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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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Ministers and others who make Statements or answer Questions are referred to only by name, not their ministerial or other title. The current list of ministerial and other responsibilities is as follows.

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

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Written Statements

Thursday, 24 June 2021

Exercises in the Black Sea

[HLWS115]

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

On Wednesday 23 June 2021, HMS DEFENDER (a Type 45 Destroyer), left the Ukrainian port of Odesa en route to the Georgian port of Batumi in the Black Sea. HMS DEFENDER conducted innocent passage through Ukrainian territorial waters via a direct route using a traffic separation scheme (TSS), as is the right of the United Kingdom (and all nations) under international maritime law. This TSS is governed by the International Maritime Organisation and is designed to assist vessels in safely transiting congested waterways. The United Kingdom does not recognise any Russian claim to these waters, nor do we recognise the assertion from the Russian Ministry of Defence that HMS DEFENDER was in violation of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

At 0950 BST, HMS DEFENDER entered the TSS, inside Ukrainian territorial waters. At 1000 BST, a Russian coastguard vessel warned that Russian units would shortly commence a live fire gunnery exercise. At 1008 BST, HMS DEFENDER noted gunnery astern and out of range of her position. This posed no danger to HMS DEFENDER. During her transit, HMS DEFENDER was overflown by Russian combat aircraft at varying heights, the lowest of which was approximately 500 feet. These aircraft posed no immediate threat to HMS DEFENDER, but some of these manoeuvres were neither safe nor professional. HMS DEFENDER responded by VHF radio to the Russian units on several occasions and was, at all times, courteous and professional.

HMS DEFENDER maintained a safe course throughout her innocent passage, on one occasion manoeuvring to avoid a hazard presented by a Russian coastguard vessel before re-assuming her intended course. HMS DEFENDER completed the passage safely and in accordance with her intended route, departed Ukrainian territorial waters at 1026 BST. At no point were warning shots fired at HMS DEFENDER, nor bombs dropped in her path as has been asserted by the Russian authorities.

Later on Wednesday 23 June 2021, the United Kingdom's Defence Attaché was invited to a meeting in the Russian Ministry of Defence at which he received a note verbale. This will be considered and addressed in due course.

Under Article 19 of UNCLOS, HMS DEFENDER had the right to exercise innocent passage through Ukrainian territorial waters in the manner she did without giving any

notice of her intention to do so. This is a right the United Kingdom affords to Russia and other states in the context of the UK's territorial waters, including the Dover TSS in the English Channel.

The Royal Navy, as well as other NATO and partner nations, have enjoyed a routine maritime presence in the Black Sea for many years. At the time of this interaction, there were both Dutch and US warships operating elsewhere within the Black Sea. The Royal Navy's presence is about cooperating with our partners and Allies to advance regional security, stability and freedom of navigation.

HMS DEFENDER continues with her planned deployment and programme of visits. The Royal Navy will always uphold international law and will not accept unlawful interference with innocent passage.

FCDO Services Ministerial Targets 2021-22

[HLWS112]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: FCDO Services operates as a trading fund of the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). I have set the following ambitious performance targets for 2021-2022:

- 1) An in-year surplus in excess of 0.0% before interest, tax and dividend;
- 2) Achievement of the return on capital employed (ROCE) of at least 6.5% (weighted average);
- 3) A productivity ratio of at least 82%, measuring actual billable hours versus available billable hours;
- 4) An in-year customer satisfaction rating average at least of 82%;
- 5) An average Civil Service People Survey "Your Say" score for 'Employee Engagement' of at least 61%; and
- 6) An average Civil Service People Survey "Your Say" score for 'My Manager' of at least 65%.

FCDO Services will report to Parliament on its success against these targets through its Annual Report and Accounts for 2021-2022.

FCDO Services is a Trading Fund of the FCDO. It provides a range of integrated, secure services worldwide to the FCDO and other UK Government departments, supporting the delivery of government agendas. Services include protective security, estates and construction, cloud computing, communications and monitoring, logistics, translation and interpreting. This is combined with a portfolio of global maintenance work. FCDO Services also manages the UK National Authority for Counter Eavesdropping (UK NACE), helping protect UK assets from physical, electronic and cyber-attack.

High Fat, Sugar and Salt Advertising Consultation Response

[HLWS117]

Lord Bethell: My Hon Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Prevention, Public Health

and Primary Care) (Jo Churchill) has today made the following written ministerial statement:

Today, I am pleased to announce that Government is publishing the consultation response to both the 2019 and 2020 consultations. This outlines the final UK wide policy on restricting High Fat, Salt and Sugar (HFSS) advertising which we intend to legislate for in the upcoming Health and Care Bill.

Covid-19 has brought the dangers of obesity into sharp focus and highlighted that as a country we need to address the risks obesity presents. The Prime Minister has been clear that helping the nation get fitter and healthier must be a national priority and will make us more resilient to diseases in the future.

In 2018 Government set the ambition to halve childhood obesity by 2030 and help adults reach a healthier weight. As part of a suite of measures to meet this ambition, is it important that we reduce children's exposure to advertising for products high in fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) on TV and online. We want to ensure that the media our children engage with mostly promotes a healthy diet. Evidence suggests that exposure to HFSS advertising can affect what and when children eat, shaping children's food preferences from a young age. Over time, excess consumption can lead to children becoming overweight or obese, all of which puts their future health at risk, already 1 in 3 children leaving primary school is overweight or living with obesity.

In July 2020, as part of the 'Tackling Obesity' strategy, Government announced its intention to implement a 9pm watershed on TV for advertising high in fat, sugar and salt (HFSS). This followed on from a consultation held by DCMS and DHSC in 2019. Government also announced it wanted to go further online and from November to December 2020 held a public consultation on introducing a total HFSS restriction online.

Shaping the marketing to our children

We will be introducing a 9pm watershed on TV and UK On-Demand Programme Services (ODPS) alongside a restriction of paid-for advertising online.

The product categories in scope of the restriction have been revised since consultation to focus on those that are of most concern to childhood obesity. The healthiest products within a specific category can still be advertised and products such as butter, olive oil, and condiments are out of scope. This is consistent with the approach used for the promotion restrictions on volume and location which is also part of the strategy.

The online restriction is limited to paid-for advertising and will not apply to 'owned media' – those spaces online where full editorial control and ownership applies, such as a brand's own blog, website or social media page.

The policy will have a number of exemptions to balance health benefits and impacts on business. These are as follows:

- Brand advertising (online & 9pm watershed): Provided there are no identifiable HFSS products, food and drink brands can continue to advertise. This is to

ensure that brands are not pigeonholed as synonymous with HFSS products and have the freedom to reformulate and move towards offering healthier products.

- Small Medium Enterprises (SME) (online & 9pm watershed): Businesses with 249 employees or fewer, that pay to advertise HFSS products that they manufacture and/or sell, will be exempt from the HFSS restrictions and can continue to advertise.

- Audio (online only): As the impact and levels of child exposure to HFSS advertising on audio-only media (e.g. podcasts, online only radio) remain unclear, these forms of media are not subject to restrictions.

- Business to Business (online only): Businesses can continue to promote their products or services to other businesses, which we hope will prevent unintended consequences of impeding business activity where commerce is not with the purpose of encouraging children's consumption of HFSS food or drink.

- Transactional content (online only): To ensure that online content for the purpose of facilitating transactions involved in buying and selling products can continue and that consumers have enough information at the point of sale/purchase.

The enforcement approach will mirror current frameworks with broadcasters and ODPS under UK jurisdiction being liable for breaches of the watershed and advertisers being liable online. Ofcom will also be appointed as the appropriate regulatory authority for these restrictions and will be able to appoint a day-to-day regulator to carry out frontline regulation. The Government expects the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) to fulfil this role.

Obesity is a complex issue that will not be solved by one policy alone. This is why our strategy includes a suite of measures such as expanding weight management services and restricting promotions of HFSS products.

This is the latest measure to support individuals to improve their health and thereby reduce pressure on the NHS. I welcome your support and your views on how we can support the nation to get healthier and achieve our ambition of halving childhood obesity by 2030.

Landscapes Review: Government Response

[HLWS113]

Lord Benyon: My Right Hon Friend the Secretary of State (George Eustice) has today made the following statement:

In May 2018, Defra commissioned Julian Glover and an independent panel to consider how we might improve the management of our National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).

Their report, the Landscapes Review, was published in September 2019. It set out a series of recommendations, including that more should be done to support nature's recovery in these landscapes; that the status of AONBs should be strengthened; that there was a need to bring the

family of protected landscapes closer together with more strategic oversight and greater opportunities for career progression; and that more funding should support public access to protected landscapes.

The government agrees that more funding should be directed towards making space for nature and supporting nature's recovery in our protected landscapes. Since the review was published, we have been supporting important projects in our protected landscapes through our Nature for Climate Fund and Green Recovery Challenge Fund. Our future Local Nature Recovery scheme, part of the future agriculture policy, will also support the objective of nature's recovery in our protected landscapes and beyond. I have also asked Natural England to prepare proposals for the possible designation of additional National Nature Reserves, where there is landowner support, and to consider how nature's recovery within such designations might be supported financially through our new Landscape Recovery scheme (also part of our future agriculture policy).

The government also agrees that we should do more to support public access to protected landscapes. Today, I am announcing the new Farming in Protected Landscapes programme, which will provide additional investment to allow farmers and other land managers to work in partnership with our National Park Authorities and AONB teams to improve public access, and deliver bigger and better outcomes for the environment, for people and for places.

Natural England also will be taking forward the government's commitment to designate additional protected landscapes and is currently considering the designation of four new areas.

- Yorkshire Wolds AONB.
- Cheshire Sandstone Ridge AONB.
- An extension to the Surrey Hills AONB.
- An extension to the Chilterns AONB.

This work will contribute to the government's commitment of protecting 30% of our land by 2030, and boosting biodiversity, while taking forward the review's recommendation to designate more areas of the country for their natural beauty.

Each of our protected landscapes has its own identity, and many of their functions require local accountability. However, we are also considering how their structures might be changed so that we can bring the family of protected landscapes closer together, and ensure there is more strategic direction nationally, while retaining their local functions. We will also be exploring opportunities to increase private investment, particularly by diversifying funding sources to include emerging markets in natural capital and other commercial opportunities. We are also considering options to strengthen the status and support given to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the recommendation to possibly change their name. The Government will be working closely with our partners over the coming months including local authorities and National Park Authorities, to address the review's

recommendations in full and consult on draft proposals later this year.

News UK Undertakings: Application for Release in Full

[HLWS116]

Baroness Barran: On 1 February 2021, News UK submitted an application to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport requesting that the Secretary of State release in full the Undertakings that were accepted by the then Secretary of State (The Rt Hon Jeremy Wright QC MP) in 2019, to replace Conditions put in place by the then Secretary of State for Trade (the Rt Hon. John Biffin MP) in 1981.

News UK has submitted that the changes in the newspaper industry and the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic mean that the Undertakings are no longer necessary.

They note that the Undertakings place them at a competitive disadvantage to other newspapers, and that the release is necessary to allow the continued provision of quality news by The Times and The Sunday Times.

Copies of the invitation to comment and the application documents will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The deadline for comments is 5pm on 15 July. This application will be considered in a quasi-judicial manner through a fair and transparent process.

If, after considering the responses, the Secretary of State is minded to release, or vary the Undertakings, there will be a further consultation on this decision as required by legislation.

UK MINUSMA Deployment

[HLWS114]

Baroness Goldie: My hon. Friend the Minister for the Armed Forces (James Heappey MP) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

I would like to update the House on my previous statement (HCWS622), announcing the start of the UK's Long-Range Reconnaissance Group (LRRG) deployment to the United Nations' Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali, MINUSMA.

The UK's first rotation to MINUSMA, led by the Light Dragoons, began in December 2020 and I am pleased to report that they have now completed their handover to their successors, following a successful six-month deployment.

Our troops have so far delivered on their objectives - to contribute to improving the UN mission's performance and to help reduce the spread of insecurity across Mali and the wider Sahel.

Our forces have engaged with Malian communities who had never before met UN forces to understand their needs and concerns. They have gathered intelligence to support mission planning and improve overall mission performance, including the protection of civilians. They

also led MINUSMA's first Cordon and Search operation for some time, seizing weapons and equipment hidden by terrorists threatening local communities, and demonstrating how UK personnel can make an innovative and effective contribution to the mission.

Their high performance and professionalism have been acknowledged by international partners on the ground, and the UN Force Commander.

The Light Dragoon-led task group has been replaced by a contingent led by the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, with personnel drawn from The Queen's Dragoon Guards and other units from across the Armed Forces.

I congratulate our returning troops on completion of a successful tour in a challenging and dangerous environment, and I am confident that the second rotation is well placed to build on the solid foundations laid by those preceding them. The new UK Task Group will be under the command of Lt Col Will Meddings, of the Royal Anglian Regiment, and will continue to form a crucial component of the Mission and Force, working alongside over 60 other nations.

Despite the successes of our Armed Forces, we are conscious that the ongoing situation in Mali remains complex and needs a whole of government approach to achieve our desired results. The coup in Mali last month reinforces the important role the international community plays in supporting stability in the country. The UK remains committed to the transition process towards democratic, constitutional rule in Mali. We will also maintain a close relationship with our allies, ensuring our

activity aligns with planned adjustments to France's footprint in the Sahel.

Our peacekeeping deployment to Mali is part of a broader HMG contribution seeking to help tackle the root causes of conflict. This includes a number of UK funded programmes across Mali that intend to not only improve the lives of the civilian population, but also complement the tasks conducted by our Armed Forces. Programmes include helping communities resolve conflicts over land and resources; supporting women in taking a stronger role in conflict resolution; and helping civilian and military actors to better coordinate work.

While I am pleased to report that the troops in our first rotation will arrive home safe and well, we remain clear that this mission does not come without risk to those deployed. We regularly assess risks and will continue to make adjustments to ensure our forces can conduct operations safely.

Lessons identified from our first rotation will be applied to future MINUSMA deployments. We will also continue to draw on insight provided by the LRRG to support our efforts within the UN in New York to drive policy reform. They will feed into a review of our future commitment at the end of the year.

As outlined in the Integrated Review, the UK deployment to MINUSMA is a clear demonstration of this government's commitment to play a leading international role in multilateralism, collective security and conflict resolution. I am pleased to report on the successes of this first rotation, and will provide further updates to the House as the deployment progresses.

Written Answers

Thursday, 24 June 2021

Africa: Overseas Aid

Asked by **Lord Alton of Liverpool**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support low and middle-income countries in Africa; and what recent assessment they have made of the potential effect of reductions in the UK aid budget on support to those countries. [[HL984](#)]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: Following a thorough review, the FCDO's aid budget for countries in sub-Saharan Africa has been allocated in accordance with UK strategic priorities against a challenging financial climate of COVID. It focuses our investment and expertise on issues where the UK can make the most difference and achieve maximum strategic coherence, impact, and value for money. Impacts on women and girls, the most marginalised and vulnerable, people with disabilities and people from other protected groups were considered.

Andrei Pivovarov

Asked by **The Marquess of Lothian**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what explanation, if any, they have sought from the government of Russia for the treatment of Andrei Pivovarov, who was arrested on 31 May and subsequently charged with belonging to an 'undesirable' organisation. [[HL1009](#)]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The UK Government is concerned about the arrest and detention of Andrei Pivovarov. The British Ambassador to Russia raised Mr Pivovarov's case with authorities in St Petersburg on 3 June. We continue to raise our concern about the deteriorating human rights situation with the Russian Government and make clear that Russia must fulfil its international commitments to ensure respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Angola: Convention on Cluster Munitions

Asked by **Baroness Northover**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the United Kingdom plans to use its presidency of the Convention on Cluster Munitions to encourage Angola to ratify the treaty. [[HL1017](#)]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The UK will assume the Presidency of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) in September. We will use this opportunity to encourage states to ratify and implement this treaty, including Angola. We are committed to seeing the CCM become a truly global Convention.

Arab States: Uighurs

Asked by **The Marquess of Lothian**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports of the detention of Uighurs in (1) Egypt, (2) the UAE, and (3) Saudi Arabia; and their forced deportation to China at the request of the government of China since 2017. [[HL1012](#)]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The UK continues to take a global leadership role in standing up for the rights of Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities in Xinjiang. We have repeatedly called on countries to respect their obligations not to force persons to return to a country where there are substantial grounds for believing they would be in danger of fundamental rights violations.

We also encourage all states, including the UAE, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, to uphold international human rights obligations. Most recently, the Foreign Secretary discussed the situation in Xinjiang with the Saudi Foreign Minister on 19 May.

Customs: Ashford

Asked by **Baroness Randerson**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of light pollution from the Sevington inland border facility; and whether they plan to reduce the size of this facility given its levels of use. [[HL1020](#)]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Department for Transport is aware of concerns raised about the level of lighting at Sevington IBF and has acted to minimise disturbance by turning off the lights in one of the contingency parking areas in the south-east of the site. The Department will be switching off the lighting in the second contingency parking area in the north-west of the site by the end of June. Additionally, we have commissioned a detailed lighting survey to better understand the issue. Once concluded, we will evaluate the findings and recommendations from the survey, and we'll share an action plan with the immediate affected residents.

The Sevington site operates on a 24/7 basis with lighting required throughout the night to ensure the site operates safely.

There is no intention to reduce the physical size of the facility, but the business-as-usual operational capacity of the site will reduce. As part of this, the Department will be suspending the use of the two overflow areas from 1st July. However, these areas remain available for contingency traffic management measures should they be required by the Kent Resilience Forum.

Customs: Kent

Asked by **Baroness Randerson**

To ask Her Majesty's Government why meetings arranged with relevant councils in Kent on the planned

White Cliffs Inland Border Facility have been cancelled; why no such meetings on this planned facility have been held since March; and why the reasons for the cancellation of these meetings have not been explained to local residents and councillors. [HL1019]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Engagement has continued with local representative on White Cliffs. Some specific meetings have been cancelled or postponed, due, for instance, to the normal rules on public engagements in a pre-election period.

Activities on the White Cliffs project have, in any case, slowed down because of a Cabinet Office-led review of the Inland Border Facilities in Kent to ensure that modelling and costings were fully explored for any option. We delayed holding a further meeting until there was a substantive update to provide to stakeholders with.

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of why the use of the inland border facilities in Kent was less than was predicted prior to the end of the Transition period with the European Union. [HL1021]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The Government has successfully delivered Inland Border Facilities (IBFs) to address the issue of some ports not having sufficient space to develop the infrastructure needed for customs control.

The IBF network has been designed to manage peak demand which is expected to be reached in 2022, following the end of staged customs control. The demand forecasts used for planning purposes are based on a reasonable worst-case scenario in order to ensure there is sufficient capacity at IBFs in 2021 and beyond.

There are a number of factors which affect demand at IBFs including the overall levels of trade and the number of traders choosing to delay declarations under staged customs controls.

Higher Education: Fees and Charges

Asked by Lord Wallace of Saltaire

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consultations they held with higher education institutions in England before they decided to extend the provision of home fees for students from the Crown Dependencies to all higher education institutions. [HL1137]

Asked by Lord Wallace of Saltaire

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the governments of the Crown Dependencies on the allocation of costs for the extension of home fees to all students and institutions in England before that decision was announced. [HL1138]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: We have updated our regulations to grant home fee status for those students

from the Crown Dependencies who meet the residency requirements, and who come to England solely for the purposes of higher or further education study from the 2021/22 academic year. This underpins our strong commitment to the UK's relationship with the Crown Dependencies.

Students from the Crown Dependencies make an important contribution to our universities, and it is testament to the appeal and success of our higher education sector that so many students from the Crown Dependencies choose to come and study here.

This decision was communicated to the respective governments of the Crown Dependencies, to the Office for Students, and on GOV.UK in January 2021, before regulations were made in February 2021, and came into force in March 2021.

Horse Riding

Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that bridle-paths are prevented from being tarmacked. [HL1000]

Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to open more farmland and off-road areas for horse riders. [HL1001]

Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the danger that cyclists can pose to horse riders; and what plans they have to mitigate this danger on shared routes. [HL1002]

Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that there is a connected bridle-ways network for horse riders so that they can avoid roads and the dangers posed by increased traffic. [HL999]

Lord Benyon: Public rights of way are a local matter and are handled by individual local highway authorities.

Local authorities are required to keep a Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) to plan improvements to their network, which is usually available on the authority's website. I would hope local authorities, whenever possible, would look at the needs of all users, including walkers, cyclists and horse-riders. Safety must be a consideration in this process.

Local authorities receive most of their rights of way funding from central Government through the Revenue Support Grant to deliver various duties, including ROWIPs. It is not ring-fenced and we cannot say how much authorities should spend on ROWIPs. It is up to local authorities to manage their own budgets and decide how much they should spend on their different duties, and for local people to hold them to account.

Immigration Controls: Heathrow Airport

*Asked by **The Marquess of Lothian***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many additional Border Force staff have been mobilised since 17 May to reduce the queueing time at passport control in Heathrow Airport; and what is the average queueing time at passport control on arrival at Heathrow. [[HL1007](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Border Force is ensuring that it has the right level of resources to check that passengers are compliant with our border health measures to minimise wait times at the border whilst ensuring we maintain border security and public health.

We have taken steps to make sure that there is the maximum number of additional Border Force officers possible to carry out those crucial checks, ensuring compliance with health measures, while minimizing wait time.

Since January 2020 to May 2021 Border Force overall workforce has grown by over 290 to a figure of around 9,300 FTE.

This is in addition to the return of staff from detached duty and the return of critically vulnerable staff to the front line, as well as the capability to deploy resources flexibly across the United Kingdom to deal with any increase on demand.

As the Director General of Border Force stated at the Public Account Committee session on the 10th June, the average time this year for anyone travelling through Heathrow has been under 30 minutes.

Iraq: Kurds

*Asked by **Lord Austin of Dudley***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will make a statement on the activities of the British Council in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. [[HL986](#)]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The British Council maintains an office in Erbil and all of the British Council's cultural relations activities in Iraq extend to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). This includes programmes in arts and culture, education and English. The British Council runs a free digital library service across Iraq, including KRI, and paid education services in online English teaching and face-to-face English language assessment at centres in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah.

Jerusalem: Palestinians

*Asked by **Lord Foster of Bath***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions, if any, they have had with the government of Israel regarding reports of the forced displacement of Palestinian families in Silwan. [[HL991](#)]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The UK regularly raises the issue of forced evictions from their homes with the Government of Israel. The Fourth Geneva Convention, which applies to all occupied territories, prohibits demolitions or forced evictions absent military necessity. The UK is clear that in all but the most exceptional of circumstances, evictions are contrary to International Humanitarian Law. The practice causes unnecessary suffering to Palestinians and is harmful to efforts to promote peace. We monitor the situation in Silwan closely, and officials regularly visited and attend related court hearings. We continue to urge Israel to cease such actions.

Land Mines: Bomb Disposal

*Asked by **Baroness Northover***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on global landmine casualty rates of reducing funding to humanitarian mine action programmes. [[HL1016](#)]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The UK has invested £124million to help clear deadly explosive devices worldwide in the last three years through the Global Mine Action Programme 2. The UK is looking forward to starting phase 3 of the Global Mine Action Programme (GMAP3) in 2022. MAP3 will involve landmine clearance and risk education to help affected communities keep safe, and capacity development for national authorities to help them manage their landmine contamination.

Ministry of Defence: Mothers

*Asked by **Lord Blencathra***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Ministry of Defence, in any of its official (1) paperwork, (2) guidance, (3) instructions, (4) manuals, or (5) other documents, (a) has replaced, or (b) intends to replace, the word "mother" with the phrase "parent who has given birth". [[HL1156](#)]

Baroness Goldie: The Ministry of Defence has not mandated the use of such language and there are no current plans to replace the word 'mother' with the phrase 'parent who has given birth' in Departmental paperwork, guidance, instructions, manuals or other documents.

Motorways

*Asked by **Lord Goodlad***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review the smart motorway programme. [[HL1056](#)]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Government continues to monitor and evaluate the safety performance of all our roads. Following the publication of the *Smart*

Motorway Safety Evidence Stocktake and Action Plan in March 2020, Highways England published the first-year progress report in April of this year.

The report demonstrates the significant progress that has been made against the 18 Stocktake actions. The data contained in the progress report confirms that, on average, fatal casualty rates are lower on All Lane Running (ALR) motorways compared with conventional ones.

Highways England is accelerating safety improvements to give reassurance to motorists on ALR motorways. By the end of September 2022, it will: install technology on all existing stretches of ALR motorway to spot stopped or broken-down vehicles quickly, six months earlier than planned; upgrade special cameras ten months earlier than planned, so that they can be used to spot; prosecute motorists ignoring 'red X' signs and illegally driving down closed lane, putting themselves and others in danger; and install around 1,000 additional approach signs six months earlier than planned, alerting drivers to their nearest place to stop in an emergency.

Significantly, Highways England has also made a commitment that no ALR motorways will open without the radar technology to spot stopped vehicles, enable lanes to be closed where necessary and get help to drivers quickly. Work to update The Highway Code to provide more guidance about driving on ALR motorways has also been brought forward and is due to be published this year ahead of schedule, subject to Parliamentary approval.

Police Community Support Officers

Asked by Lord Hay of Ballyore

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many police community support officers there were in each police force area in England and Wales in 2019. [[HL994](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office collects and publishes data on the size and composition of the police workforce in England and Wales on a biannual basis in the 'Police workforce, England and Wales' statistical bulletin, available here: Police workforce England and Wales statistics - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

The latest police community support officer numbers were released in the publication covering the situation as at 30 September 2020. Data covering the situation as at 31 March 2020 and previous years are available in open data format here: Police workforce open data tables - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

The number of police community support officers (full time-equivalent, FTE) in the 43 territorial England and Wales forces as at 30 September 2019 is provided in the table below:

Police Community Support Officers (PCSO), England and Wales

As at 30 September, 2019

<i>Force</i>	<i>FTE</i>
Avon & Somerset	313

Bedfordshire	51
Cambridgeshire	73
Cheshire	194
Cleveland	128
Cumbria	76
Derbyshire	174
Devon & Cornwall	199
Dorset	115
Durham	126
Dyfed-Powys	144
Essex	111
Gloucestershire	106
Greater Manchester	575
Gwent	129
Hampshire	233
Hertfordshire	209
Humberside	184
Kent	300
Lancashire	248
Leicestershire	177
Lincolnshire	101
London, City of	5
Merseyside	211
Metropolitan Police	1,273
Norfolk	0
North Wales	191
North Yorkshire	178
Northamptonshire	98
Northumbria	215
Nottinghamshire	167
South Wales	365
South Yorkshire	177
Staffordshire	211
Suffolk	42
Surrey	108
Sussex	253
Thames Valley	349
Warwickshire	83
West Mercia	225
West Midlands	436
West Yorkshire	594
Wiltshire	144
Total	9,292

While the 'Police workforce, England and Wales' statistical bulletin remains the key measure of the size of the police workforce, as part of the Police Officer Uplift Programme, the Home Office also publishes a quarterly update on the number of officers (headcount) in England and Wales. Data are available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-officer-uplift-statistics>.

Asked by Lord Hay of Ballyore

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many police community support officers there were in each police force area in England and Wales in 2020. [HL997]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office collects and publishes data on the size and composition of the police workforce in England and Wales on a biannual basis in the 'Police workforce, England and Wales' statistical bulletin, available here: Police workforce England and Wales statistics - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

The latest police community support officer numbers were released in the publication covering the situation as at 30 September 2020. Data covering the situation as at 31 March 2020 and previous years are available in open data format here: Police workforce open data tables - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

The number of police community support officers (full time-equivalent, FTE) in the 43 territorial England and Wales forces as at 30 September 2020 is provided in the table below:

Police Community Support Officers (PCSO), England and Wales

As at 30 September, 2020

<i>Force</i>	<i>FTE</i>
Avon & Somerset	315
Bedfordshire	45
Cambridgeshire	70
Cheshire	187
Cleveland	89
Cumbria	67
Derbyshire	191
Devon & Cornwall	188
Dorset	124
Durham	129
Dyfed-Powys	143
Essex	104
Gloucestershire	105
Greater Manchester	552
Gwent	131
Hampshire	214
Hertfordshire	195

Humberside	166
Kent	326
Lancashire	267
Leicestershire	190
Lincolnshire	94
London, City of	5
Merseyside	189
Metropolitan Police	1,260
Norfolk	0
North Wales	175
North Yorkshire	233
Northamptonshire	88
Northumbria	178
Nottinghamshire	160
South Wales	352
South Yorkshire	138
Staffordshire	219
Suffolk	42
Surrey	156
Sussex	275
Thames Valley	283
Warwickshire	83
West Mercia	217
West Midlands	467
West Yorkshire	576
Wiltshire	125
Total	9,115

While the 'Police workforce, England and Wales' statistical bulletin remains the key measure of the size of the police workforce, as part of the Police Officer Uplift Programme, the Home Office also publishes a quarterly update on the number of officers (headcount) in England and Wales. Data are available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-officer-uplift-statistics>.

Police: Employment

Asked by Lord Hay of Ballyore

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many full-time police officers there were in each police force area in England and Wales in 2019. [HL992]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office collects and publishes data on the size and composition of the police workforce in England and Wales on a biannual basis in the 'Police workforce, England and Wales' statistical bulletin, available here: Police workforce England and Wales statistics - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

The latest officer numbers were released in the publication covering the situation as at 30 September 2020. Data covering the situation as at 31 March 2020 and previous years are available in open data format here: Police workforce open data tables - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

The number of police officers (full time-equivalent, FTE) in the 43 territorial England and Wales forces as at 30 September 2019 is provided in the table below.

Police Officers, England and Wales

As at 31 March, 2019

<i>Force</i>	<i>FTE</i>
Avon & Somerset	2,691
Bedfordshire	1,191
Cambridgeshire	1,490
Cheshire	2,010
Cleveland	1,226
Cumbria	1,174
Derbyshire	1,800
Devon & Cornwall	2,999
Dorset	1,229
Durham	1,125
Dyfed-Powys	1,141
Essex	3,187
Gloucestershire	1,119
Greater Manchester	6,539
Gwent	1,294
Hampshire	2,666
Hertfordshire	2,030
Humberside	1,901
Kent	3,548
Lancashire	2,898
Leicestershire	1,803
Lincolnshire	1,076
London, City of	753
Merseyside	3,588
Metropolitan Police	30,940
Norfolk	1,644
North Wales	1,505
North Yorkshire	1,433
Northamptonshire	1,255
Northumbria	3,084
Nottinghamshire	1,925
South Wales	2,995
South Yorkshire	2,394

Staffordshire	1,579
Suffolk	1,180
Surrey	1,899
Sussex	2,647
Thames Valley	4,206
Warwickshire	945
West Mercia	2,129
West Midlands	6,405
West Yorkshire	5,168
Wiltshire	975
Total	124,784

While the 'Police workforce, England and Wales' statistical bulletin remains the key measure of the size of the police workforce, as part of the Police Officer Uplift Programme, the Home Office also publishes a quarterly update on the number of officers (headcount) in England and Wales. Data are available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-officer-uplift-statistics>.

Asked by Lord Hay of Ballyore

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many police constables there were in each police force area in England and Wales in 2019. [HL993]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office collects and publishes data on the size and composition of the police workforce in England and Wales on a biannual basis in the 'Police workforce, England and Wales' statistical bulletin, available here: Police workforce England and Wales statistics - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) The latest officer numbers were released in the publication covering the situation as at 30 September 2020. Data covering the situation as at 31 March 2020 and previous years are available in open data format here: Police workforce open data tables - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Total officer numbers are collected and published twice each year covering the situation as at 31 March and 30 September. Data covering officer rank, however, is collected only once and covers the situation as at 31 March. The number of police constables (full time-equivalent, FTE) in the 43 territorial England and Wales forces as at 31 March 2019 is provided in the table below:

<i>Constables, England and Wales</i>	
<i>As at 31 March 2019</i>	
<i>Force</i>	<i>Constables</i>
Avon & Somerset	2,115
Bedfordshire	917
Cambridgeshire	1,155
Cheshire	1,549
Cleveland	941

Cumbria	885
Derbyshire	1,399
Devon & Cornwall	2,228
Dorset	924
Durham	859
Dyfed-Powys	841
Essex	2,425
Gloucestershire	793
Greater Manchester	4,960
Gwent	1,036
Hampshire	2,080
Hertfordshire	1,565
Humberside	1,495
Kent	2,811
Lancashire	2,257
Leicestershire	1,404
Lincolnshire	800
London, City of	535
Merseyside	2,621
Metropolitan Police	24,235
Norfolk	1,237
North Wales	1,104
North Yorkshire	1,057
Northamptonshire	896
Northumbria	2,413
Nottinghamshire	1,516
South Wales	2,271
South Yorkshire	1,860
Staffordshire	1,186
Suffolk	920
Surrey	1,387
Sussex	2,072
Thames Valley	3,204
Warwickshire	614
West Mercia	1,497
West Midlands	5,101
West Yorkshire	4,164
Wiltshire	754
Total	96,084

While the 'Police workforce, England and Wales' statistical bulletin remains the key measure of the size of the police workforce, as part of the Police Officer Uplift Programme, the Home Office also publishes a quarterly update on the number of officers (headcount) in England

and Wales. Data are available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-officer-uplift-statistics>.

Asked by Lord Hay of Ballyore

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many full-time police officers there were in each police force area in England and Wales in 2020. [HL995]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office collects and publishes data on the size and composition of the police workforce in England and Wales on a biannual basis in the 'Police workforce, England and Wales' statistical bulletin, available here: Police workforce England and Wales statistics - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

The latest officer numbers were released in the publication covering the situation as at 30 September 2020. Data covering the situation as at 31 March 2020 and previous years are available in open data format here: Police workforce open data tables - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

The number of police officers (full time-equivalent, FTE) in the 43 territorial England and Wales forces as at 30 September 2020 is provided in the table below:

Police Officers, England and Wales

As at 30 September, 2020

<i>Force</i>	<i>FTE</i>
Avon & Somerset	2,886
Bedfordshire	1,300
Cambridgeshire	1,597
Cheshire	2,131
Cleveland	1,373
Cumbria	1,229
Derbyshire	1,861
Devon & Cornwall	3,197
Dorset	1,268
Durham	1,168
Dyfed-Powys	1,183
Essex	3,318
Gloucestershire	1,200
Greater Manchester	6,965
Gwent	1,340
Hampshire	2,812
Hertfordshire	2,152
Humberside	2,005
Kent	3,836
Lancashire	3,031
Leicestershire	2,053
Lincolnshire	1,073

London, City of	811	collected only once and covers the situation as at 31 March.
Merseyside	3,659	The number of police constables (full time-equivalent, FTE) in the 43 territorial England and Wales forces as at 31 March 2020 is provided in the table below:
Metropolitan Police	33,177	
Norfolk	1,684	
North Wales	1,587	<i>Constables, England and Wales</i>
North Yorkshire	1,513	<i>As at 31 March 2020</i>
Northamptonshire	1,343	<i>Force</i>
Northumbria	3,309	<i>Constables</i>
Nottinghamshire	2,077	Avon & Somerset 2,197
South Wales	3,081	Bedfordshire 998
South Yorkshire	2,574	Cambridgeshire 1,249
Staffordshire	1,681	Cheshire 1,622
Suffolk	1,240	Cleveland 1,053
Surrey	1,993	Cumbria 939
Sussex	2,799	Derbyshire 1,472
Thames Valley	4,415	Devon & Cornwall 2,328
Warwickshire	1,034	Dorset 917
West Mercia	2,256	Durham 876
West Midlands	6,846	Dyfed-Powys 843
West Yorkshire	5,391	Essex 2,647
Wiltshire	1,019	Gloucestershire 896
Total	132,467	Greater Manchester 5,329
		Gwent 1,031
		Hampshire 2,058
		Hertfordshire 1,628
		Humberside 1,549
		Kent 2,985
		Lancashire 2,320
		Leicestershire 1,521
		Lincolnshire 774
		London, City of 547
		Merseyside 2,851
		Metropolitan Police 26,077
		Norfolk 1,275
		North Wales 1,143
		North Yorkshire 1,117
		Northamptonshire 962
		Northumbria 2,481
		Nottinghamshire 1,635
		South Wales 2,262
		South Yorkshire 1,898
		Staffordshire 1,291
		Suffolk 956
		Surrey 1,441

While the 'Police workforce, England and Wales' statistical bulletin remains the key measure of the size of the police workforce, as part of the Police Officer Uplift Programme, the Home Office also publishes a quarterly update on the number of officers (headcount) in England and Wales. Data are available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-officer-uplift-statistics>.

Asked by Lord Hay of Ballyore

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many police constables there were in each police force area in England and Wales in 2020. [HL996]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office collects and publishes data on the size and composition of the police workforce in England and Wales on a biannual basis in the 'Police workforce, England and Wales' statistical bulletin, available here: Police workforce England and Wales statistics - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

The latest officer numbers were released in the publication covering the situation as at 30 September 2020. Data covering the situation as at 31 March 2020 and previous years are available in open data format here: Police workforce open data tables - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

Total officer numbers are collected and published twice each year covering the situation as at 31 March and 30 September. Data covering officer rank, however, is

Sussex	2,150
Thames Valley	3,337
Warwickshire	801
West Mercia	1,717
West Midlands	5,120
West Yorkshire	4,363
Wiltshire	758
Total	101,415

While the 'Police workforce, England and Wales' statistical bulletin remains the key measure of the size of the police workforce, as part of the Police Officer Uplift Programme, the Home Office also publishes a quarterly update on the number of officers (headcount) in England and Wales. Data are available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-officer-uplift-statistics>.

Prisoners' Release: Females

Asked by Baroness Royall of Blaisdon

To ask Her Majesty's Government what specific measures will be included in the Ministry of Justice's temporary accommodation service for prison leavers to address the complex needs of vulnerable women. [HL1022]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: We are investing more than £20m in supporting prison leavers at risk of homelessness into temporary accommodation. Individuals released from prison will be provided up to 12 weeks of temporary accommodation and will be supported to secure long-term settled accommodation before the end of that 12-week period. Initially launching in five probation regions, the service will support around 3,000 offenders in its first year and will be commencing this Summer. It will be in operation during the financial year 2021-22, with a view to scaling up and rolling out nationally.

The service will take account of the needs of women, including those with complex needs, and accommodation provision will be dedicated to single gender usage as required. Community Probation Practitioners, working together with local partners, will be responsible for ensuring that vulnerable female prison leavers receive appropriate support and are provided with housing beyond the 12 weeks' emergency accommodation.

Commissioned Rehabilitation Services are due to start delivery on 26 June 2021 which includes services to assist in accommodation; employment training and education; financial benefit and debt and personal well-being.

These provide a holistic service for all women leaving prison by providers based in the community into which they are released. The accommodation service and mentoring service both start pre-release. The mentoring

service aims to support those who lack social support in making the transition from prison to community and to assist in building social networks.

Asked by Baroness Healy of Primrose Hill

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support vulnerable women leaving prison by ensuring (1) access to housing, (2) access to benefits and employment, and (3) access to health services. [HL998]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: We are investing more than £20m in supporting prison leavers at risk of homelessness into temporary accommodation. Individuals released from prison will be provided up to 12 weeks of temporary accommodation and will be supported to secure long-term settled accommodation before the end of that 12-week period. Initially launching in five probation regions, the service will support around 3,000 offenders in its first year and will be commencing this Summer. It will be in operation during the financial year 2021-22, with a view to scaling up and rolling out nationally.

The service will take account of the needs of women, including those with complex needs, and accommodation provision will be dedicated to single gender usage as required. Community Probation Practitioners, working together with local partners, will be responsible for ensuring that vulnerable female prison leavers receive appropriate support and are provided with housing beyond the 12 weeks' emergency accommodation.

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These provide a holistic service for all women leaving prison by providers based in the community into which they are released. The accommodation service and mentoring service both start pre-release. The mentoring service aims to support those who lack social support in making the transition from prison to community and to assist in building social networks.

Prisons: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Lee of Trafford

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many COVID-19 vaccinations have been given to (1) prisoners, and (2) prison officers; and what effect, if any, the vaccinations are having on isolation periods for prisoners in their cells. [HL1005]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: Data on the number of adult prisoners in England that have received Covid-19 vaccinations, as of week ending 4 June, as well as the number of prison officers in Public Sector and Youth Custody Prisons who have declared that they have received their Covid-19 vaccinations, as at midday 11 June 2021, is provided below.

Staff

<i>As of midday 11 June</i>	<i>Staff who have declared that they have received a first dose</i>	<i>Staff who have declared that they have received a second dose</i>
Total	5,688	2,434

Prisoners

<i>As of week ending 4 June 2021</i>	<i>Population who have received a first dose</i>	<i>Population who have received a second dose</i>
England total	27,520	16,168

Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) strongly encourages all staff and prisoners who are eligible and offered the Covid-19 vaccine to be vaccinated as soon as possible. Employees are asked to provide updates onto the HMPPS HR system once they have had each dose of the vaccine. As the disclosure of their vaccine status is voluntary, it means the self-declaration rates presented below will very likely be lower than the actual number of staff who have been vaccinated. This data will help us understand staff vaccination take up and coverage, plan recovery and infection control measures, and inform recovery decisions.

Data for prisoner vaccinations has been provided by NHS England who are responsible for the vaccination programme. Please note that figures in relation to prisoner vaccinations change daily due to the level of activity in the vaccination programme across the estate and therefore can only be read as a snapshot on the day they were calculated.

Our [National Framework for Prison Regimes and Services](#) sets out how we will take decisions about easing restrictions in prisons. Prisons continue to progress through the Stages of the Framework, and vaccination coverage is an important part of the consideration about the necessary degree of restrictions.

Queen Elizabeth II

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Equality Act 2010 applies to the Sovereign in her private capacity; what are the reasons for any exemption; and whether the Government Equalities Office (1) reviewed any exemption during the passage of the Act, and (2) will now review any such exemption. [\[HL915\]](#)

Baroness Berridge: In common with other legislation, the Equality Act 2010 maintains the long standing principle that it is not appropriate for The Sovereign, personally, to be the subject of legal action in a Court or Tribunal. However, the Royal Household has formal arrangements in place that provide a means of hearing and remedying any complaint that might be raised under the Act.

There are no plans to review this position.

Roads: Greater London

Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the economic benefits that might be realised if responsibility for roads in London was transferred from the Mayor of London and Transport for London to the Department for Transport. [\[HL1198\]](#)

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Strategic roads in London are the responsibility of TfL, with each local authority responsible for its respective local road network. The Government has no plans to amend these responsibilities.

South Sudan: Humanitarian Situation

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the humanitarian situation in South Sudan; by how much UK aid to South Sudan will be cut as part of the reduction in the Official Development Assistance budget; how any such cut will represent value to UK taxpayers; and whether the details of any such cuts have been provided to the government of South Sudan. [\[HL1008\]](#)

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: According to figures released by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 8.3 million people in South Sudan are in need of humanitarian assistance. An estimated 7.2 million face high levels of acute food insecurity (including over 100,000 in famine-like conditions), and 1.4 million children are expected to be acutely malnourished in 2021. The Minister for Africa, James Duddridge, witnessed the dire humanitarian situation first hand when he visited South Sudan with the UK Special Envoy for Famine and Humanitarian Affairs in October 2020.

We remain in regular contact with the Government of South Sudan and implementing partners on our assistance programme and any impacts of reductions in ODA. While we are still working through what the reduction to UK ODA means for individual programmes, our aid budget will be allocated according to the UK's strategic ODA priorities: global health security, girls' education, humanitarian preparedness and response, open societies, and conflict resolution.

Asked by Baroness Northover

To ask Her Majesty's Government what role the United Kingdom is playing in responding to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in South Sudan; and to what extent this includes the clearance of landmines and explosive remnants of war. [\[HL1018\]](#)

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The UK has a longstanding role supporting the most vulnerable in South Sudan through humanitarian support. Our humanitarian programme provides basic services, critical life-saving assistance and support to help people to better cope with

the impacts of conflict, drought and flooding. We also support a number of other initiatives to help end the conflict and bring peace for the people of South Sudan.

As one of the founding signatories to the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty, the UK is one of the leading supporters of de-mining action worldwide. In South Sudan, our Global Mine Action Programme 2 is working with partners to remove landmines and ordnances. As of March 2021, UK support has helped make safe 1.8 million square metres of land and provided education on mine risks to nearly 25,000 people.

Tigray: Food Supply

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Acute Food Insecurity Analysis May – September, published on 10 June, which found that in Tigray “350,000 people are suffering from catastrophic levels of hunger”; and what assessment they have made of the call from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations World Food Programme, and UNICEF, for (1) unimpeded access, (2) an immediate ceasefire, and (3) a scaling up of the international response. [HL985]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The UK shares the concerns outlined in the report by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, and alongside 16 partner countries we have called for a humanitarian ceasefire to avert the risk of famine. The Minister for Africa and the UK Special Envoy for Famine Prevention and Humanitarian Affairs, Nick Dyer, discussed this and a need for an enhanced international response with counterparts from G7 and other key donor countries on 9 June.

Universal Credit

Asked by Baroness Wilcox of Newport

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Universal Credit claimants are (1) black, (2) Asian, (3)

other ethnic minority, (4) white, (5) male, and (6) female. [HL1142]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: From the latest provisional statistics published on Stat-Xplore, of the 6.01 million people on Universal Credit on 13 May 2021, 2.85 million are male and 3.16 million are female.

Universal Credit claimants have the opportunity to complete a survey containing diversity questions, including regarding their ethnicity, however answering these questions is not compulsory and the data available does not reach the threshold to be published.

UNRWA

Asked by Baroness Deech

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the value of the UK contribution to the UN Relief and Works Agency in the last 12 months; and what steps have they taken to ensure that school books for children supplied by the UN Relief and Works Agency do not (1) glorify terrorism, and (2) incite violence and hatred. [HL934]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: In Financial Year 2020/2021, the UK provided £63.6m to UNRWA, which includes £7million to the Syria Emergency Appeal and £3.8million to the Occupied Palestinian Territories Emergency Appeal. On 20 May, Minister Cleverly announced that the UK is providing an initial £3.2million to UNRWA's emergency flash appeal, which launched on 19 May.

The UK Government strongly condemns all forms of violence and incitement to hatred and will continue to monitor UNRWA's implementation of its curriculum framework to ensure lessons taught by UNRWA are in line with UN values. We accompany our support for UNRWA with stringent attention to implementation of their neutrality policy, including how they apply this to textbooks.

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