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**Thursday
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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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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
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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
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Lord Stewart of Dirleton	Advocate-General for Scotland
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
Lord Wolfson of Tredegar	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Justice
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Written Statements

Thursday, 11 March 2021

Building Safety

[HLWS834]

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

I have undertaken to provide the House with a monthly building safety update.

On 10 February I announced my five point plan to bring an end to unsafe cladding:

- i) Government will pay for the removal of unsafe cladding for leaseholders in all residential buildings 18 metres and over (6 storeys) in England.
- ii) Generous finance scheme to provide reassurance for leaseholders in buildings between 11 and 18 metres (4 to 6 storeys), ensuring they never pay more than £50 a month for cladding removal.
- iii) An industry levy and tax to ensure developers play their part.
- iv) A world-class new safety regime to ensure a tragedy like Grenfell never happens again.
- v) Providing confidence to this part of the housing market including lenders and surveyors.

We have committed an unprecedented £5 billion investment in building safety. This will ensure taxpayer funding is targeted at the highest risk buildings in line with longstanding independent expert advice.

Remediation statistics

Today we have published the February 2021 data release on the remediation of unsafe cladding and the monthly Building Safety Fund Registration Statistics.

These data releases show we are continuing to make good progress on the remediation of unsafe cladding, with around 95% of all high-rise buildings with unsafe ACM cladding identified by the beginning of last year now either remediated or started on site. 100% of social sector buildings and 84% of private sector buildings have now started or completed remediation. Overall, 74% of all identified buildings have removed their ACM cladding, an increase of 17 since the end of January.

Our expectation is that unsafe ACM remediation should be completed as soon as possible and by the end of 2021 at the latest. Full details of our progress with cladding remediation can be found in the Department's monthly Building Safety Data Release, which can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/building-safety-programme-monthly-data-release-february-2021>.

As at 11 March 2021, the Building Safety Fund Registration Statistics show that 978 decisions have been made on the basis that sufficient supporting information

has now been received. Of these, 624 registered buildings are proceeding with a full application and 354 have been shown to be ineligible. The total amount of funding allocated is £226.8 million (including social sector) correct at 05/03/2021. Full details can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/remediation-of-non-acm-buildings#building-safety-fund-registration-statistics>.

Enforcement

I am also today informing the House of a change to the contingent liability for the provision of an indemnity for the Joint Inspection Team (JIT), as was previously set out in my Department's statements and associated Departmental Minutes of 11 December 2018 (Hansard reference: [HCWS1169](#)) and of 25 June 2019 (Hansard reference: [HCWS1654](#)).

The purpose of the JIT has been to provide support to local authorities in making hazard assessments of high-rise residential buildings with unsafe aluminium composite material cladding and then to provide advice to local authorities on enforcement action. The change extends the cover provided by the indemnity to advice to local authorities on high-rise residential buildings with all other types of unsafe cladding too.

I am laying a Departmental Minute providing further detail of the change to the contingent liability.

Commercial Property: Rent Arrears

[HLWS836]

Lord Greenhalgh: My Hon. Friend, the Minister for rough sleeping and housing (Eddie Hughes) has today made the following statement:

I am today informing the House that I have laid a Statutory Instrument that will extend the moratorium on commercial landlords' right to forfeiture for the non-payment of rent (Section 82 Coronavirus Act 2020). The moratorium that was due to expire on 31 March 2021 has been extended via Statutory Instrument by three months and will now expire on 30 June 2021; protecting businesses from eviction. This will protect employment as businesses reopen and many more individuals, including renters, can return to work.

In addition, the Ministry of Justice will also lay a Statutory Instrument to extend the restriction on the use of the commercial rent arrears process by landlords. This measure will increase the total number of days' outstanding rent required for the commercial rent arrears process to be used to 457 days' between 25 March and 23 June, and 554 days' between 24 and 30 June. This measure will continue to provide protection to tenants of commercial leases with rent arrears accumulated during the coronavirus period, while protections from forfeiture for business tenancies are in place under the Coronavirus Act 2020.

Accompanying restrictions on the service of statutory demands and winding-up petitions, implemented through the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020, are currently in place until 31 March. We are conscious of the

impact of those measures not remaining in place while others are extended; the Government is therefore considering the future of these measures in light of what has been announced today.

The Government had previously announced that the previous extension until 31 March 2021 would be the final extension to these measures. However, this was before the discovery of the new UK variant of COVID-19 and the national restrictions announced by the Prime Minister on 4 January 2021. These restrictions have prevented many tenant businesses from being able to trade normally and have undermined negotiations regarding rent arrears and ongoing lease terms because tenants have lacked certainty regarding when they may be able to resume trading. This has necessitated the introduction of a further extension to give time for the current national restrictions to be relaxed and for tenants to be able to negotiate with their landlords with some certainty over their ability to trade and so pay rent and accumulated rent arrears, given some businesses will only reopen in June at the earliest under the Prime Minister's roadmap.

We are aware of concerns that some tenants who could pay rent are refusing to do so, and of the potential impact of this on the commercial landlord and investment sectors; and on specific sectors who receive much of their income via rent including the ports sector.

However, Government is clear that this measure is not a rent holiday: where a tenant is unable to pay in full, landlords and tenants should be coming together to negotiate in good faith, using the principles set out in the voluntary Code of Practice we published in June. This recommends that those tenants who can pay in full should do so, those who cannot should pay what they can and those landlords who are able to grant concessions should do so. This Code of Practice and approach was supported by a wide range of sector bodies representing tenants and landlords. The Government will be publishing further guidance to support this Code and help facilitate negotiations between landlords and tenants shortly.

Beyond this point, the Government's current position is to support landlords and tenants to agree their own arrangements for paying or writing off commercial rent debts by 30 June. This is supported by the Code of Conduct published by the Government last year, setting out best practice for these negotiations. But, if these discussions do not happen and there remains a significant risk to jobs, the Government is also prepared to take further steps.

We will therefore launch shortly a Call for Evidence on commercial rents to help monitor the overall progress of negotiations between tenants and landlords. The Call for Evidence will also set out potential steps that Government could take after 30 June, ranging from a phased withdrawal of current protections to legislative options targeted at those businesses most impacted by COVID-19. We would welcome a broad range of feedback to this Call for Evidence.

England, Northern Ireland and Wales are covered by the protection from forfeiture provisions in the Coronavirus Act. Section 82 relates to England and Wales, and the Welsh Government has announced an extension until 30 June 2021. Section 83 relates to Northern Ireland, who are also considering a similar extension. The Scottish Government shall be implementing similar measures under their separate legislation.

If a member has any further enquiries by giving notice of a Parliamentary Question or by otherwise raising the matter in Parliament, the Department will be happy to provide a response.

EU-Great Britain Import Controls

[HLWS833]

Lord Frost: My Rt Hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office (Michael Gove MP), has today made the following written statement:

On 31 December last year, the UK left the EU's Single Market and Customs Union. This was the biggest change in the UK's trading relationships for decades. The Government has always been clear that this meant change for business and for citizens, including new processes and requirements.

The first phase of such changes came in on 1 January. The Government has put in place the staffing, infrastructure, and IT to deal with the situation. Thanks to the hard work of traders and hauliers, we have not seen anything like the generalised disruption at our ports which many predicted, and supply chains have shown themselves to be robust.

However, the Government recognises the scale and significance of the challenges businesses have been facing in adjusting to the new requirements, at the same time as dealing with the impacts of COVID.

Last June, we announced a timetable for the phased introduction of controls on imports from the EU into Great Britain, to ensure businesses could prepare in a phased way. This timetable was based on the impacts of the first wave of COVID. We know now that the disruption caused by COVID has lasted longer and has been deeper than we anticipated. Accordingly, the Government has reviewed these timeframes.

Although we recognise that many in the border industry and many businesses have been investing time and energy to be ready on time, and indeed we in Government were confident of being ready on time, we have listened to businesses who have made a strong case that they need more time to prepare. In reviewing the timeframes, we have given strong weight to the disruption which has been caused, and is still being caused, by COVID, and the need to ensure that the economy can recover fully.

We are therefore announcing today a clear revised timetable for the introduction of controls, as follows:

- Pre-notification requirements for Products of Animal Origin (POAO), certain animal by-products (ABP), and High Risk Food Not Of Animal Origin (HRFNAO) will not be required until 1 October 2021. Export Health Certificate requirements for POAO and certain ABP will come into force on the same date.
- Customs import declarations will still be required, but the option to use the deferred declaration scheme, including submitting supplementary declarations up to six months after the goods have been imported, has been extended to 1 January 2022.
- Safety and Security Declarations for imports will not be required until 1 January 2022.
- Physical SPS checks for POAO, certain ABP, and HRFNAO will not be required until 1 January 2022. At that point they will take place at Border Control Posts.
- Physical SPS checks on high risk plants will take place at Border Control Posts, rather than at the place of destination as now, from 1 January 2022.
- Pre-notification requirements and documentary checks, including phytosanitary certificates will be required for low risk plants and plant products, and will be introduced from 1 January 2022.
- From March 2022, checks at Border Control Posts will take place on live animals and low risk plants and plant products.

Traders moving controlled goods into Great Britain will continue to be ineligible for the deferred customs declaration approach. They will therefore be required to complete a full customs declaration when the goods enter Great Britain.

Controls and checks on Sanitary and Phytosanitary goods are of course a devolved matter and we continue to work closely with the Devolved Administrations on their implementation, in particular with the Welsh Government on their timetable for completing supporting Border Control Post infrastructure in Wales.

We will continue to engage extensively with businesses to support them to adjust to the new requirements already in place and to prepare for the new requirements set out above so that they can continue to trade successfully under the new arrangements.

Independent Investigation into East Kent Maternity Services Trust: Terms of Reference

[HLWS832]

Lord Bethell: My Hon. Friend the Minister of State (Minister for Patient Safety, Suicide Prevention and Mental Health) (Nadine Dorries) has made the following written statement:

On the 13 February 2020 I confirmed in Parliament that, following concerns raised about the quality and outcomes of maternity and neonatal care, NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSEI) have commissioned Dr Bill Kirkup CBE to undertake an independent review into

maternity and neonatal services at East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust (the Trust).

The Review will be known as the ‘Independent Investigation into East Kent Maternity Services’ (the Independent Investigation).

We take the patient safety concerns at East Kent maternity services very seriously. The Independent Investigation will provide an independent assessment of what has happened with East Kent Maternity and Neonatal Services and identify lessons and conclusions.

The Terms of Reference have been finalised now the views of the families affected have been taken into account and are published today on the Independent Investigation (Independent Investigation into East Kent Maternity Services: <https://iekms.org.uk/>) and NHSE website

(<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/independent-investigation-into-east-kent-maternity-services-terms-of-reference>). The Terms of Reference include the scope and arrangements that are to be put in place to support its functions and confirm the Independent Investigation will examine maternity and neonatal services in East Kent, in the period since 2009, when the Trust came into being, until 2020. The Terms of Reference include the scope and arrangements that are to be put in place and confirm the Independent Investigation will examine maternity and neonatal services in East Kent, in the period since 2009, when the Trust came into being, until 2020.

The Independent Investigation will draw conclusions as to the adequacy of the actions taken at the time by the Trust and the wider system and will produce a report to be disclosed first to the affected families and then to NHSEI as the commissioning organisation and then to the Department of Health and Social Care prior to publication.

The work of the Independent Investigation is expected to complete by the Autumn of 2022 and arrangements will be made for the final report to be presented to the Secretary of State; Ministers will subsequently publish the report to Parliament, and a response will be provided in due course.

A copy of the Terms of Reference will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

Residential Property: Evictions

[HLWS835]

Lord Greenhalgh: My Rt. Hon. Friend, the Minister of State for Housing (Christopher Pincher) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

I wish to update the House on the measures taken to support renters following the Prime Minister’s announcement of the roadmap for national restrictions in England.

To support renters as we move towards the lifting of most restrictions in June, the Government announced yesterday that we will extend the ban on bailiff enforcement of evictions and the requirement for

landlords to provide six months' notice when seeking possession of residential property. These measures will be extended to 31 May, to continue to protect public health and minimise the effect on essential public services. Exemptions will continue to apply to both of these measures in the most serious circumstances.

Ensuring that renters remain protected until the end of May, whilst national restrictions remain in place, will align with the Government's broader strategy for protecting public health and will continue to help reduce pressure on essential public services as we start to move out of lockdown.

The ban on bailiff enforcement

Legislation will be brought forward shortly to continue to prevent bailiffs from attending residential premises to enforce a writ or warrant of possession except in the most egregious circumstances.

I am grateful to landlords for their continued forbearance during this unprecedented time. It will remain important for landlords to be able to advance cases in the most serious circumstances, and therefore exemptions will remain for:

- cases where the court is satisfied that the claim is against trespassers who are persons unknown;
- cases where the court is satisfied that the order for possession was made wholly or partly on the grounds of anti-social behaviour, nuisance or false statements, domestic abuse in social tenancies or substantial rent arrears at least equivalent to six month's rent; or
- where the property is unoccupied and the court is satisfied that the order for possession was made wholly or partly on the grounds of death of the tenant.

These measures only apply to England and they are expected to end on 31 May 2021, as we transition out of emergency measures, subject to public health advice and progress of the national Roadmap.

Longer notice periods

A landlord seeking to recover possession of residential property must give notice to the tenant before they start court proceedings. We know that many tenants will leave accommodation at the end of their notice period, before the case reaches court. The Government laid yesterday a Statutory Instrument to extend measures in the Coronavirus Act 2020 that require landlords to provide tenants with six months' notice, except in the most serious circumstances. The Statutory Instrument applies to England only.

This means that most renters served notice during April and May will be able to stay in their homes until October and November, giving them time to find support or alternative accommodation.

Shorter notice periods will continue to apply for egregious cases, recognising the continuing effect these circumstances have on landlords and the broader community. These cases include anti-social behaviour (including rioting), false statement, in certain cases of domestic abuse in the social sector, rent arrears over six

months, where the tenant has passed away or where the tenant does not have the right to rent under immigration law. This approach provides balance for both landlords and tenants during the ongoing risk of COVID-19, by continuing to provide tenants with enhanced protections whilst allowing landlords access to justice quicker where proportionate.

The Government will consider the best approach to tapering down notice periods from 1 June, taking into account public health requirements, progress with the roadmap and the longer-term transition into our broader programme of reform.

Guidance and wider support measures

We will update our COVID renting [guidance](#) for landlords, tenants and local authorities to ensure it reflects the latest information. We will also update our [guidance](#) to support landlords and tenants in the social and private rented sectors navigate the possessions process.

The Chancellor has also confirmed that financial support will remain in place, continuing to support renters in paying their living costs. This will include the support for businesses to pay staff salaries through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and the boost to Universal Credit, both of which have been extended until September 2021.

Restoration and Renewal Programme: Strategic Review Publication

[HLWS831]

Baroness Scott of Needham Market: In May 2020 the Sponsor Body established a Strategic Review of the Restoration and Renewal Programme:

The purpose of the review was to consider whether anything had changed so significantly as to warrant a change in the strategy for the Restoration and Renewal Programme. Such reviews are a pillar of established best practice for major projects.

The Sponsor Body invited views from Members, Members' staff, parliamentary staff and members of the public. The Sponsor Body also consulted with the Commissions of both Houses, as well as relevant Parliamentary Committees on the draft Strategic Review recommendations.

The Sponsor Body's Strategic Review was completed in late 2020 and in the early part of 2021 has been going through a period of engagement with the Commissions of both Houses of Parliament. It has been published today.

The review has considered all the evidence available, including previous investigations and reports and new evidence from surveys and submissions to the review. It recommends new approaches to completing the restoration while minimising costs - and provides a clear direction for the next stages of the work.

The review recommends the adoption of a set of 'essential' and 'stretch' objectives, to be endorsed by the Commissions of both Houses. The essential objectives will form the core deliverables for the Programme, to

inform a "do essential" option in the detailed and costed restoration and renewal plan. The stretch objectives will offer greater ambition.

The review found that by approaching the restoration in a new way, with a phased approach to the delivery of the works to the Palace of Westminster, the time Members and staff would spend in temporary accommodation could be kept to a minimum. Whilst the detailed and costed restoration and renewal plan will set out specific timescales, the period during which works are taking place in the Palace of Westminster should be thought of in terms years and not months.

The review found that Parliament's northern estate, within the secure perimeter, is the best place for temporarily locating MPs. Specific plans for these arrangements will be drawn up in collaboration with Parliament's in-house team, respecting recent decisions from the House of Commons Commission regarding the sequencing of works on the northern estate and in line with the developing parliamentary masterplan.

Members of the House of Lords will be located in temporary accommodation at the QEII Conference Centre and proposals for this will have at their heart an objective to minimise costs.

The full text and recommendations of the strategic review can be viewed on the Restoration and Renewal website:

www.restorationandrenewal.uk/resources/reports/strategic-review.

The public want to see this UNESCO World Heritage site, in which they have told us they take great pride, protected from damage and decay and at the same time want to see that money is spent well. Restoring Parliament will create thousands of jobs and apprenticeships in towns, cities and communities across the UK, from engineering and high-tech design to traditional crafts such as carpentry and stonemasonry.

The detailed and costed restoration and renewal plan will be focused on delivering value for money and will be informed by around 100 surveys and investigations of the Palace of Westminster.

The review sets out clear proposed objectives for the restoration and the need for clearer governance and closer working with Parliament. Supported by the Delivery Authority, the Sponsor Body will continue to develop the detailed and costed restoration and renewal plan that will for the first time give an accurate sense of the costs, timescales and full detail of the work needed. The detailed and costed restoration and renewal plan will be put before both Houses for a decision before the Parliamentary building works can commence.

Written Answers

Thursday, 11 March 2021

Airports: Construction

Asked by **Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of plans to expand Leeds Bradford airport in view of the recommendation in the report by the Committee on Climate Change The Sixth Carbon Budget: Aviation, published in December 2020, that "there should be no net expansion of UK airport capacity unless the sector is on track to sufficiently outperform its net emissions trajectory and can accommodate the additional demand"; and what steps they are taking to ensure that data are held on all proposed expansion plans at UK airports. [[HL13891](#)]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Proposals should be judged by the relevant planning authority taking careful account of all relevant considerations, including environmental impacts and proposed mitigations. The Government cannot comment on specific planning applications, such as that for Leeds Bradford airport, so as not to prejudice any consideration of proposals should they come before Ministers in the future.

The Government is carefully considering all the Climate Change Committee's advice, including on aviation emissions, ahead of setting the sixth carbon budget.

Bahrain: Children

Asked by **Lord Hylton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) reports that at least 15 children have been arrested in Bahrain since 7 February, and (2) the health of those reportedly detained; what discussions they have had with the government of Bahrain about their release. [[HL13704](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are following the detention of a number of juveniles including Sayed Hasan Ameen, who were arrested for arson, endangering the lives and property of others, and preparing and possessing Molotov cocktails. We understand these cases are pending legal proceedings, and are being supervised by social work specialists. We will continue to monitor and raise these cases if and when appropriate. The Government of Bahrain has been clear that access to medical care for those in detention is provided in line with the constitution of Bahrain.

Broadband

Asked by **The Lord Bishop of St Albans**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to their revised target to reach a "minimum of 85 per cent gigabit broadband coverage by 2025", as set out in the

National Infrastructure Strategy, published in November 2020, whether they still intend to use an outside-in approach" to support full-fibre rollout. [[HL13933](#)]

Baroness Barran: We are still committed to the 'Outside In' approach. This is why we are not waiting until commercial delivery is complete before starting to build in the hardest to reach areas under the £5 billion UK Gigabit Programme and why we are also looking to prioritise premises without an existing superfast broadband connection, wherever possible.

As we committed to do in the Future Telecoms Infrastructure Review in 2018, and reconfirmed in the National Infrastructure Strategy in 2020, we are ensuring that delivery to the hardest to reach parts of the UK takes place in parallel with commercial build.

We have already been doing this through our existing Superfast, Local Full Fibre Networks and Rural Gigabit Connectivity programmes, which have delivered gigabit-capable broadband to over half a million homes and businesses since 2018.

Coronavirus: Contact Tracing

Asked by **Lord Walney**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to make the COVID-19 test and trace system local by default; and what are the timescales for the changes they plan to make to existing systems. [[HL9899](#)]

Lord Bethell: The second NHS Test and Trace business plan was published on 10 December and set out how the Test and Trace service is strengthening its partnership with local government to tailor its response more to the needs of local communities and make the service faster, more reliable and even more accessible. This includes giving local public health teams more control through community-led testing; expanding local tracing partnerships, supported by potentially over £200 million per month of new funding through the Contain Outbreak Management Fund; working with local authorities to support them in providing better support for people who have to self-isolate; and using a shared framework of data, insight and analysis to identify clusters of new infections and potential local outbreaks.

Coronavirus: Disease Control

Asked by **Lord Greaves**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what priority they will give to (1) COVID-19 testing, (2) ensuring that people with COVID-19 isolate, (3) contact tracing, and (4) tracking the movements of people with COVID-19, as part of their strategy for preventing the spread of COVID-19 as the number of cases reduce. [[HL12709](#)]

Lord Bethell: The Government has put in place the largest network of diagnostic testing facilities created in British history. NHS Test and Trace has capacity to respond to increases in demand and people can have

confidence that if they have symptoms and need a test, they can get one, and get their result the next day. Over 72 million tests have been processed so far and we have the capacity to carry out almost 800,000 tests per day. The Test and Trace Support Payment has been introduced in response to feedback from local authorities and directors of public health that some of their residents were struggling to self-isolate as directed due to financial constraints. It is to help ensure that people on low incomes self-isolate when they test positive or are identified as a contact, and to encourage more people to get tested. This will help to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. 86.4% (171,847) of people who tested positive and were transferred to the contact tracing system were reached and asked to provide information about their contacts and 96.6% of contacts where communication details were given were reached and told to self-isolate. This has remained constant for the past five weeks. It is a legal requirement to self-isolate if you have Covid symptoms, receive a positive test result, or are told to isolate by NHS Test and Trace.

The vast majority of people are complying – and know that we all have a role to play in getting this virus under control. And for those who don't, the police can and will request data from NHS Test and Trace to confirm that an individual has a legal duty to self-isolate.

Coronavirus: Nottinghamshire

Asked by Lord Mann

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people have been employed to assist in the roll out of mass COVID-19 testing in Nottinghamshire since lateral flow tests became available in the UK. [HL11673]

Lord Bethell: We do not publish data in the format requested.

Diesel Fuel: Import Duties

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government why tariffs are not charged on completed diesel generator sets imported into the UK from 'most favoured nations' when some of the components that are required to manufacture such sets in the UK are subject to tariffs. [HL13897]

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel: The UK's 'Most Favoured Nation' tariff, the UK Global Tariff (UKGT), replaced the EU's Common External Tariff on 1 January 2021. The UKGT is a bespoke tariff schedule that is tailored to the needs of the UK economy and UK businesses, reflecting UK interests and our free trade ambitions.

In designing the UKGT, we sought to balance a wide range of considerations, such as the interests of UK consumers and producers, our ambitious trade agenda, our commitment to developing countries and feedback provided through the public consultation; to which we

received over 1,300 responses from a wide range of stakeholders across the UK.

We cannot reliably inform on specific tariffs without the specific commodity codes. The new [Trade Tariff lookup tool](#) is a simple way to check the tariff rate applying to a particular product.

Driving Licences: France

Asked by Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Vere of Norbiton on 2 March (HL13474), whether they (1) know, or (2) have estimated the number of UK nationals living in France who have been left without a valid driving licence since the end of the transition period for the UK's departure from the EU; and what assessment they have made of the reasons for such licences no longer being valid. [HL13928]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: An estimate of the number of UK nationals in France without a valid licence since 1 January 2021 has not yet been obtained. UK nationals who became resident in France before 1 January 2021 can continue to use their valid UK licences until 31 December 2021. The French authorities have confirmed that a valid UK licence will continue to be exchanged in this period, until a reciprocal agreement is reached between the United Kingdom and France.

Employment: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Blunkett

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that occupational health services are in place to support people with long-term effects from COVID-19 with adjustments and rehabilitation to facilitate their return to work. [HL13788]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The Government recognise the important role that OH professionals play in supporting people with health conditions and their employers. In the Health is Everyone's Business consultation we asked for views on how to increase access to occupational health services that can support people with disabilities and long term health conditions. We are considering the next steps in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and anticipate that a response will be available shortly.

Access to Work offers substantial practical support to disabled people and people with health conditions, which include people affected by Long COVID. The scheme has rolled out a number of easements to ensure that those who are eligible for support can receive it.

As research into the long-term health symptoms and impacts of Covid-19 is ongoing, we will continue to monitor and consider the Government's support provisions and approach as evidence emerges.

Environment Bill

Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish a revised impact assessment on the Environment Bill which takes into account any further powers proposed for (1) the Office for Environmental Protection, and (2) forest risk commodities. [HL13706]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: An impact assessment was published when the Environment Bill was introduced. The Government has introduced no further proposed powers for the Office for Environmental Protection in the Bill's progress. We will publish a full impact assessment specific to the amendments that were tabled to the Bill in November 2020 to introduce due diligence requirements for larger businesses using forest risk commodities in the UK. This impact assessment will outline the expected cost to business of complying with the due diligence requirements, taking into account evidence received through public consultation.

Family Courts: Training

Asked by Baroness Helic

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of Judicial College training on (1) practice, and (2) outcomes, in the family courts. [HL13703]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: The Ministry of Justice has not undertaken any assessment of the impact of Judicial College training on practice and outcomes in the family courts. To preserve the independence of the judiciary, the Lord Chief Justice (LCJ), the Senior President of the Tribunals, and the Chief Coroner have statutory responsibility for judicial training, under the Constitutional Reform Act 2005, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007, and Coroners and Justice Act 2009 respectively. Training responsibilities are exercised through the Judicial College. The judiciary and professional staff in the Judicial College are responsible for the design, content, delivery and evaluation of training for judges and magistrates of the family courts.

Foreign Aid: Human Trafficking

Asked by Baroness Doocey

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they are (1) collaborating with international partners, and (2) leveraging foreign aid, to prevent (a) human trafficking in general, and (b) human trafficking that involves sexual exploitation. [HL13661]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The government is fully committed to the eradication of human trafficking and all forms of modern slavery by 2030, as unanimously adopted in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The UK continues to be a champion within the international system, building on the Call to Action to

End Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking which we launched in 2017, which 92 countries have now endorsed. In October 2019 we appointed the UK's first International Modern Slavery and Migration Envoy to help drive forward our efforts on this agenda. The UK is working with bilateral and multilateral partners, as well as civil society, businesses and partners from academia to catalyse action on Target 8.7 of the SDGs. Examples include our support for international coalitions and UN forums such as Alliance 8.7, the Inter Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) and engagement with the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights.

The government remains committed to using UK aid to help tackle modern slavery, address the root causes and reduce vulnerability. Funding will be focused on supporting the most vulnerable - particularly children, and women and girls. Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office programming also includes up to £20m to tackle issues including the commercial sexual exploitation of children and up to £13m for programmes in Bangladesh, India and Nepal which assist women and girls who are vulnerable to trafficking.

Gambling: Advertising

Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to undertake a longitudinal study to consider the impact of exposure to gambling advertising from an early age. [HL13935]

Baroness Barran: The Gambling Commission commissioned and published a scoping review looking at the feasibility of a longitudinal study of gambling behaviours and gambling harms, with advertising among the suggested issues of interest for that study. Public Health England has also carried out a major evidence review into the prevalence and impacts of gambling related harms which is due to be published later this year.

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, as well as barriers and enablers of high quality research.

Judiciary: Training

Asked by Baroness Helic

To ask Her Majesty's Government what training on domestic abuse members of the judiciary and magistrates in England are required to undertake. [HL13702]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: To preserve the independence of the judiciary, the Lord Chief Justice (LCJ), the Senior President of the Tribunals, and the Chief Coroner have statutory responsibility for judicial training, under the Constitutional Reform Act 2005,

Courts and Enforcement Act 2007, and Coroners and Justice Act 2009 respectively. These responsibilities are exercised through the Judicial College. The judiciary and professional staff in the Judicial College are responsible for the design, content, and delivery of judicial training.

Judicial training in domestic abuse is included in family law and criminal courses run by the Judicial College. It is prioritised for induction and continuation training for magistrates and judges. The training reflects the wide-ranging nature of domestic abuse and covers all areas recognised by the Government as abuse, ranging from serious sexual and other assaults, emotional abuse, coercive and controlling behaviour, including financial coercion and control. Training is kept under constant review and is regularly updated to reflect latest developments.

Kickstart Scheme

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many businesses are involved in the Kickstart Scheme; and how many 16-year olds have been offered placements through that scheme. [[HL13770](#)]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: As of 25/02/2021, there have been around 800 employers and over 900 Gateways approved on the Kickstart scheme. We are unable to provide information on placements offered by age as this data is not currently held centrally.

Large Goods Vehicles: Inspections

Asked by Lord Bradshaw

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many heavy goods vehicles subject to roadside checks between 2018 and 2020 had major defects; and how many of those were registered (1) in the UK, and (2) abroad. [[HL13952](#)]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: For the period 1 January 2018 up to and including 31 December 2020, the number of heavy goods vehicles found to have a major defect (Category 1) when subjected to a roadside check was 9,008.

5,044 of those vehicles were registered in the UK, and 3,964 were registered abroad.

LIBOR

Asked by Lord Vinson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what level of priority the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) has assigned to its review of the conviction of former trader Tom Hayes, on charges of manipulating the Libor rate; what plans they have to increase the grant-in-aid funding to the CCRC; and what plans they have, if any, to change the law relating to Libor. [[HL13721](#)]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: As an independent arm's length body, it would be inappropriate for the Government to comment on the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC)'s handling of an individual case. However, the CCRC Casework Policy on Priority of Cases, available on its website, assigns cases which have been under review for more than two years as 'higher priority'.

Budget allocations for 2021/22 for Arm's Length Bodies such as the CCRC are yet to be decided. However, the decision will take into account – in consultation with the CCRC – the amount of funding it feels it needs to achieve its strategic goals for the year.

There has been substantial reform to the regulation of benchmarks since the 2012 LIBOR manipulation scandal. In 2013 the administration of LIBOR became a regulated activity, overseen by the FCA, and the government created a new criminal offence of knowingly or deliberately making false or misleading statements in relation to benchmarks. In 2016, the EU Benchmarks Regulation was introduced, regulating the administration, calculation and use of benchmarks.

The Financial Services Bill, currently before Parliament, amends the Benchmarks Regulation, to provide the Financial Conduct Authority with new and enhanced powers to oversee the orderly wind-down of critical benchmarks, such as LIBOR. The Bill also increases the maximum sentence for all criminal market abuse offences from 7 to 10 years, and this includes the offence of making misleading statements in relation to benchmarks.

North Korea: Forced Labour

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that North Korea has been operating a fraudulent scheme to force people held in prison camps to produce coal and other goods for export; and what assessment they have made of the report by The Citizen's Alliance for North Korea Human Rights Blood Coal Exports from North Korea, published on 24 February, that political prisoners, including children, are enslaved in coal production to enable the development of North Korea's missile and nuclear weapons programme. [[HL13691](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK remains deeply concerned about the appalling human rights situation in the DPRK and is aware of reports that people held in prison camps are enslaved in coal production and other goods for export. The UK is unable to verify these reports, but we are clear that the DPRK must address the many reports of continued and wide-spread human rights violations in the country, including the arbitrary detention of its citizens. That is why in July 2020, the UK designated two DPRK entities through the Global Human Rights sanctions regime, including the Ministry of State Security Bureau 7 and Ministry of People's Security Correctional Bureau.

The UK continues to call for the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation of North Korea and remains committed to upholding sanctions on North Korea, working with international partners to curtail North Korea's nuclear and missile capability. UN Security Council Resolution 2371, passed in August 2017, banned all North Korean coal exports. The UK continues to raise with the other members of the UN Security Council our concerns about North Korea's evasion of UN sanctions and the illicit maritime export of commodities, including coal.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that prisoners from North Korea's Camp 18 in Bukchang produce at least 8 million tonnes of coal annually; and what assessment they have made of whether exports of North Korean coal are in contravention of UN Security Council Resolution 2375 (2017). [[HL13692](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK is aware of concerning reports that people held in prison camps are enslaved in coal production. The UK is unable to verify these reports, but we continue to call on the North Korean government to acknowledge and address the many reports of serious and wide-ranging human rights violations in the country, including the arbitrary detention of its citizens, and to allow UN human rights mechanisms unhindered access to the country.

UN Security Council Resolution 2371, passed in August 2017, banned all North Korean coal exports. The UK continues to raise with the other members of the UN Security Council our concerns about North Korea's evasion of UN sanctions and the illicit maritime export of commodities, including coal.

Office for Environmental Protection

Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration has been given to provisionally establishing the Office for Environmental Protection ahead of the passage of the Environment Bill. [[HL13705](#)]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: On 1 March we announced that from July, the Office for Environmental Protection, which is to be headquartered in Worcester, will be set up in an interim, non-statutory form, providing independent oversight of the Government's environmental progress and accelerating the foundation of the full body.

Palace of Westminster: Repairs and Maintenance

Asked by Lord Sharkey

To ask the Parliamentary Works Sponsor Body (1) what plans they have to publish all submissions to the review of the Restoration and Renewal Programme received from Members of both Houses of Parliament

and those outside Parliament, (2) if they have such plans, when they will publish those submissions, and (3) if they have no such plans, why not. [[HL13939](#)]

Baroness Scott of Needham Market: The Strategic Review report, which is now available on the Restoration and Renewal Programme website, includes a detailed summary of the submissions made by Members of both Houses and by others.

Palestinians: Curriculum

Asked by Lord Shinkwin

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that material inciting violence against (1) Israel, and (2) Jews, has been included in the Palestinian Authority's school curriculum. [[HL13717](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK is concerned about allegations of incitement in Palestinian Authority (PA) textbooks and lobbied European partners to conduct a thorough, independent review of the textbooks. To ensure the final report is representative, the study has been extended to include a sample of textbooks introduced for school year 2020-21. Consequently, the study will be completed in early 2021. We have regular discussions with the EU to encourage them to finalise the report as soon as possible.

Palestinians: Terrorism

Asked by Lord Shinkwin

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that the Palestinian Authority contributed to the salaries of prisoners convicted of terrorists offences in 2020. [[HL13716](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are clear that the prisoner payments system should be reformed. The UK has raised the need for reform at the highest levels of the Palestinian Authority (PA), including when the Foreign Secretary visited the Occupied Palestinian Territories in August 2020.

Pension Credit

Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the level of take up of Pension Credit; and what discussions they have had with the BBC about publicising eligibility for Pension Credit alongside advertising to the same group their eligibility for free television licences. [[HL13986](#)]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The Department assesses levels of take-up of Pension Credit on an annual basis. Latest official statistics on the take-up of income-related benefits at Great Britain level, including Pension Credit, can be found in the publication "Income-related benefits:

estimates of take-up in 2018 to 2019", is available on the gov.uk website.

As well as regular meetings to discuss Pension Credit and the implications of the new television licence arrangements, DWP officials have worked with the BBC to ensure that the BBC's letters to all existing free TV licence holders informing them of the new arrangements included information on how to claim Pension Credit. The Minister for Pensions and I are engaging with the BBC to discuss what more we could do together to increase take-up of Pension Credit.

Pension Credit: Disability

*Asked by **Baroness McIntosh of Pickering***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that pensioners with (1) vision, and (2) hearing, impairments are able to apply for Pension Credit. [[HL13987](#)]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: Individuals wishing to claim Pension Credit can do so by telephone, online or by postal claim form. Within these three options, there are a number of different ways the Department communicates with people with visual or hearing impairments. These include large print, Braille and British sign language options. Hearing loop, textphone and Next Generation Text relay facilities are also available.

More generally, people wishing to claim Pension Credit who need help to do so can receive help from family members, friends or voluntary organisations such as Citizens Advice or Age UK.

Public Footpaths: Coastal Areas

*Asked by **Lord Greaves***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish the planned schedules for the completion of the England Coast Path. [[HL13696](#)]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in some delays to the England Coast Path programme. It is still Defra's intention, however, to have all stretches either open or with establishment works started by the end of 2021.

By the end of April, proposals for 99% of the path will have been published by Natural England. To date 1,483 miles (55%) of proposals for stretches of the England Coast Path have been approved by Secretary of State, 401 miles (15%) of which are already open to the public.

As further stretches are ready for opening, this will be published.

State Retirement Pensions: Females

*Asked by **Baroness Altmann***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the number of women who did

not receive the automatic uplifts to their State Pension under the rules applying from 17 March 2008, and (2) the number of women who failed to claim uplifts due prior to March 2008. [[HL13641](#)]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: 1) On the 4 March, I laid a written statement (UIN HLWS818) to inform the House that the Department had formally commenced a State Pension correction exercise on 11 January 2021. The estimates around the number of individuals effected by this issue are highly uncertain and will be continuously revised as the correction activity progresses.

2) No assessment has been made.

Trade: Environment Protection

*Asked by **Lord Taylor of Warwick***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by The City of London Corporation and EY The City of London: an ecosystem enabling international trade, published on 24 February. [[HL13774](#)]

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel: The Department recognises the financial and professional services sectors not only make an important contribution to the UK economy but also, as the report highlights, play an essential role in supporting and enabling firms in all sectors of the economy to trade internationally.

The Department welcomes the report and its recommendations which, as we develop our independent trade policy, challenge policy makers to treat goods and services together rather than as separate policy areas.

My Rt Hon Friend the Minister for Trade Policy, the member for Chelsea and Fulham, was guest speaker at the launch of the report on 24th February 2021.

Unemployment: Young People

*Asked by **Lord Taylor of Warwick***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reduce the level of youth unemployment. [[HL13883](#)]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: This Government is committed to providing support to help young people move into work and avoid the scarring effects of unemployment, as we recover from the Covid pandemic.

Our Plan for Jobs includes specific interventions targeted at young people. The DWP Youth Offer and Kickstart are designed to move young people towards meaningful and sustained employment.

Warships

*Asked by **Lord West of Spithead***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Royal Naval ships were in commission on (1) 1 March 2009, (2) 1 March 2015, and (3) 1 March 2021. [[HL13777](#)]

Baroness Goldie: The following figures reflect Royal Navy ships and submarines in commission on the dates shown:

1 March 2009 - 86

1 March 2015 - 74

1 March 2021 - 78

These figures exclude HMS VICTORY.

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