research should be undertaken to ascertain the need for, and impact of, such changes to the legislation.

CCB is an insidious form of domestic abuse and this Government is committed to ensuring all victims are protected. We recognise that coercive or controlling behaviours may escalate following separation, and that members of a victim's extended family may be involved in control or coercion. We have heard the calls from experts on this matter, and I am very pleased to say that the Government will be removing the co-habitation requirement contained within the offence through an amendment to the Domestic Abuse Bill at Report stage in the House of Lords. This amendment will bring the controlling or coercive behaviour offence into line with the statutory definition of domestic abuse in clause 1 of the Bill and send a clear message to both victims and perpetrators that controlling or coercive behaviours, irrespective of living status, are a form of domestic abuse.

We recognise that the Review also raised questions around the need for other legislative change, including reference to increasing the maximum penalty for the CCB offence in line with the current maximum penalty for stalking, and removing the evidence requirement to prove that the behaviour had a serious effect on the victim. Given the Review acknowledged that evidence for these changes is currently limited, we will continue to monitor the offence and keep these other proposals for legislative change under review.

This summer we will be publishing a Domestic Abuse strategy which will build on work to date to help transform the response to domestic abuse, tackling perpetrators and placing the needs of victims at the heart of our response. We will consider the wider policy and data recommendations made in the Review throughout the development and implementation of this strategy, and will of course continue to engage with domestic abuse organisations throughout this process. We will also update the statutory guidance for the controlling or coercive behaviour offence to reflect both the findings of the Review and change to the legislation.

Domestic abuse is an abhorrent crime and this Government is committed to doing all that we can support victims and tackle offenders. I am delighted that, in removing the cohabitation requirement within the CCB offence, we are able to take another step in ensuring every victim has access to the protection that they need.

A copy of the Review will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

### **Destination Management Organisations: Independent Review**

[HLWS804]

**Baroness Barran:** My Honourable Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Sport and Tourism, Nigel Huddleston MP, has made the following Statement:

On 1st March 2021 the Government launched an independent review of Destination Management Organisations (DMOs) in England. The review aims to examine and assess how such organisations are funded and structured, and how they perform their roles. The

review will seek to establish whether there may be a more efficient and effective model for supporting English tourism at the regional level, and if so what that model may be.

Destination Management Organisations (DMOs) are a common feature of local and regional tourism landscapes worldwide, and play an important role in the English tourism ecosystem. There is an estimated 150 DMOs in England, although these vary substantially in terms of activity, size, geographical area covered, funding models, structure, impact and the degree to which they work with both the central Government and the British Tourist Authority (BTA, trading as VisitBritain and VisitEngland).

The Government recognises that the tourism sector has been among the worst-hit industries by COVID-19 and that DMOs have been particularly hard hit, especially those reliant on commercial income. Many DMOs have been at risk of closure at a time when their business support role has become more important. Simultaneously, the pandemic has highlighted strong examples of standardisation, collaboration and more agile working among DMOs, and the Government is aware that DMOs will have an important role to play in supporting the English tourism sector recover in the medium and long term, in line with Government priorities around economic recovery and Levelling Up.

Against such a background, this independent review will seek to produce a detailed examination of the DMO landscape in England, focussing on a) current funding models; b) organisational structures and c) performance levels (both in respect to before the Covid-19 pandemic and since the start of 2020).

It will then try and establish whether the status quo is the most efficient, economically justifiable way of organising local and regional English tourism sectors. It will also look at whether these structures maximise opportunities for supporting policy priorities on a local, regional and national scale, and, where relevant, internationally. These priorities include sector recovery, Levelling Up and economic growth, as well as various local and regional priorities that are likely to differ from area to area.

The review will be led by Nick de Bois, the current Chair of the VisitEngland Advisory Board. He will be acting in an independent capacity, supported by a DCMS Secretariat, and will aim to deliver a report with recommendations to the Government in Summer 2021. It will then be for the Government to respond to the report in due course. The Review marks an initial step in the Government's development of a Tourism Recovery Plan.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

DMO review - terms of reference [DMO review - terms of reference 20210301.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2021-03-01/HLWS804/>

## Protect Duty: Consultation

[HLWS802]

**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 first duty of the Government is to protect the public, and we are committed to improving the security of public venues, as outlined in our 2019 manifesto. The Government is proposing the Protect Duty whereby certain venues and organisations would be required to consider terrorist threats and reasonable mitigations to these.

Whilst there is much good work being done by many organisations to improve security, in the absence of a legislative requirement, there is no certainty that considerations of security are undertaken by those operating the wide variety of sites and places open to the public, or, where they are undertaken, what outcomes are achieved. This consultation considers how we could improve this position, through reasonable and not overly burdensome considerations of security and corresponding mitigating measures.

A consultation document was published on Friday 26 February, which seeks the views of those organisations

and venues potentially within the scope of the Protect Duty, as to how we can work together to develop appropriate security measures to improve public security. It puts forward criteria and thresholds for inclusion, and considers how those responsible for public places could consider threat and appropriate proportionate mitigating action. It also considers what support would be required for venues and organisations to fulfil the requirements of the Duty, and what oversight and sanctions would be appropriate were there to be non-compliance.

The consultation is for an extended 18 week period, in recognition that many of those potentially within scope continue to be impacted by Covid-19. Extending the consultation period into the summer, will allow those organisations more time to respond to proposals as businesses return to more usual operation. The Government will carefully consider next steps and their timing in light of consultation responses and the ongoing situation with regards to combatting Covid-19.

I would like to pay tribute to the families of those who have died in the recent attacks we have seen in the UK, many of whom have called for a legislative requirement to consider security to be implemented, in particular Figen Murray and the Martyn's Law Campaign Team.

A copy of the consultation document was placed in the Libraries of both Houses on Friday 26 February.

## Written Answers

Monday, 1 March 2021

### Abortion

Asked by *Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bethell on 29 December 2020 (HL11398), when the research by the King's Fund on patterns of abortion uptake in England, commissioned by the Department for Health and Social Care, will be published. [[HL12317](#)]

**Lord Bethell:** This work was paused in 2020 due to COVID-19. The research is now due to conclude in late spring and will be published shortly afterwards.

### Alex Salmond

Asked by *Lord Foulkes of Cumnock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to commission a report from the Head of the Civil Service into the conduct of the civil servants involved in (1) the preparations for the trial *HM Advocate v Salmond*, (2) the allegations of collusion within the Scottish Government in relation to the bringing of the charges relating to that trial, and (3) the reports of problems relating to submissions to the Committee on the Scottish Government Handling of Harassment Complaints. [[HL12487](#)]

**Lord True:** This is a matter for the Scottish Government. There is an ongoing process to consider these issues in the Scottish Parliament. It would be premature and inappropriate to speculate on further action that may be taken until that process has concluded.

### Care Homes: Visits

Asked by *Baroness Hayman of Ullock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to extend the indemnity on visits that has been granted to designated care homes which care for patients recovering from COVID-19 to all care settings; and whether this indemnity will be made permanent. [[HL13311](#)]

**Lord Bethell:** The Designated Settings Indemnity Support (DSIS) was introduced specifically to enable those care homes assured, or intending to be assured, by the Care Quality Commission as Designated Settings and which are unable to obtain sufficient insurance, to overcome this barrier to accepting infectious COVID-19 positive patients from the National Health Service. It is a targeted, temporary measure to boost capacity in these settings and support wider NHS discharges in response to current pandemic pressures. The support will run until the end of March 2021, with a review point in mid-February.

The DSIS is not, therefore, a permanent or sector-wide intervention.

We recognise that the wider adult social care insurance market is changing in response to the pandemic and that some care providers may encounter difficulties as their policies come up for renewal. We are working closely across Government, with care providers and insurance representatives to understand the breadth and severity of these wider issues, including those related to visiting and whether there is any further action the Government should take.

### Kickstart Scheme

Asked by *Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) employers, and (2) unemployed young people, have joined the Kickstart Scheme. [[HL13133](#)]

**Baroness Stedman-Scott:** The Kickstart scheme has approved over 560 individual employers applying directly, this does not include the many more employers who have applied and had their jobs approved for Kickstart funding via more than 800 gateway organisations. Over 2000 young people have started a Kickstart job. We are pleased that so many young people are able to access the Kickstart Scheme under current public health restrictions.

### NHS Test and Trace

Asked by *Baroness McGregor-Smith*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that NHS Test and Trace functions successfully after the restrictions put in place by the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No.4) Regulations 2020 are lifted. [[HL9998](#)]

**Lord Bethell:** Since the most recent national restrictions in January, the Government has continued to ensure that NHS Test and Trace functions successfully. NHS Test and Trace has the capacity to respond to increases in demand and is able to test over 750,000 people a day.

Contact tracing services have also increased. The number of cases being transferred to the contact tracing system in the week 4 February to 10 February 2021 was 105,764, compared to 3,571 in the week 2 July to 8 July 2020.

### Peers: Correspondence

Asked by *Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to respond to the letter sent by Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on 8 December 2020 about making public funds available to the Royal Albert Hall. [[HL13437](#)]

**Baroness Barran:** A response was sent on 25th February 2021. I apologise for the delay.

### Telecommunications Systems

*Asked by Lord Stevenson of Balmacara*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to communicate with (1) the public, (2) businesses, and (3) charities, about the forthcoming switch-off of the Public Switched Telephone Network; and what assessment they have made of the impact the switch-off will have for (a) alarm manufacturers, and (b) vulnerable users of analogue technology enabled care products. [HL13520]

**Baroness Barran:** The retirement of the public switched telephone network (PSTN), and its replacement with Internet Protocol technology, is being led by Openreach and Virgin Media, as the relevant infrastructure owners. Openreach and Virgin Media have publicly set out their plans to withdraw these services by the end of 2025. The migration is likely to affect all fixed exchange lines, of which there are 31.3 million in the UK.

In June 2020, the Broadband Stakeholder Group, a Government advisory forum on telecoms policy, launched the 'Future of Voice' website. This consumer-facing website is designed to inform the public and businesses of the PSTN switchover process and was developed with the support of telecoms companies, Ofcom and DCMS. The website will also be a useful resource for charities, trade associations and public sector bodies to inform their members of the change.

Ofcom estimates that 81% of UK households have a landline service, with 4% of UK adults living in a home with a landline and no mobile phone, while 3% of UK households have only a landline without any broadband.

### Terminal Illnesses: Suicide

*Asked by Baroness Hayman*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to undertake a "deep dive" study into drug-related deaths and suicides in order to establish the number of people with terminal illnesses who die as a result of suicide. [HL13086]

*Asked by Baroness Hayman*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Office for National Statistics about commissioning research into how many people with terminal illnesses die as a result of suicide per year. [HL13088]

*Asked by Baroness Hayman*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the National Institute for Health Research about commissioning research into how many people with terminal illnesses die as a result of suicide per year. [HL13089]

**Lord Bethell:** The Department commissions research through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The NIHR is not currently funding any specific research into how many people with terminal illnesses die as a result of suicide per year, but welcomes funding applications for research into any aspect of human health. Applications are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made based on the importance of the topic to patients and health and care services, value for money and scientific quality.

The Office for National Statistics is unable to collect data on suicide where a terminally ill person has taken their own life, as information on the deceased's terminal illness is not generally recorded

### Tradeshaw Access Programme: Finance

*Asked by Lord Foster of Bath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Tradeshaw Access Programme funding is available to UK companies to take part in digital trade shows. [HL13585]

**Lord Grimstone of Boscobel:** I am pleased to say that Her Majesty's Government is currently operating a pilot programme to assess the benefits of providing support, through the Tradeshaw Access Programme, to UK companies participating in digital tradeshows. The pilot runs until 31 March 2021.

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