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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, 1 July 2021

Atomic Weapons Establishment

[HLWS137]

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 2nd November 2020 I announced to the House [HCWS544] that on the 1st July 2021 AWE plc, the company operating the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) would become a Non-Departmental Public Body, wholly owned by the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

I can confirm that from today, following a constructive and effective transition period, we welcome AWE plc as the newest Arms-Length Body of the MOD.

The change in operating model will further strengthen the relationship between the MOD and AWE plc, enhancing the management of the UK's nuclear warhead programme whilst also delivering on core MOD objectives and value for money to the taxpayer. AWE plc is part of the Defence Nuclear Enterprise, which is responsible for sustaining and renewing the UK's nuclear deterrent.

BPDS Tailored Review

[HLWS132]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: On 29th September 2020 the outcome of the BPDS Tailored Review was published. The review recommended the creation of a single departmental digital function for DWP – concluding that the strategic context and challenges which BPDS was designed to address had fundamentally altered since its creation in 2016.

Action has now been taken to implement the recommendations and all BPDS staff and functions will transfer to DWP on 1st July 2021.

From 1st July activities in BPDS will focus on the closure of the company and the publication of final Annual Reports and Accounts, with formal closure anticipated in early 2022.

Children and Family Weight Management Services: Final Funding Allocations

[HLWS141]

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:

On 23 March this year I confirmed the Government was dedicating £34.9 million of new funding to support the expansion of local authority weight management services for adults, children, and families in 2021/22. These funds

will be allocated via two ringfenced grants under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.

The first grant distributed £30.5 million among all local authorities in England to commission adult behavioural weight management services and draft allocations were published in late March. Since publication 149 local authorities have accepted funding awards.

At the same time, I launched the application process for local authorities to apply for funding through a second grant distributing £4.4 million to test the expansion of behavioural weight management services for children and families and pilot an intervention to improve access to local services for children identified as living with overweight or obesity through the National Child Measurement Programme.

I am pleased to announce that eight applicants representing 11 local authorities will be awarded funding through the Child and Family Weight Management Grant (No. 31/5627). A full list of awardees will be published on GOV.UK and all applicants will be notified of the outcome of the application process in writing.

EU-UK Personal Data Transfers

[HLWS138]

Baroness Barran: My Right Honourable Friend the Minister of State for Media and Data, John Whittingdale MP, has made the following Statement:

Following just over a year of constructive discussions, the European Union has rightly recognised the UK's high data protection standards by formally adopting adequacy decisions for the UK. The completion of this process allows for the continued free flow of personal data between the EU and the UK. These decisions will minimise burdens for businesses and support continued cooperation between the EU and UK, including helping our law enforcement authorities to keep our citizens safe.

We will approach our data relationship with the EU, as in other areas of our new relationship, as sovereign equals. This will include a full UK assessment of the EU under our own independent international transfer regime to ensure that it remains a safe destination for UK personal data. We will continue to engage with the EU as appropriate with a view to ensuring our reciprocal arrangements for free flow of personal data can remain in place on an ongoing basis.

We will do so whilst operating a fully independent UK framework. Rapid technological change in data-intensive sectors and three years' experience of implementing GDPR have prompted lively debates about the future of data protection, including within the EU. We want our data protection law to remain fit for purpose, and to support the future objectives of the UK.

Maintaining personal data flows is important: people and organisations are now sharing more personal data more regularly and in greater quantities than ever. Data has allowed businesses to grow and transform, hospitals to help patients, scientists to accelerate ground-breaking

research, and law enforcement authorities to keep the public safe. The Covid-19 pandemic has shown that the use of data has never been more crucial in making vital decisions in public life.

The Government is committed to ensuring the UK can use data to drive innovation, the economy, trade, better government and more effective law enforcement and protection of public safety; without compromising security or privacy. We will design and operate a data regime that maintains high data protection standards whilst enabling transformative, creative, innovative and responsible data use to ensure that the benefits of the data revolution are felt by all people, in all places.

Maximising the opportunities from innovative use of data will also depend on better flow of data between international partners. Independent of the EU, the UK will promote the free flow of personal data across borders, including through ambitious new trade deals; new data adequacy agreements with some of the fastest growing economies; and more innovative transfer mechanisms, whilst ensuring that this data will be properly protected, including through effective regulatory cooperation. We will also explore wider global opportunities on data, seeking to increase the availability of data and minimise burdens on organisations seeking to tackle some of the most pressing international questions of our time, including climate change and prevention of disease.

With our progressive legal system, robust protection of individual rights, and an influential regulator, the UK is in a strong starting position. Our approach towards data in future will be forward thinking and innovative but, above all, it will be founded upon the democratic values of the rule of law and transparency to maintain our public trust and confidence.

I look forward to engaging with interested colleagues across the House on maximising the potential benefits of data use for the whole of the UK.

Financial Services Consultation

[HLWS140]

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

The Government is today publishing the Access to Cash Consultation on legislative proposals to protect access to cash. Our society and economy are embracing the transition to a more digital world and as part of this the transition towards digital payments brings many opportunities, including the opportunity for faster and cheaper payments. Nonetheless, cash remains an essential payment mechanism for many people and businesses across the United Kingdom.

The Government therefore committed at March Budget 2020 to bring forward legislation to protect access to cash and ensure that the UK's cash infrastructure is sustainable long term. The Government supports and welcomes innovation in payments; this is an area where the UK is at the cutting edge globally, and we wish to see that

continue. The Government's aim in protecting access to cash is consistent with this approach and seeks to ensure continued choice in payments solutions for all parts of the UK, and for people that rely on more traditional options.

In October 2020, the Treasury published a Call for Evidence, which sought views on the key considerations associated with cash access. The responses demonstrated strong and broad support for Government intervention to protect access to cash, and the Treasury is publishing a Summary of Responses to the Call for Evidence today.

Furthermore, the Government took action to make legislative changes to support the widespread offering of cashback without a purchase by shops and other businesses as part of the Financial Services Act 2021. Cashback has the potential to be a valuable facility to cash users, and play an important role in the evolution of the UK's cash infrastructure.

The Access to Cash Consultation is the next step to progress our commitment to legislate to protect access to cash.

The consultation sets out proposals for legislation to ensure that people and businesses can continue to make cash withdrawals and deposits within a reasonable distance. This will help to ensure that the cash system continues to meet the needs of businesses and consumers and that the UK's cash infrastructure is sustainable in the long-term.

To achieve this, the consultation seeks views in three key areas:

- 1) Geographic access requirements for providing access to cash withdrawals and deposits.
- 2) Designation of firms to meet requirements to provide access.
- 3) Regulatory oversight, including proposals to ensure the FCA has appropriate powers and responsibilities to hold firms to account to meet requirements.

The Government's proposals for consultation seek to ensure a stable and resilient solution for cash access in the long term, where large current account providers are obliged to ensure their customers can access key cash services alongside new and convenient digital payments solutions. The decline in cash usage is a trend that is occurring in many countries across the world. The Government's proposed approach is in line with international precedent. For example, Sweden, is one of the most advanced countries in terms of declining cash usage and it has placed legislative geographic access requirements for deposit and withdrawal facilities on its largest banks.

The consultation will be published on Gov.uk www.gov.uk/government/consultations/access-to-cash-consultation and will run for 12 weeks, closing on 23 September 2021.

Today's publication helps to ensure that the financial system supports the real economy and delivers for businesses and consumers. As my right honourable friend, the Chancellor set out at Mansion House today, the

Government is taking action to deliver on our vision for a world-leading financial services sector, which includes this consultation. It is important that our financial services sector is open, green, technologically advanced and globally competitive and acts in the interests of our communities and citizens, creating jobs, supporting businesses, and powering growth across all of the UK.

In-Work Progression Commission: Report Launch

[HLWS133]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: My Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions Dr Thérèse Coffey MP has made the following Written Statement:

In March 2020, I established the In-Work Progression Commission and appointed Baroness Ruby McGregor-Smith to lead an independent review into the barriers that prevent people from progressing in work and increasing pay.

Her report, 'Supporting progression out of low pay: a call to action', which sets out the Commission's findings is being published today. This timely and important report will help increase the evidence base about the nature of the barriers holding people back and how government and employers could improve progression opportunities. I would like to thank the Baroness for leading the review, as well as her Advisory Panel for their considered contributions. I will place a copy of the report in the House Library.

The Commission's review shows we all have a role to play. The report highlights examples of great employers around the country who are leading the way and who other employers should look to learn from. It also makes recommendations for the Government which we will carefully consider and respond to in due course.

Since the Commission started its review, Covid-19 has had a significant impact on the labour market and created challenges for workers and businesses throughout the country. The Government has provided an unprecedented package of support for workers and businesses throughout the pandemic and our multi-billion-pound Plan for Jobs will ensure jobseekers of all ages get the support they need to build additional skills and find work.

Building back fairer from the pandemic means better opportunities for people across the country to move into decent jobs, climb the career ladder and raise their earnings. With government and employers working together, we will achieve our ambition to make the UK the best place in the world to work.

Nissan: Sunderland Plant

[HLWS135]

Lord Callanan: My Right Honourable friend the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (Kwasi Kwarteng) has today made the following statement:

I am delighted to announce that Nissan has confirmed a significant investment into their Sunderland plant and a partnership with their battery supplier, Envision AESC, and Sunderland City Council to create a North East electric vehicle manufacturing hub.

As Nissan's second global electric vehicle manufacturing hub, Sunderland will produce battery electric vehicles at scale from 2024 with projected volumes of 100,000 each year. The site will also be home to the UK's first large scale Gigafactory, with Envision AESC supplying batteries for Nissan's electric vehicles. This is a transformational investment not just for the North East of England but for the UK, as we move towards a fully electrified future and deliver our Net Zero ambitions.

Nissan has a long and successful history in the UK and Sunderland is one of the most productive plants in Europe. The North East of England is renowned for automotive manufacturing and this investment will deliver economic growth in the area and support the levelling up agenda as we build back greener from the pandemic. Nissan's commitment to Sunderland is testament to the strength of the British automotive sector and the quality and skill of our expert UK workforce. This investment will secure Nissan's presence in Sunderland and thousands of highly skilled jobs at the plant. Indeed, as Nissan themselves have recognised, our Trade and Cooperation Agreement with the European Union has brought the automotive industry, and our wider economy, the confidence and certainty needed to invest, employ, and plan ahead.

This North East EV Hub is an important first step in delivering our 10 Point Plan and manifesto commitment of securing our first large scale Gigafactory. In increasing their battery production, initially to supply Nissan, the Envision AESC Gigafactory will start to anchor the development of EV supply chains within the UK. This is vital as we start the mass UK manufacture of batteries needed for the next generation of electric vehicles.

The Government is also supporting Sunderland City Council to carry out infrastructure works on the adjacent International Advanced Manufacturing Park, to make space for the Gigafactory expansion and to start development of a local energy network supplying renewable energy.

The Government has played a crucial role in securing this major investment decision. Between us the Prime Minister, Lord Grimstone and I have engaged strongly with Nissan and their partners, Envision AESC and Sunderland City Council, to demonstrate our commitment to this opportunity. This investment will deliver the first EV to be manufactured at this scale in the UK and is a monumental step in the transition of the automotive industry to electrification.

This Government is committed to ensuring the UK continues to be one of the best locations in the world for automotive manufacturing, investing hundreds of millions to protect and create jobs, while securing a competitive future for the sector. The strong reputation of British

automotive manufacturing is evident with over 80% of the cars produced in the UK being exported overseas.

As part of the Prime Minister's 10-Point Plan, we have already announced £500 million to support the electrification of vehicles and their supply chains, and other strategically important technologies through the Automotive Transformation Fund, over the next four years. This is our approach to industrial policy in action: a strong and active government within a dynamic enterprise economy, working with industry to secure private investment and new jobs. We will continue to work with investors to secure the UK's position at the forefront of the global green industrial revolution.

The Faraday Battery Challenge, with a further £317m of Government support, is creating the research, innovation and commercialisation pathways and ecosystem that are establishing the UK as a battery science superpower, growing innovative companies and attracting large scale battery manufacturing to the UK. This includes our investment in the UK Battery Industrialisation Centre, a unique open access facility.

Today's announcement shows that Nissan and Envision share our commitment to an automotive sector fit for the future as we transition to electric vehicles. The government is determined to ensure that the UK continues to be a great place to do business and one of the most competitive locations in the world for automotive and other advanced manufacturing. Nissan's choice of the UK as their first location outside of Japan for such a major investment in electric vehicles underlines the strength of the UK to build such strategic partnerships and deliver our vision.

Publication of UK Government Green Financing Framework

[HLWS142]

Baroness Penn: My honourable friend the Economic Secretary to the Treasury (John Glen) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

In November 2020, my right honourable friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Rishi Sunak) announced plans for the UK to issue its inaugural Sovereign Green Bond (or 'Green Gilt'). Green Financing products like these are a form of Government borrowing to finance projects with clearly defined environmental benefits.

Since then, the Government has set out its intention to issue a series of Green Gilts to meet growing investor demand. Budget 2021 confirmed the following ambitious commitments, including that:

- the UK will conduct at least two Green Gilt issuances in 2021;
- Green Gilt issuances in the 2021-22 financial year will total a minimum of £15bn;
- the UK will also issue retail Green Savings Bonds via NS&I, the first standalone retail product tied to a Sovereign Green Bond; and

- in another first for comparable sovereign issuers, the UK will report on social co-benefits of expenditures financed by the Green Gilt and retail Green Savings Bonds, such as job creation, access to affordable infrastructure and socioeconomic advancement.

Green Financing will be a multi-year programme, and HM Treasury will announce future years' Green Financing targets as part of its usual approach to debt management.

In May 2021, the UK Debt Management Office (DMO) announced that the first Green Gilt will be issued in September 2021, subject to demand and market conditions.

NS&I today announced that Green Savings Bonds will go on sale later in the year, with full details available on the NS&I website.

Ahead of this, HM Treasury and the DMO yesterday published the *UK Government Green Financing Framework*. This document sets out the Government's ambitious climate and environmental agenda and its vision for enhancing the UK's leadership as the world's pre-eminent green financial centre. The Framework also details how the proceeds from the Green Gilt and retail Green Savings Bonds will finance expenditures to help tackle climate change, biodiversity loss, and other environmental challenges, while creating green jobs across the UK.

As part of this, the Framework lists the six types of green expenditures that will be financed across the UK by the Green Gilt and retail Green Savings Bonds:

- Clean Transportation.
- Renewable Energy.
- Energy Efficiency.
- Pollution Prevention and Control.
- Living and Natural Resources.
- Climate Change Adaptation.

The Framework also stipulates that funds raised from each offering must be allocated to government expenditures occurring no earlier than 12 months before and no later than two budget years after that offering. At least 50% of funds will be allocated to current and future expenditure rather than refinancing past expenditures, matching the strongest commitments of other major sovereigns.

Finally, this document commits the Government to annual allocation reporting and at least biennial reporting of metrics on environmental impacts and social co-benefits, ensuring transparency for retail and institutional investors and other interested parties.

Two independent reports assessing the Framework and the eligible government expenditure were published alongside the framework on 30 June 2021:

- in line with market best practice, V.E, part of Moody's ESG Solutions, has provided a Second Party Opinion on the sustainability credentials of the Government of the United Kingdom's Green Financing

Framework, which assesses the alignment of the Framework with the Green Bond Principles 2021 published by the International Capital Market Association. V.E expressed a 'robust' level of assurance on the contribution of the UK's Framework to sustainable development, which is the same positive assessment achieved by major sovereign issuers. V.E also assessed the UK's Environmental, Social and Governance performance as 'advanced', the highest level on V.E's four-point scale; and

- the Carbon Trust has produced a Pre-Issuance Impact Report on the UK Government Green Financing Programme, which reviews the Government's intended allocation of proceeds under the Framework and the proposed impact metrics. They found that the allocations 'align sensibly' with the Climate Change Committee's recommended climate targets for the UK (known as its 'Sixth Carbon Budget') and they are 'confident that the programme will contribute to achieving net zero by 2050'. This is the first report of its kind among sovereign issuers and provides additional evidence of the coherence of the Government's green financing programme with its wider environmental agenda.

Copies of the Framework, Second Party Opinion, and Pre-Issuance Impact Assessment have been placed in the Libraries of the House and are published on www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-government-green-financing. Further information can also be found on the DMO and NS&I websites.

Reducing Demand for Water

[HLWS136]

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

In 2019 the Government carried out a consultation on measures to reduce personal water consumption. Today I wish to announce measures that the Government will take following our consultation.

Context

The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan sets out our ambition for achieving clean and plentiful water. The Environment Agency's National Framework set out that an additional 25% of the current daily volume put into our public water supply will be needed in England by 2050 to meet future pressures on public supply[1].

Water demand reduction is essential to support the delivery of our commitment. Water companies need to reduce the leakage from their network infrastructure and we need to support households and businesses (including charities and the public sector) to use less water.

Leakage

Ofwat has set companies a performance commitment to reduce leakage by 16% by 2025 and water companies have gone further and committed to delivering a 50% reduction in leakage from 2017/18 levels by 2050, which

is predicted to save up to 1,400 mega litres of water per day[2]. The Government expects this to be met and has required water companies to plan on this basis.

Business water use

Businesses use 20% of the total water put into our public supply. Water companies and retailers have worked with the Government, regulators, the market operator and Waterwise to produce an action plan to sustainably reduce businesses' water use. This includes understanding how businesses use their water; greater collaboration in water resource planning; identifying and addressing regulatory and other relevant barriers to the delivery of business water efficiency; and supporting businesses to save water through information awareness.

Water meters

The Government will make no changes to existing rules around when people can be charged for their water use through water meters.

Water companies in seriously water stressed areas may implement wider water metering programmes where it is shown within their Water Resources Management Plans that there is customer support and it is cost effective to do so. Using the latest evidence, the Environment Agency has published its recommendation that additional areas in the South, East and the Midlands should be designated as in serious water stress.

Metering programmes must nevertheless be justified by water companies and achieve customer support. This strikes the right balance between the need to protect water supplies and importance of water companies reducing leakage before expanding the use of water meters. This protects unmetered family homes from unexpected large increases in bills.

Water efficient homes

Today I am announcing measures that the Government will take forward to support water efficiency in homes. We will:

- Ask water companies to develop a consistent approach to address leakage on customers' own pipes, as, over the last 10 years around 25% of total leakage has been from customer supply pipes;
- Make regulations to introduce a mandatory water efficiency label to inform consumers and encourage the purchase of more water efficient products for both domestic and business use. We will consider the potential to achieve energy savings, as well as further water savings, and explore how these can be achieved in a way that minimises the impact on consumers;
- Write to local authorities to encourage them to adopt the optional minimum building standard of 110 litres per person per day in all new builds where there is a clear local need, such as in water stressed areas; and
- In 2022 develop a roadmap towards greater water efficiency in new developments and retrofits, including the exploration of revised building regulations and how the development of new technologies can contribute to meeting these standards. We will ensure that the

underlying legislation can, where appropriate, accommodate any potential future expansion of rainwater harvesting, water re-use and storage options.

Conclusion

These measures, along with the actions of water companies, will support the delivery the ambitions set out in the National Framework to reduce personal water consumption to 110 litres per person per day by 2050, without affecting the quality of life and the enjoyment of water used by households.

Waterwise has agreed to chair a group of industry experts, reporting to me regularly, that will track delivery of these stretching commitments.

This work will support the measures set out in the Environment Bill to further help us secure long-term, resilient water and wastewater services, making sure that we have a cleaner, greener and more resilient country for the next generation.

[1]

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/873100/National_Framework_for_water_resources_summary.pdf.

[2] <https://nic.org.uk/app/uploads/NIC-Preparing-for-a-Drier-Future-26-April-2018.pdf>.

Revitalising High Streets and Town Centres

[HLWS139]

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:

As part of our on-going measures to improve the planning system, increase housing supply on brownfield land, stimulate investment in urban areas and sustain jobs, we have in recent years introduced new permitted development rights which allow the change of use to residential without the need for a full planning application. I am pleased that, through these measures, we have made a significant additional contribution to our housing supply by utilising already-developed brownfield land. We have also legislated to ensure new homes delivered via permitted development rights provide adequate daylight and meet national space standards. Our most recent reforms introduced a new right to allow change of use from the Commercial, Business and Service Use to residential. This will breathe new life into commercial areas and high streets by bringing vacant buildings back into use as new high street homes - all the more important as a result of the economic disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In very specific circumstances, local authorities can make Article 4 directions to suspend individual permitted development rights, when justified by robust evidence.

This Written Ministerial Statement sets out measures I am taking to ensure that our policy on Article 4 directions is used in a highly targeted way to protect the thriving core of historic high street areas, but does not

unnecessarily restrict the ability to deliver much needed housing through national permitted development rights. Our new policy will apply to all Article 4 directions.

We recently consulted on revised policy on Article 4 directions in our consultation on the *National Planning Policy Framework and National Model Design Code: consultation proposals*, which ran from 30 January to 27 March 2021. I have reviewed our national policy in the light of the helpful responses to that consultation.

As a result, I intend to make changes to the National Planning Policy Framework later this year, but ahead of that I wanted to announce our new policy, so that local authorities and communities can take it into account from today when they consider bringing in any new Article 4 directions.

The new paragraph 53 of the National Planning Policy Framework will read:

The use of Article 4 directions to remove national permitted development rights should:

- where they relate to change from non-residential use to residential use, be limited to situations where an Article 4 direction is necessary to avoid wholly unacceptable adverse impacts (this could include the loss of the essential core of a primary shopping area which would seriously undermine its vitality and viability, but would be very unlikely to extend to the whole of a town centre).
- in other cases, be limited to situations where an Article 4 direction is necessary to protect local amenity or the well-being of the area (this could include the use of Article 4 directions to require planning permission for the demolition of local facilities).
- in all cases, be based on robust evidence, and apply to the smallest geographical area possible.

Our aim is to support high streets and by ensuring a higher threshold for making Article 4 directions relating to change of use to residential we will maximise the potential for underused buildings to be converted to an alternative use. Councils should recognise the value to housing supply and increasing resident town centre footfall from supporting ‘flats above shops’; for example, councils can consider applying different policies to residential conversions above ground floor level. This is important to support mixed and flexible high streets, to deliver additional homes more easily, and to support jobs in the construction industry, while increasing demand for local high street services through new high street homes. This change only applies to changes from non-residential to residential use. This change does not apply to changes between different residential uses, which will enable local authorities to continue to restrict change of use from a family home to a house of multiple occupancy where that is necessary to protect local amenity or the well-being of an area.

Article 4 directions should be very carefully targeted, applying only to those locations where they are necessary to avoid wholly unacceptable adverse impacts. For that reason, I want to make clear that the geographical

coverage of all Article 4 directions should be the smallest area possible to achieve the aim of the Article 4 direction. In respect of historic high streets and town centres, this is likely to be the irreducible core of a primary shopping area. It is very unlikely to be applicable to a broad area, and is not expected to be applied to an entire local authority area. Local authorities will need to have robust evidence to justify the Article 4 direction and the area it covers.

In advance of the publication of the revised National Planning Policy Framework, I want local authorities to follow this new policy when they consider making new Article 4 directions so that they can assure themselves and their communities that the Article 4 direction is necessary and meets the higher threshold. Local authorities are required to notify me about new Article 4 directions. I will instruct my officials to look closely at all new Article 4 directions to check that they comply with the new policy, and I will consider exercising my power to intervene if they do not.

UK Steel Industry

[HLWS134]

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel: My Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for International Trade (Liz Truss MP) has today made the following statement:

The Government is announcing today that it will make new regulations to help defend the UK steel industry.

The move follows a review by the Trade Remedies Authority (TRA) last year on defensive tariff rate quotas (TRQs) on 19 categories of steel imports retained from when the UK was a member of the European Union.

This review concluded that TRQs should be extended in 10 of the categories and revoked in nine others.

Current legislation means that the Government only has two choices: either to accept the TRA recommendation in full or reject it entirely – leaving all 19 categories of UK steel products at risk from tariff-free imports.

The Government has accepted the TRA's recommendation to maintain the safeguard on ten steel product categories for a further three years. The

Government is at the same time making new regulations to further defend the UK steel industry by extending the safeguard by public notice. The public notice will set out the details of the temporary extension on a further five of the 19 steel products for one year. Imports outside the quotas will face a tariff of 25%.

The UK Government will always do everything in its power to defend UK industry and jobs and to allow our world-leading manufacturers to compete on a level playing field. Current disruption to industry caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, threats of dumping and unfair subsidies, and continued trade restrictions in third countries all put UK steel products at an unacceptable disadvantage.

The steel sector supports the jobs of over 80,000 people across the UK, including some 35,000 well-paid jobs in steel production, and a further 44,000 jobs supported in wider supply chains.

That is why the Government is taking decisive action today by making new regulations to defend jobs in the UK steel industry. This will give an opportunity for the industry to appeal the recommendation made by the TRA so any new evidence can be reviewed in the context of the unique global market conditions which currently prevail.

This includes assessing the risk of injury arising from the EU safeguard which was published after the TRA made their decision.

It is important to note that the ability of industry to gather the data and the TRA to consider the evidence was extremely challenging given the unprecedented disruption to trade caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The UK Government will also review the Trade Remedies framework as an urgent priority. The Trade Remedies framework was first introduced in 2018 under the previous Government. The current Government will review it to ensure it is up-to-date, champions WTO rules and is fit for purpose in the post-Covid world.

It is crucial we have the tools in the future to ensure industries are defended against unfair competition and unforeseen surges in imports.

Written Answers

Thursday, 1 July 2021

Access to Information Central Clearing House: Freedom of Information

Asked by **Lord Stunell**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Freedom of Information requests were considered by the Cabinet Office's Clearing House in each of the last ten years; and how many of these were (1) answered in full, (2) answered in part, and (3) refused, broken down by the statutory grounds for refusal. [HL1213]

Lord True: The Clearing House function does not have full time members of staff, and its work is done by a small team of people in the FOI team, including the Deputy Director of Freedom of Information and Transparency, alongside their other day to day responsibilities. There is no separate budget for the Clearing House.

The Cabinet Office does not routinely capture data on the number of requests which are referred to the Clearing House. However, in 2020, Clearing House gave advice on 516 aggregated 'round robins' (requests made to more than one department and that have repeat characteristics); a small proportion of over 30,000 requests received by government departments in the same time period.

The Cabinet Office has referred requests to the Clearing House where appropriate and in line with the published criteria, which is available on gov.uk here - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cabinet-office-and-freedom-of-information>.

Information on Freedom of Information statistics is also published on gov.uk here - <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-foi-statistics>.

Cryptocurrencies

Asked by **Lord Lee of Trafford**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the research by the Financial Conduct Authority Cryptoasset consumer research 2021, published on 17 June, which estimates that 2.3 million people in the UK own cryptocurrencies and that 14 per cent of those borrowed money to invest in cryptocurrencies. [HL1250]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The Government welcomes the FCA's recent consumer research, which offers insights into the growth of the cryptoasset market in the UK over the past year.

The Government is closely monitoring developments in the industry through the UK's Cryptoassets Taskforce. HM Treasury and UK authorities have taken a series of actions to mitigate risks to stability and market integrity and prevent the use of cryptoassets in illicit activity.

The Government launched a consultation on its regulatory approach to cryptoassets and stablecoins on 7 January. It also included a call for evidence on the use of Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) in financial markets. This set out the Government's position that new innovations in the sector could deliver substantial benefits, but also present new challenges and risks.

Last year, the Government issued a consultation on a proposal to bring certain cryptoassets, including Bitcoin, into the scope of financial promotions regulation. This would ensure that relevant cryptoasset promotions are held to the same high standards for fairness, clarity, and accuracy that pertain in the financial services industry. The Government will be publishing its response in due course.

To further protect consumers, the FCA has banned the sale of cryptoasset derivatives to retail consumers, and alongside the Bank of England has issued consumer warnings stating that consumers who invest in cryptoassets should be prepared to lose their money. Alongside this, the Government launched a new anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing regime for cryptoassets in 2020.

Department for International Trade: Mothers

Asked by **Lord Blencathra**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Department for International Trade, 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". [HL1157]

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel: The Department for International Trade is committed to ensuring HR policies and guidance are inclusive and regularly undertakes internal policy reviews to keep our policies up to date and compliant with statutory legislation and best practice.

The department is satisfied that its HR policies are consistent with this commitment and there are currently no plans to replace the word 'mother' with the phrase "parent who has given birth" to our HR policies. The department will continue to monitor any developments or changes in legislation.

Fisheries: Territorial Waters

Asked by **Lord West of Spithead**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many ships are used by (1) the Marine Management Organisation, and (2) Marine Scotland, to enforce fishery rules in United Kingdom waters, broken down by type of vessel. [HL1216]

Lord Benyon: Fisheries protection is a devolved matter. Nonetheless, Defra, the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Northern Ireland Executive continue to work together to share information and ensure

a coordinated approach to monitoring, compliance and enforcement across UK waters. In England, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has significantly increased its maritime surveillance assets dedicated to fisheries protection. This includes two offshore MMO patrol vessels for at-sea surveillance, supplemented by up to 15 vessels from the Royal Navy Overseas Patrol Squadron and Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities.

Iraq: Turkey

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had, or plan to have, with the government of Turkey on their unilateral military operations in the Dohuk province of Iraq and, in particular, whether they raised, or intend to raise, in any such discussions the reports of (1) the bombing of civilian areas in Metina, Zap and Avashin, and (2) the use of white phosphorus weapons. [\[HL1197\]](#)

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK has not made representations to Turkey following recent airstrikes in northern Iraq but we continue to follow the situation closely. We reiterate the importance of dialogue and cooperation between Iraq and Turkey to combat terrorism, ensure regional security, and protect civilians. We welcome recent discussions between Iraqi and Turkish Defence Ministers regarding Ankara's military operations against the PKK in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

Kickstart Scheme

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many young people (1) have been, and (2) are currently, on the Kick Start scheme, broken down by age. [\[HL1327\]](#)

Baroness Stedman-Scott: An initial assessment of a sample of the first 20,000 claimants who started a Kickstart job placement from the commencement of the scheme up to 6th May 2021 found the age range noted in the table below. The Department will be monitoring and evaluating the Kickstart scheme throughout its implementation, and will continue to evaluate the longer term outcomes for Kickstart participants after they have completed their six month job placements. This will include an examination of the demographic make-up of participants, including age.

<i>Age at Kickstart job placement start</i>	<i>% share of all starters</i>
<i>Under 18</i>	<i>less than 1%</i>
18	7%
19	12%
20	11%
21	14%
22	19%

<i>Under 18</i>	<i>less than 1%</i>
23	19%
24	16%
25	less than 1%

The above table shows a small number of claimants were over 25 when they began their Kickstart job. This is as a result of some participants applying when aged 24 but turning 25 by the time their role began. Although care is taken when processing and analysing Kickstart applications, referrals and starts, the data collected might be subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system which has been developed quickly. The management information presented here has not been subjected to the usual standard of quality assurance associated with official statistics, but is provided in the interests of transparency. Work is ongoing to improve the quality of information available for the programme.

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many employers are involved in the Kick Start scheme. [\[HL1328\]](#)

Baroness Stedman-Scott: As of 16th June 2021, The Department has approved Kickstart applications for over 6,000 employers. This includes employers who applied directly to the Kickstart Scheme and employers who applied via a gateway.

Although care is taken when processing and analysing Kickstart applications, referrals and starts, the data collected might be subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system, which has been developed quickly.

The management information presented here has not been subjected to the usual standard of quality assurance associated with official statistics, but is provided in the interests of transparency. Work is ongoing to improve the quality of information available for the programme.

Local Housing Allowance

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to ensure that the Local Housing Allowance is returned to the 30th percentile and brought into line with average rents in any given geographical area. [\[HL1257\]](#)

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The Secretary of State reviews the Local Housing Allowance rates annually.

Housing support for private renters was increased significantly in April 2020 and Local Housing Allowance rates have been maintained at the same cash level for 2021/22, ensuring that all claimants who benefitted from the increased levels of housing support will continue to do so.

Ministry of Justice: Mothers

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Ministry of Justice, 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". [[HL1153](#)]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: As laid out in *Hansard*, 8 March 2007, Col. 146ws, in 2007, the then Government resolved to shift to gender-neutral drafting of legislation to avoid stereotypes that only men could hold positions of authority.

Notwithstanding, Ministers believe it is entirely appropriate to continue to refer to sex in legislation where helpful for clarity or pertinent (for example, legislation relating to the health needs of women).

In that light, we have not, nor do we intend to, replace the word 'mother' with the phrase 'parent who has given birth' in Departmental paperwork, guidance, instructions, manuals or other documents.

Musicians: EU Countries

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Let the Music Move Campaign regarding the (1) restrictions, (2) costs, and (3) delays, for touring musicians arising from the settlement reached in the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement; and what assessment they have made of the statement by Sir Elton John on 10 June that the UK music industry could lose "a generation of talent" due to those restrictions. [[HL1433](#)]

Baroness Barran: The UK's creative industries are the finest in the world and this government is determined to support them, including young and emerging artists. UK performers and artists are of course still able to tour and perform in the EU, and vice versa. However, we understand the concerns about the new arrangements and we are working with the creative and cultural sectors to help them get to grips with the changes to systems and processes.

As the Secretary of State has said, we have moved at pace and with urgency, and have provided much greater clarity about the current position. This includes through the DCMS-led working group, whose membership includes the Featured Artists Coalition, the Music Managers Forum, LIVE, UK Music and other bodies organising the Let the Music Move Campaign. The group has discussed the issues faced by the sector, has worked to provide clarity regarding the practical steps that need to be taken by touring professionals when touring the EU, and has explored further steps as to how these sectors can be supported to work and tour in the EU with confidence.

Through bilateral engagement with EU Member States, we have established that at least 17 out of 27 Member

States, including France and Germany, allow some visa and permit free touring. We are now engaging with those Member States that do not have any visa or permit free touring to encourage them to adopt a more flexible approach in line with the UK's own rules, which allow creative professionals to tour easily here.

Patrol Craft

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to increase the size of the Royal Navy Overseas Patrol Squadron. [[HL1217](#)]

Baroness Goldie: The Royal Navy has no plans at present to expand the size of the Overseas Patrol Squadron once the fifth Batch 2 Offshore Patrol Vessel is declared in service later this summer.

Porton Down: Recruitment and Vacancies

Asked by Lord Lee of Trafford

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the reported staff shortages at the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory at Porton Down; what steps they are taking to recruit to the 300 more staff requested by the interim chief executive; and what percentage increase in staffing that figure would represent. [[HL1351](#)]

Baroness Goldie: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is investing £6.6 billion in research and development over the next four years, and this includes an additional £1.1 billion specifically for science and technology and pull through activities. It's part of the government's announcement 'to sustain strategic advantage through S&T' in the recent Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy.

Dstl is using a number of routes to attract diverse talent with apprenticeships, bespoke targeted advertising, schemes for mid-career returners to science, and a focused offer to graduates. Dstl will be seeking to attract niche skills and scarce talents through a network of 'Centres of Excellence', the first being in Newcastle.

Dstl's Full Time Equivalent number of people is 4,357. An additional 300 represents an increase of 6.9 per cent.

Poultry: Australia

Asked by Baroness Hayman of Ullock

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the use of unenriched hen cages in Australia, (2) how such cages comply with British standards, and (3) whether eggs and egg products from hens caged this way will qualify for zero import tariffs under the in-principle Free Trade Agreement agreed on 15 June. [[HL1196](#)]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The Government is committed to scrutiny of animal welfare considerations

in FTAs through a range of measures, including relative animal welfare standards. This includes standards and industry practices for Australian egg production. Conventional (“battery”) cages for laying hens have been banned in the UK since 2012.

The Free Trade Agreement will contain a commitment to an Animal Welfare Working Group to provide a forum for ongoing cooperation and initiatives in areas of mutual interest, to review animal welfare developments and to promote high animal welfare practices.

The UK tariff treatment for pigs, poultry and eggs from Australia is not yet determined.

Prisoners

Asked by Lord Bradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many prisoners with an Imprisonment for Public Protection sentence are waiting for a place on an offender behaviour programme, broken down by prison; and what is the average waiting time at each prison for a prisoner with an Imprisonment for Public Protection sentence to obtain a place on such a course. [HL1190]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: There are 161 prisoners with Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) sentences identified as currently waiting for an accredited offending behaviour or sexual offending programme. For the purposes of answering this question we have considered accredited offending behaviour programmes to be defined as both offending behaviour and sexual offending programmes. Substance misuse programmes are the responsibility of NHS commissioners and we do not hold this information.

This table below shows each prison with IPP prisoners waiting to commence an accredited general, violence, domestic violence, or sexual offending programme based on information gathered from an April 2021 snapshot of data returns from prisons which run accredited offending behaviour programmes. The information has been drawn from local records and, as with any large-scale reporting tool, may be subject to inaccuracies as well as subject to change.

The numbers presented reflect those who are fully assessed as suitable and identified as motivated and waiting for a place. The symbol ‘-’ denotes suppressed values of 5 or fewer to avoid the risk of identifying individuals.

<i>Prison</i>	<i>Offending Behaviour Programmes</i>	<i>Sexual Offending Programmes</i>
Ashfield		6
Belmarsh	—	
Birmingham	—	
Buckley Hall	—	
Bullingdon		—
Bure		—
Channings Wood	—	
Dartmoor	—	8
Dovegate	—	
Downview	—	
Elmley	—	
Erlestoke	—	
Forest Bank	—	
Frankland	—	—
Full Sutton	—	
Garth	—	—
Gartree	—	
Guys Marsh	—	
Highpoint	—	
Hindley	—	
Holme House	—	
Hull		—
IOW		—
Lancaster Farms	—	
Lewes	—	
Lindholme	12	
Littlehey	—	8
Long Lartin	—	
Lowdham Grange	—	
Manchester	—	
Moorland	—	
New Hall	—	
Northumberland	—	—
Oakwood	—	
Parc	—	
Risley	—	
Rye Hill	—	6
Stafford		—
Stocken	—	
Stoke Heath	—	
Swaleside	—	
Swinfen Hall	—	
The Mount	—	
Wakefield	—	—
Wayland	—	
Wealstun	—	
Whetton		7

<i>Prison</i>	<i>Offending Behaviour Programmes</i>	<i>Sexual Offending Programmes</i>
Whitemoor	—	
Woodhill	—	
Wymott	—	—
Grand Total	109	52

It has not been possible to provide the information requested in respect of average waiting time as it could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

The Government's primary responsibility is to protect the public. Accredited programmes aim to protect the public and reduce reoffending and are part of a range of rehabilitation and risk reduction opportunities available. In recent years, there has been a reinvestment from shorter, moderate intensity programmes in favour of longer, higher intensity programmes. HM Prison and Probation Service remains committed to supporting the progression of those serving IPP and life sentences in custody, so that the Parole Board may direct their release, or as the case may be, re-release, as soon as it is safe to do so.

Small Businesses: Debts

Asked by Lord Allen of Kensington

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the level of personal debt of (1) entrepreneurs, and (2) company directors of small businesses, who have not been eligible for assistance through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme; and what assessment they have made of the proportion of such debt which has been used to keep businesses afloat. [HL1221]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) has helped to pay the wages of people in 11.5 million jobs across the country, and the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) has paid out £24.5 billion in grants to 2.8 million self-employed individuals.

Both of these schemes were designed with two principles in mind. First, the need to target support at those who need it most. Second, the need to protect money against error, fraud and abuse, whilst reaching as many people as possible. The Government recognises that some of the eligibility criteria and conditions needed to ensure that the CJRS or SEISS work for the vast majority of people have meant that some may not qualify for them.

Those ineligible for the SEISS or CJRS may still be eligible for other elements of the unprecedented financial support available, such as tax deferrals and billions in loans and business grants.

The Government loan guarantee schemes (including the Bounce Back Loan Scheme (BBLs)) have provided unprecedented support to businesses, with over 1.5 million loans worth over £75bn. Under BBLs no repayments are due from the borrower for the first 12

months of the loan, giving businesses the breathing space they need during this difficult time. In addition, the Government covers the first 12 months of interest payments charged to the business by the lender.

To give businesses further support and flexibility in making their BBLs repayments, the Government has implemented the "Pay as You Grow" (PAYG) options. PAYG will give businesses the option to repay their BBLs facility over ten years. The Government has also made the full repayment holiday available to borrowers from the first repayment. Together, the 12-month payment holiday and interest-free period for borrowers, along with the PAYG options, provide a generous support package giving businesses the time to get back on their feet. Businesses concerned about repayment should contact their lender to discuss the options available to them.

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Asked by Lord Young of Cookham

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much money in benefits was disbursed by the Department for Work and Pensions through the appointee system in the last year for which figures are available. [HL1281]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: Information about the amount of benefit paid to appointees is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Trade Agreements: Australia

Asked by Lord Grantchester

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many non-disclosure agreements and personal confidentiality agreements have the Department for International Trade signed with stakeholders in relation to negotiations and the final text of the Australia-UK Free Trade Agreement. [HL1195]

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel: 502 stakeholders have signed confidentiality agreements with the Department for International Trade to facilitate detailed discussions about trade negotiations. As yet, there is no final UK-Australia Free Trade Agreement text to share with stakeholders.

Travel Restrictions: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reply by Baroness Vere of Norbiton on 15 June (HL Deb col 1767), what plans they have to compensate suppliers and customers, including in the air travel and holiday let sectors, who lost money because of changes to Covid-19 restrictions made at short notice which prevented delivery of the service without breaking the law. [HL1188]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Government recognises the challenging times the air transport and

tourism, leisure and hospitality sectors have faced due to Covid-19. The industries have drawn on an unprecedented package of economic measures which we have put in place. We estimate that by the end of September 2021, the air transport sector (airlines, airports and related services) will have benefitted from approximately £7bn of Government support since the start of the pandemic. Over

£25bn has been provided to the tourism, leisure and hospitality sectors, which includes holiday lets, in the form of grants, loans and tax breaks.

Consumers are legally entitled to a refund within a reasonable time when operators cancel.

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