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**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

# **HOUSE OF LORDS**

## **WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS**

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<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
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<b>Lord Frost</b>	Minister of State, Cabinet Office
<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>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

Wednesday, 3 March 2021

## British Council Annual Report and Accounts 2019-20

[HLWS809]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** My Honourable Friend, the Minister for Asia (Nigel Adams), has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

Copies of the British Council's Annual Report and Accounts for the 2019-20 financial year have been placed in the libraries of both Houses.

The British Council builds connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and other countries through arts and culture, education and the English language. As the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities, it makes a significant contribution to projecting British values overseas and generating soft power for the UK in return. In doing so it makes a lasting difference to the UK's security, prosperity and influence.

The British Council is the world's leading cultural relations organisation, with a reach in 2019-20 of 983 million people. This included 76 million direct interactions, through a presence in over 100 countries.

The Council received £187m grant-in-aid, including £161m ODA, from the FCO in 2019/20.

The Report can also be found at the British Council's website: [www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org).

## EEA EFTA Separation Agreement Joint Committee Meeting, 18 December 2020

[HLWS810]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** My Honourable Friend, the Minister for the European Neighbourhood and the Americas (Wendy Morton), has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The EEA EFTA Separation Agreement agreed with Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein, protects Citizens' Rights, and includes other separation provisions. These provisions wind down certain arrangements that the UK has with the EEA EFTA States by virtue of their participation in the Single Market and other EU-led initiatives. The Agreement also establishes a Joint Committee whose primary role is to supervise and facilitate the implementation and application of the Agreement, with the power to make decisions. The Joint Committee has a rotating chair, which, when held by the UK, will be chaired by a Minister from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, but may be delegated to officials

The first meeting of the Joint Committee took place on 18 December 2020. The meeting was held by remote means, with the UK holding the rotating chair. All parties

reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring the correct and timely implementation of the Citizens' Rights part of the agreement, which protects the rights of EEA EFTA nationals living in the UK and UK nationals living in the EEA EFTA States and the agreement as a whole.

Two decisions were adopted by the Joint Committee. The first decision adopted was the Rules of Procedure for the Joint Committee, and the second was on 'triangulation' under Article 32 of the Agreement. The triangulation provisions ensure that social security coordination rights between the UK, the EU and the EEA EFTA States continue for those in scope of the EEA EFTA Separation Agreement and the Withdrawal Agreement. Corresponding agreements between the EU and the UK, and the EU and the EEA EFTA States were in place by the end of the transition period, thus the Joint Committee was able to set the date from which the triangulation provisions would apply as 1 January 2021. Copies of each of these decisions have been deposited in the House Libraries.

The Joint Committee will meet at least annually, with Iceland holding the next rotating chair. The next meeting is expected to take place later in 2021.

## Northern Ireland Protocol: Implementation

[HLWS811]

**Viscount Younger of Leckie:** My Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Brandon Lewis) has today made the following statement:

As part of the pragmatic and proportionate implementation of the Northern Ireland Protocol, the Government is taking several temporary operational steps to avoid disruptive cliff edges as engagement with the EU continues through the Joint Committee. These recognise that appropriate time must be provided for businesses to implement new requirements, and support the effective flow of goods between Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

For supermarkets and their suppliers, as part of the operational plan the UK committed to at the UK-EU Joint Committee on 24 February, the current Scheme for Temporary Agri-food Movements to Northern Ireland (STAMNI) will continue until 1 October. Certification requirements will then be introduced in phases alongside the roll out of the Digital Assistance Scheme.

In addition, further guidance will be provided later this week on parcel movements from Great Britain to Northern Ireland to provide necessary additional time for traders beyond 1 April. Guidance will also be set out to help address practical problems on soil attached to the movement of plants, seeds, bulbs, vegetables and agricultural machinery. And the Government will write to the Northern Ireland Executive to confirm that flexibilities within the Official Controls Regulation 2017/625 are such that no charging regime is required for agri-food goods.

## Pensions Schemes Act

[HLWS808]

**Baroness Stedman-Scott:** My honourable Friend, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Pensions & Financial Inclusion (Guy Opperman MP) has made the following Written Statement:

The Pension Schemes Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 11 February. We are now setting out next steps, delivering on the commitment made during the passage of the Pension Schemes Bill and following extensive engagement since report stage in the House of Commons. The Act will introduce:

- Three new criminal offences, including a sentence of up to seven years in jail for bosses who plunder or run pension schemes into the ground.
- The legislative framework needed to usher in pensions dashboards that will give savers greater control over, and awareness of their pensions.
- The legislative framework to allow Collective Money Purchase pension schemes to operate.
- Powers to require pension schemes to take the Paris Agreement temperature goal into account, and other climate change goals set by Government.
- Strengthened rules around pension transfers to prevent members being misled in relation to transferring their pensions pots.
- Measures to support trustees and employers to improve the way they plan and manage scheme funding over the longer term and enable the Pensions Regulator to take action more effectively to protect members' pensions.

We are now progressing the secondary legislation to ensure the UK's pension system is safer, better and greener. The sequencing of the subsequent legislation will

allow for proper consultation, engagement with key stakeholders and further Parliamentary debate, through affirmative procedure where required.

Following our consultation in January 2021 on Climate Change, we will lay these world leading regulations this Summer to come into force ahead of COP26. This will make the UK the first major economy in the world to legislate for, and bring into practice, the recommendations of the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures, ensuring climate change is at the heart of the pensions system.

On the Pensions Regulator's Powers, we will consult on the majority of draft regulations this Spring, and will commence these powers and the criminal offences measures in the Autumn. For the duty to give notices and statements to the Regulator in respect of certain events, we will consult on the draft regulations later this year, for commencement as soon as practical thereafter.

In early Summer we plan to consult on draft regulations for scams and Collective Defined Contribution Schemes, with commencement on the scams measures from early Autumn 2021.

We aim to consult on proposed regulations for the Pensions dashboard later this year and lay draft regulations before Parliament for debate in 2022. Delivery remains on track for 2023 in line with the plans published by the Pensions Dashboards Programme.

On Defined Benefit Scheme Funding, later this year we will consult on draft regulations, following promised engagement with key interested parties, working closely with colleagues at the Pensions Regulator as they develop the revised Funding Code, which will also be subject to a full public consultation.

Both Ministers and Regulators will continue to engage with both Houses of Parliament as these measures progress.

# Written Answers

Wednesday, 3 March 2021

## Antidepressants

Asked by **Lord Alton of Liverpool**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many antidepressants have been dispensed by the NHS in each of the past ten years; and what was the total cost to the NHS. [[HL13150](#)]

**Lord Bethell:** The annual number of anti-depressants that have been prescribed and dispensed in England in the community between 2011-November 2020, the latest data available, is provided in the following table. Information is not held for items dispensed in secondary care. The total cost of prescription items between this period was £2,543,305,593.92.

Calendar year	Number of prescription items
2011	46,677,813
2012	50,167,201
2013	53,326,550
2014	57,149,109
2015	61,021,662
2016	64,703,639
2017	67,530,457
2018	70,873,979
2019	74,814,619
January - November 2020	71,801,824

Note:

The data provided for the years 2011-2013 was supplied from NHS Digital whilst the data provided for the years 2014-2020 was supplied from the NHS Business Services Authority. Any data prior to 2014 may classify many products in different ways due to a significant reclassification of products.

## Antidepressants: Children

Asked by **Lord Alton of Liverpool**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many antidepressants have been dispensed to (1) people under 18 years old, and (2) primary school children in each of the past ten years; and what was the total cost to the NHS. [[HL13151](#)]

**Lord Bethell:** Information prior to 2015 is not held. The following tables show the number of antidepressant products that were prescribed to under 18 year olds and the subsequent subset of those aged 5 to 11 years old in

England on a National Health Service prescription, dispensed in the community in England between April 2015, the earliest age-based data held, and November 2020, the latest data available. Information relating to items dispensed in secondary care is not collected centrally.

Number of antidepressant items prescribed and dispensed in the community in England to patients aged under 18 years old.

Calendar year	Number of prescription items
2015 (Nine months from April)	233,094
2016	329,954
2017	342,997
2018	361,436
2019	379,134
2020 (11 months up to November)	358,835

Number of antidepressant items prescribed and dispensed in the community in England to patients aged 5 to 11 years old.

Calendar year	Number of prescription items
2015 (Nine months from April)	9,336
2016	12,988
2017	13,647
2018	14,274
2019	14,529
2020 (11 months up to November)	14,187

The total cost of prescription items prescribed and dispensed in the community in England to patients aged under 18 years old, including patients in the 5 to 11 years old age group between April 2015 and November 2020 was £9,110,589.79.

## Armed Forces: Monuments

Asked by **Lord Patten**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there is a national memorial to the 395 National Servicemen who were killed in action between 1945 and 1963; and, if not, whether there are plans to establish one. [[HL13483](#)]

**Baroness Goldie:** There is a National Service Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum, which recognises the contribution of those who did National Service from 1945 to 1963. In addition, the names of those personnel who were killed in action on National Service between 1948 and 1963 are listed on the Armed Forces Memorial, also at the Arboretum. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission commemorate war dead prior to 1948.

### Care Homes: Coronavirus

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of care homes in England have not carried out continuous (1) weekly, and (2) monthly, COVID-19 tests of staff and residents at any point since 7 September 2020 as part of their serial testing strategy. [HL12650]

**Lord Bethell:** The information is not held in the format requested.

### Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Overseas Workers

Asked by *Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent discussions they have had with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission about (1) changes to employment contracts, and (2) the redundancy terms of EU-based staff. [HL13637]

**Baroness Goldie:** The Ministry of Defence has been in regular contact with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission regarding the changes to the contractual arrangements for 30 UK staff based in Belgium and France. The Commission have advised that 21 staff have elected to remain in Europe, seven will return to new positions in the UK, and two have chosen to retire. As a result of this engagement, including between the Secretary of State for Defence and the Commission, the support package for all staff has been considerably enhanced.

### Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme: South Yorkshire

Asked by *Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much has been paid in payments under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme in each parliamentary constituency in South Yorkshire to date. [HL13505]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** The value of claims split by Parliamentary Constituency is not available. The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme provides funds to PAYE schemes to support employers to pay a proportion of the wages of furloughed staff. The registered address for PAYE schemes can be in a different area to that where their employees live and work. In addition, for PAYE schemes claiming for between one and 99 employments there was no requirement to specify the amount claimed for each employment. As a consequence, it is not possible to provide reliable figures for the monetary value of the support provided by geographical area.

### Coronavirus: Hotels

Asked by *Lord Truscott*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many hotels are accommodating patients who have been discharged from hospital whilst recovering from COVID-19; and where any such hotels are located. [HL12568]

**Lord Bethell:** This data is not held centrally. NHS England and NHS Improvement will be evaluating the use of this approach over the coming weeks.

### Coronavirus: Lancashire

Asked by *Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many COVID-19 lateral flow tests have been carried out in (1) Lancashire, (2) Pendle and, (3) Burnley, each week since the mass testing programme using these tests started; and whether such tests are now available on request to members of the public whether or not they have COVID-19 symptoms. [HL12052]

**Lord Bethell:** The following table shows the number of tests carried out per week in Lancashire since mass testing in started on 21 October 2020.

<i>Week commencing</i>	<i>Number of tests</i>
21 October 2020	1
26 October 2020	1
2 November 2020	35
9 November 2020	331
16 November 2020	347
23 November 2020	462
30 November 2020	4,998
7 December 2020	2,974
14 December 2020	3,065
21 December 2020	2,885
28 December 2020	3,582
4 January 2021	15,899
11 January 2021	23,439
18 January 2021	33,450
25 January 2021	50,844
1 February 2021	57,173
8 February 2021	53,088
15 February 2021	32,655

The following table shows the number of tests per week in Pendle since mass testing started on 7 November 2020.

<i>Week Commencing</i>	<i>Number of Tests</i>
7 November 2020	2
9 November 2020	5
16 November 2020	5
23 November 2020	11
30 November 2020	139
7 December 2020	63
14 December 2020	334
21 December 2020	83
28 December 2020	435
4 January 2021	1,103
11 January 2021	1,351
18 January 2021	2,397
25 January 2021	3,169
1 February 2021	3,398
8 February 2021	3,354
15 February 2021	2,139

The following table shows the number of tests per week in Burnley since mass testing on 13 November 2020.

<i>Week Commencing</i>	<i>Number of Tests</i>
13 November 2020	5
16 November 2020	5
23 November 2020	45
30 November 2020	149
7 December 2020	67
14 December 2020	460
21 December 2020	160
28 December 2020	157
4 January 2021	967
11 January 2021	1,836
18 January 2021	2,665
25 January 2021	3,678
1 February 2021	4,128
8 February 2021	3,872
15 February 2021	2,769

From 10 December 2020, rapid regular testing for people without symptoms of COVID-19 has been made available across the country with the eligibility of the

community testing programme expanded to cover all 314 lower-tier local authorities.

## Coronavirus: Vaccination

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of vaccinations have been used compared to doses provided for each day since vaccinations started. [HL11764]

**Lord Bethell:** The information is not available in the format requested.

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether all NHS staff who are not UK citizens will be offered COVID-19 vaccinations. [HL12548]

**Lord Bethell:** Vaccination against COVID-19 is offered to every adult living in the United Kingdom free of charge, regardless of immigration status. For the first phase of the vaccination programme, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation have advised that the vaccine be given to care home residents and staff, as well as frontline health and social care workers. This includes foreign National Health Service frontline healthcare workers.

## Government Departments: Artificial Intelligence

*Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their policy on the use of algorithms by their departments. [HL13712]

**Lord True:** Safe and ethical use of algorithms in the public sector offers major opportunities for government, including improving public service delivery and increasing productivity and efficiency. The Government's Data Ethics Framework and 'Guide to Using AI in the Public Sector', alongside other area-specific guidance available on GOV.UK, support the ethical and safe use of algorithms in the public sector.

## Musical Instruments: Customs

*Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Agnew of Oulton on 15 February (HL12770), whether (1) ATA Carnets, and (2) portable musical instruments, are included on the List of Goods Applicable to Oral and By Conduct Declarations. [HL13370]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** The ATA Carnet system is an internationally agreed method of moving certain goods between customs territories temporarily (i.e. a passport for goods). An ATA Carnet simplifies the customs formalities by allowing a single document to be used for

clearing goods through customs in the countries that are part of the ATA Carnet system. The ATA Carnet must be presented to customs for endorsement each time the goods enter or leave a customs territory. This is currently a manual, paper-based process and therefore not appropriate for oral and by conduct declarations. It is valid for one year and allows for movement of the goods shown on the Carnet as many times as required during the 12 months to any of the destinations applied for.

Portable musical instruments are on the List of Goods Applicable to Oral and By Conduct Declarations.

### Napier Barracks

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how long the former Napier barracks were vacant between service personnel leaving and its use to accommodate refugees in 2020. [HL13494]

**Baroness Goldie:** Prior to the transfer of Napier Barracks to the Home Office on 21 September 2020, the site was last used by military personnel on 10 September 2020 to support military training. It was vacant for 11 days.

### Off-payroll Working

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the changes to the off-payroll working rules will start to apply for those large or medium-sized companies that do not meet the simplified test conditions; and whether they will make changes to their online guidance to clarify the start date for those companies. [HL13447]

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the start date of the new IR35 regulations for large or medium companies which do not meet the simplified test conditions; and what plans they have to ensure that the start date is clearly stated on their IR35 website. [HL13448]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** The reform of the off-payroll working rules will come into effect for large or medium-sized organisations outside the public sector from 6 April 2021. Organisations will need to consider whether they meet the conditions of a large or medium-sized organisation in the financial year relevant to the tax year 2021/22.

In order to help businesses prepare and apply the rules, HMRC have published guidance on the definition of a large or medium-sized organisation. <sup>[1]</sup> The simplified test conditions apply to non-corporate entities only. HMRC's online guidance reflects the 6 April 2021 implementation date.

HMRC are committed to supporting organisations and individuals in the run up to, and beyond the reform being

implemented. HMRC are providing webinars, workshops and one-to-one calls, as well as publishing updated guidance and factsheets to enable organisations to prepare.

[1] <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/april-2020-changes-to-off-payroll-working-for-clients>.

### Penally Camp

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how long the former army barracks at Penally were vacant after service personnel left; and what assessment was made of the living conditions of the billets upon vacation. [HL13492]

**Baroness Goldie:** Prior to the transfer of Penally to the Home Office on 21 September 2020, the site was last used by military personnel from 7 to 14 September 2020 to support military training. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) maintained Penally through the National Training Estate Prime (NTEP) contract, which included an inspections regime to maintain legal compliance. No additional assessment of living conditions was made by the MOD upon its vacation by MOD and transfer of use to the Home Office.

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent assessment they have made of the suitability of Penally army barracks for use by the British Armed Forces. [HL13493]

**Baroness Goldie:** Prior to the handover of the site to the Home Office, the Ministry of Defence maintained Penally camp through the National Training Estate Prime (NTEP) contract, which included an inspections regime to maintain legal compliance.

### Public Sector: VAT

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what has been the outcome of their invitation for stakeholders to respond to their policy paper VAT and the Public Sector: Reform to VAT refund rules, published in August 2020. [HL13438]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** The Government is currently reviewing the responses received following the publication of the policy paper. The Government will announce its next steps in due course.

### Railways: North of England

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with Transport for the North about (1) when the latter's report on the high-speed line between Leeds/Bradford and Manchester will be published, (2)

any alternative routes, and (3) further consultation procedures. [HL13418]

**Baroness Vere of Norbiton:** The Northern Powerhouse Rail Strategic Outline Case is expected to be published once it has been finalised with Transport for the North and approved by the Government, setting out the options under consideration. As with all major transport projects, route consultation will follow at the appropriate time.

### **Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme: Northern Ireland**

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what amount of Annually Managed Expenditure which was earmarked for the payment of Renewable Heat Incentive Schemes was not so used by the Northern Ireland Executive in each of the last three financial years. [HL13583]

**Viscount Younger of Leckie:** The Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme is administered by the Department for the Economy in the NI Executive, while devolved fiscal matters are for the Department of Finance. A consultation document on the future of the RHI scheme has been published by DfE and includes information on the Annually Managed Expenditure budget for the last three years.

It is of course vital that there is accountability for public spending and the Executive is building sustainable public

services. That is why the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has pushed for the establishment of an Independent Fiscal Council, as per the New Decade, New Approach agreement. Such a body would provide an assessment of the Executive's spending proposals and consider the sustainability of the Executive's public finances, including the implications of spending policy and the effectiveness of long-term efficiency measures.

### **Type 45 Destroyers: Procurement**

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the Type 45 Power Improvement Project will be completed in all ships of the class. [HL13632]

**Baroness Goldie:** I refer the noble Lord to the reply given by my hon. Friend, the Minister for Defence Procurement (Jeremy Quin), in the House of Commons on 8 June 2020 to the hon. Member for Dunfermline and West Fife (Douglas Chapman), in response to Question numbers 53459 and 53460.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Type 45 Destroyers: Repairs and Maintenance [Hansard Extracts.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-02-23/HL13632>

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