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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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<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

Wednesday, 18 August 2021

Shootings in Plymouth

[HLWS247]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: My rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Priti Patel) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

In the wake of the tragic shootings in Plymouth on 12 August, my heartfelt condolences are with the family and friends of those who lost their lives - Maxine Davison, Lee and Sophie Martyn, Stephen Washington, and Kate Shepherd - as well as with those that were injured and the people who witnessed this truly terrible event.

The Home Office and the Ministry of Justice are working closely with Devon and Cornwall Police and with victims' services to ensure that those affected by this tragedy, including bereaved families, have all the support they need.

We must do all that we possibly can to avoid something like this happening again.

The UK has some of the strictest gun control legislation in the world and comparatively low levels of gun crime. Yet while tragedies like last Thursday's are rare, their impact is profound. We constantly assess what sensible and proportionate steps we can take to help prevent such terrible loss of life.

This is now the subject of an ongoing police investigation, and the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) is looking at actions taken by Devon and Cornwall Police in relation to issuing a firearms licence, so it would be inappropriate to comment further on these matters while that work is ongoing.

However, as a matter of urgency, I have asked every police force in England, Wales, and Scotland to review their current firearms licensing processes - in particular the processes that they follow for returning a certificate - and ensure they are appropriate as set against the current Home Office guidance and legislation. This current guidance asks Chief Officers to ensure high-risk decisions are approved at a sufficiently senior level. Such decisions include granting a certificate following a previous refusal

or revocation, including by another force; where there is evidence of violence, domestic abuse or medical unsuitability; or where concerns have been raised by someone known to the licence holder.

The Government keeps firearms licensing controls under constant review. The Home Office is bringing forward new statutory guidance to improve how people applying for a firearms licence are assessed in future. The new guidance draws on previous lessons learned and will ensure better consistency and improved standards across police firearms licensing departments. It will mean that that no one is given a firearms licence unless their doctor has confirmed to the police whether or not they have any relevant medical conditions, including an assessment of their mental health, and it will make explicit that firearms applicants may be subject to social media checks. The police will have a legal duty to consider the new statutory guidance when it is published. We plan to publish this new guidance in the coming weeks. We will keep the new statutory guidance under review, especially in light of this terrible incident, and we will update it as necessary in due course.

The police have not declared this to be a terrorist incident. Investigations into Davison's motives for committing these terrible attacks continue. Whether or not an incident is determined to be terrorism-related is a decision made independently of the Government by the police, based on the specific circumstances and what the police finds during the investigation.

The UK has one of the most robust counter-terrorism frameworks in the world. Our definition of terrorism includes an act or the threat of serious violence to advance an ideological, religious, racial, or political cause. The Terrorism Act 2000 definition is sufficiently broad to capture modern causes of terrorism, including "incel" violence. It is this definition that is applied when determining whether specific individuals are engaging in terrorism and if incidents should be classified as a terrorist attack.

This appalling event has shaken the whole country, and in particular the people of Plymouth. Our hearts go out to them. This is something which no community and nobody should have to endure. I would also like to thank those police officers and others who attended the scene for their incredible bravery.

Written Answers

Wednesday, 18 August 2021

Affordable Housing: Rural Areas

Asked by *The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to allow local planning authorities in rural communities to (1) set the threshold for affordable housing, and (2) decide the tenure for affordable housing. [HL2276]

Lord Greenhalgh: This Government believes that meeting the housing needs of rural communities is important. We're increasing the supply of affordable housing and investing over £12 billion in affordable housing over 5 years, the largest investment in affordable housing in a decade. This includes the new £11.5 billion Affordable Homes Programme, should economic conditions allow. Since April 2010, over 190,000 affordable homes have been provided in rural local authorities in England. And between April 2015 and March 2020, 11% of new build additional Affordable Homes have been delivered in villages with a population of fewer than 3000, and we recognise the importance of these settlements for both economic and housing growth. The Government has given councils a comprehensive range of tools to deliver a new generation of council housing and have a key role in the delivery of affordable housing:

- A package of reforms that give local authorities increased flexibility over how they can spend their Right to Buy receipts on replacement homes. This package will make it easier for authorities to fund homes using Right to Buy receipts including homes for social rent; allow authorities greater flexibility over the types of homes they provide to reflect the needs of their communities; give authorities more time to use receipts and to develop ambitious build programmes; and make sure more new build replacements are delivered instead of acquisitions, contributing to net supply.
- Government abolished the Housing Revenue Account borrowing cap in 2018, enabling local authorities to borrow for building.
- In terms of planning, national policy is clear that affordable housing contributions should not be sought for developments of fewer than 10 units. This is to ensure that a disproportionate burden of developer contributions is not placed on Small and Medium-sized builders. In designated rural areas policies may set out a lower threshold of five units or fewer.

Afghanistan: Emigration

Asked by *Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the likely scale of emigration from

Afghanistan over the next year given the advance of the Taliban in that country. [HL2016]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), in coordination with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), conducts assessments of the likely scale of migration and internal displacement due to the situation in Afghanistan. They are currently preparing revised estimates to reflect the deteriorating situation and we will continue to work with OCHA, UNHCR, IOM and other donors and neighbouring countries to respond.

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

Asked by *Lord Pearson of Rannoch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the safety of people in Afghanistan who are not Muslim; and what plans they have, if any, to offer such individuals asylum. [HL1911]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: British Embassy officials in Kabul regularly meet with representatives from religious minority groups to hear their concerns. We continue to stress that the human rights of all Afghans should be protected. We also continue to make public condemnations about targeted killings and violence against minorities, calling for transparent investigations. The UK is committed to defending freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) for all, and promoting respect between different religious and non-religious communities around the world. Only a negotiated and inclusive settlement will bring sustainable peace to Afghanistan. We continue to make clear to all sides that any political settlement must protect the progress made in the country, including protection for women and minority groups.

The UK has a proud record of providing protection for people who need it, in accordance with our obligations under the Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights. However, there is no provision within our Immigration Rules for someone to be allowed to travel to the UK to seek asylum or temporary refuge. Those who need international protection should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach - that is the fastest route to safety.

Aftercare Service

Asked by *Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the terms of reference for the Ulster Defence Regiment and Royal Irish Aftercare Service review; when the review is due to conclude; and which stakeholders have been consulted so far as part of the review. [HL2263]

Baroness Goldie: Under the 'New Decade New Approach' political agreement, the UK Government committed to initiate a review of the Ulster Defence Regiment and Royal Irish Aftercare Service in Northern

Ireland. The Terms of Reference for this review consider whether the remit of the Service should be widened to cover all HM Forces veterans living in Northern Ireland with Service-related injuries and conditions.

The review commenced in January 2021. Evidence-based options for Ministerial consideration on the future delivery of services to veterans living in Northern Ireland, based on service size, structure, and funding, will be brought forward in spring 2022.

This review continues to engage with stakeholders who have a role in supporting veterans living Northern Ireland. This includes: Veterans UK, the Ulster Defence Regiment and Royal Irish Aftercare Service, the Veterans Support Organisation (Northern Ireland), the Northern Ireland Veterans Commissioner, the Ministry of Defence, Office for Veterans Affairs, and the Northern Ireland Office. Further external engagement is being planned as the project evolves.

Agriculture: Environment Protection

Asked by Lord Carrington

To ask Her Majesty's Government why it is necessary to terminate the whole of an existing agri-environment scheme if a part of that scheme is included in an application for the new English Woodland Creation Grant Offer. [HL2198]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: We recognise that the absence of a widely available legal route to take land out of an existing Environmental Stewardship (ES) or Countryside Stewardship (CS) into a new England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO) agreement without significant/full reclaim of payments is a blocker for some woodland creation applicants. We are looking at how we may be able to transfer land in CS or ES agreement to EWCO, where this results in an environmental gain.

We are actively exploring options to find a way forward for existing agreement holders. In the meantime, the guidance in the EWCO manual remains valid. We will provide an update to potential applicants as soon as we have made tangible progress via our gov.uk pages and the Forestry Commission's e-alert. We remain committed to trebling our tree planting rates in England as part of our commitment to plant 30,000 hectares per year across the UK by the end of this Parliament.

Agriculture: Seasonal Workers

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to reports of vegetables rotting in fields throughout the UK due to a shortage of agricultural workers. [HL2019]

Lord Benyon: Defra is working closely with industry to help our world-leading farmers and food businesses access the labour they need, and to ensure that our sectors are appropriately supported both this year and in the future.

On 22 December 2020, the Government extended the Seasonal Workers Pilot into 2021, with up to 30,000 visas available, granted for workers to come to the UK, from EU or non-EU countries, for a period of up to 6 months to pick and package fruit and vegetables on our farms.

In 2021 and beyond, agricultural and food businesses will continue to be able to rely on EU nationals living in the UK with settled or pre-settled status. Over 5.1 million EU citizens and their families have been granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS). The application deadline was 30 June 2021 and where a person eligible under the EU Settlement Scheme has reasonable grounds for missing the deadline, they will be given a further opportunity to apply.

Defra is working with industry and the Department for Work and Pensions to raise awareness of career opportunities within the food and farming sectors among UK workers. We will also explore the potential for automation to meet future labour demands of the sector.

Defra is leading on a review of automation in horticulture, which will cover both the edible and ornamental sectors in England. The review will work alongside the newly extended and expanded Seasonal Workers Pilot - and Defra's efforts to attract more UK residents into agricultural work - to support the overall aim of reducing the sector's dependency on seasonal migrant labour.

Ajax Vehicles: Procurement

Asked by Lord Coaker

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to cancel the Ajax programme; and what alternatives to that programme they are considering. [HL2296]

Asked by Lord Coaker

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made as to how the vehicles already delivered by the Ajax programme will be used in the event that the programme is cancelled. [HL2300]

Asked by Lord Coaker

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on the Army's capabilities of cancelling the Ajax programme. [HL2301]

Baroness Goldie: I refer the Noble Lord to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister for Defence Procurement (Jeremy Quin) in the House of Commons on 19 July 2021 to Question 33142 to the right hon. Member for Rayleigh and Wickford (Mr Mark Francois).

The Answer includes the following attached material:

33142 - Ajax Vehicle Procurement [UIN 33142 - Ajax Vehicles Procurement.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-07-22/HL2296>

Asked by Lord Coaker

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of how much they would have to pay of the contract with General Dynamics if the Ajax programme is cancelled. [[HL2297](#)]

Asked by Lord Coaker

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the contract for the Ajax programme allows them to reclaim funding from General Dynamics in the event of the programme's cancellation; and if so, in what circumstances. [[HL2298](#)]

Asked by Lord Coaker

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish the contract with General Dynamics for the Ajax programme. [[HL2299](#)]

Baroness Goldie: The Terms and Conditions of the contract for the Ajax Programme with General Dynamics are commercially sensitive. I am therefore withholding this information as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests. Consequently, there are no plans to publish the contract.

Apprentices: Degrees

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to engage with professional and statutory regulatory bodies to determine how degree apprenticeship proposals are implemented. [[HL2279](#)]

Baroness Berridge: This is a matter for the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education. I have asked its Chief Executive, Jennifer Coupland, to write to the noble Lord and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses when it is available.

Armed Forces Bill

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what engagement they have had about the Armed Forces Bill with (1) the Northern Ireland Executive, and (2) individual Ministers within the Northern Ireland Executive; when this engagement took place; and what the outcome was of any such engagement. [[HL2267](#)]

Baroness Goldie: The Northern Ireland Executive and relevant Departments, along with representatives from the Scottish and Welsh Governments, were consulted during the development of the Armed Forces Bill, and the former Minister for Defence People and Veterans wrote to the Northern Ireland First Minister and Deputy First Minister on 17 March 2021 outlining the Government's proposals for the new Covenant duty. The Department is currently engaging with the Northern Ireland Executive on the development of the statutory guidance that will support the new Covenant Duty, including a focus group the week

of 19 July 2021, to ensure that the public bodies in scope have the information they need to better understand the impact of Service life on the Armed Forces Community.

Armed Forces: Northern Ireland

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to their agreement New Decade, New Approach, published on 8 January 2020, what funding related to the armed forces has been provided under that agreement; over what period each funding stream will be delivered; and what terms and conditions apply to each funding stream. [[HL2265](#)]

Viscount Younger of Leckie: This Government is committed to an ambitious programme of Armed Forces modernisation.

Under the New Decade, New Approach agreement, the Government is supporting our Armed Forces and veterans in Northern Ireland through a range of measures, including UK-wide legislation to further incorporate the Armed Forces Covenant into law and the appointment of the Veterans Commissioner to act as an independent point of contact for veterans in Northern Ireland.

Up to £200,000 has already been provided for veterans' support services from the New Decade, New Approach funding. Further details on funding allocations for veterans' services will be set out in due course.

Armenia: Azerbaijan

Asked by Baroness Cox

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports of an encroachment by the armed forces of Azerbaijan into the village of Yeraskh in Armenia on 19 July. [[HL2203](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK Government is aware of the ongoing tensions along the Armenia and Azerbaijan border. We continue to urge both sides to refrain from rhetoric or actions which may exacerbate the situation and to engage in urgent discussions to ensure a peaceful resolution to the current tensions.

Arts: Finance

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to agree an emergency compensation package with the creative sector. [[HL2079](#)]

Baroness Barran: The Government recognises the significant challenges that the pandemic has created for our creative industries and our support to the sector has been unwavering throughout.

We know the move to Step 4 will come as welcome news to our creative sectors but we also recognise that many organisations are still in need of emergency support. This is why we recently announced the final

£300 million of the Government's £2 billion Culture Recovery Fund (CRF) in late June. In particular, portals are currently open for the Emergency Resource Support element of this round, which will provide further support for organisations in need of urgent funding as the cultural, heritage and creative sectors move towards reopening at full capacity.

This extra support is on top of the £1.2 billion that has already been awarded to over 5,000 individual organisations and sites in previous rounds of the CRF. Throughout the pandemic, we have introduced an unprecedented package of pan-economy support including generous employment schemes, grants, loans, a reduction in VAT and business rate relief, in addition to other sector specific support such as the Film and TV Production Restart Scheme. Our Plan For Jobs has also supported jobs and businesses with over £400 billion of economic support – one of the most generous and comprehensive packages in the world.

Arts: Visas

*Asked by **The Earl of Clancarty***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Minister of State for Digital and Culture on 2 February (145005), with reference to the phrase "permanent short stay visa waiver for all current and future EU Member States", whether the term "permanent" was defined during the negotiations on the UK–EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement. [HL1877]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The EU's proposal on a visa waiver was set out in their draft agreement, published in March 2020. Article MOBI.4(1) contained commitments on the provision of reciprocal visa free travel for short stays:

"1. The Parties shall provide for reciprocal visa-free travel for citizens of the Union and citizens of the United Kingdom when travelling to the territory of the other party for short stays of a maximum duration as defined in the Parties' domestic legislation, which shall be at least 90 days in any 180-day period."

This text is available on the Commission website at:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/draft-text-agreement-new-partnership-united-kingdom_en.

The commitment applies to 'citizens of the Union' and is not qualified by a date of expiry.

Astronomy: Scientists

*Asked by **Lord Jones of Cheltenham***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many UK scientists are working on (1) the James Webb Space Telescope, and (2) the Extremely Large Telescope European project under construction in Chile. [HL2155]

Lord Callanan: The UK's role in James Webb Space Telescope, leading the Mid-Infrared Instrument known as MIRI, involved scientists, engineers, researchers and

technicians from 46 organisations across the UK – supported by approximately £20M investment from UK Space Agency and the Science and Technology Facilities Council. At its peak, the instrument's development programme was staffed by 25-30 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) per year. Approximately 360 UK scientists will be working with JWST scientific data following its launch in November 2021, through privilege access programmes for the first mission data, and guest observer programmes. When factoring in post docs and PhD students, who will support this research, this figure can be expected to effectively double.

We expect that when operational 200-400 UK researchers will seek time on the Extremely Large Telescope (ELT) to support their science programmes. During the current construction phase a large proportion of UK scientists are working under commercial contract and we do not have access to staffing within those. When it starts operating in late-2020s, UK scientists will be able to use ELT to study the earliest evolution of stars and galaxies and to characterise and image other planets, possibly like our own.

Asylum

*Asked by **Lord Jones of Cheltenham***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to reports that the United Nations regards their planned asylum overhaul as "almost neo-colonial". [HL2022]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The UK has a long history of supporting refugees in need of protection. Our resettlement schemes have provided safe and legal routes for tens of thousands of people to start new lives in the UK.

The UK is a global leader in resettlement and resettled more refugees from outside Europe than any EU member state every year between 2016 and 2019.

Overall, since 2015, we have resettled more than 25,000 refugees through safe and legal routes direct from regions of conflict and instability - around half of whom were children.

The UK continues to welcome refugees through the global UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), as well as through the Community Sponsorship and Mandate Resettlement Schemes. This commitment, alongside a fair and firm asylum system, will ensure we continue to offer safe and legal routes to the UK for vulnerable refugees in need of protection. Our focus will remain on helping people directly from regions of conflict and instability.

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to increase the number of safe routes into the country for those seeking asylum. [HL2103]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Since 2015 we have resettled more than 25,000 refugees through safe and legal resettlement routes direct from regions of conflict

and instability - around half of whom were children. In addition to this our current family reunion policy has welcomed over 29,000 individuals to the UK in the last 5 years. The UK continues to welcome people through the global UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), as well as through the Community Sponsorship and Mandate Resettlement Schemes and our refugee family reunion policy. This commitment, alongside a fair but firm asylum system, will ensure we continue to offer safe and legal routes to the UK for refugees in need of protection.

The New Plan for Immigration will strengthen safe and legal protection routes to the UK by ensuring our resettlement schemes are accessible and fair, resettling refugees from countries where the need is greatest, increasing the integration support of those we welcome, increasing opportunities for community participation in resettlement, supporting access to work visas for highly skilled displaced people and providing more flexibility to help people in truly exceptional and compelling circumstances.

Asylum: Children and Families

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to preserve the right of familial reunification for asylum seekers regardless of the route of entry into the UK as part of the New Plan for Immigration, published on 24 March. [HL2102]

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the New Plan for Immigration, published on 24 March, what assessment they have made of the risk of unaccompanied minors travelling to the UK via unauthorised routes for the purposes of reunification with relatives who previously entered through unauthorised routes. [HL2104]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: We have a proud history of providing protection to those who need it, in-line with our international obligations. But we have been clear that individuals in need of protection should avoid making dangerous journeys and claim asylum in the first safe country they reach – that is the fastest route to safety. The Nationality and Borders Bill will set up a range of measures to deter people from undertaking dangerous journeys via unauthorised routes.

As set out in the New Plan for Immigration, we are committed to review the refugee family reunion rules. Refugee family reunion will only be permitted where refusing would be a breach of our international obligations. In practice, this means refugees will be able to sponsor their spouse or partner and under-18 children if they can show there are insurmountable obstacles to their relationship continuing anywhere other than the UK and it is in the child's best interests.

Asylum: EU Action

*Asked by **Lord Hylton***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the establishment of a European Union Agency for Asylum. [HL2013]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: We note the provisional agreement between the Portuguese Presidency of the EU Council and the European Parliament on a Regulation to create an EU asylum agency.

We will monitor further developments in relation to implementation of this legislation.

Asylum: Iraq and Syria

*Asked by **Lord Alton of Liverpool***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the possibility of enabling people from endangered (1) ethnic, and (2) religious, communities in (a) Iraq, and (b) Syria, to be considered for resettlement in the UK; and how many people in each of these categories have been resettled to the UK in each year since 2014. [HL1988]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Refugee resettlement to the UK is based on need, as assessed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) who adhere to humanitarian principles including impartiality, rather than any specific ethnicity or religion.

Refugee resettlement statistics are published through official statistics at quarterly intervals. These statistics can be broken down by nationality. We do not publish data on ethnicity or religious affiliation. The next set of statistics will be published in August and will include the number of people resettled up to end of June 2021. These are available from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>.

As set out in the New Plan for Immigration, the UK will continue to work with the UNHCR to ensure our resettlement schemes are accessible and fair, resettling refugees from countries where the need is greatest, and ensuring those in need of resettlement can access it.

Audit: Standards

*Asked by **Lord Mendelsohn***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what reporting obligations and responsibilities are placed on external auditors by section 113(7) of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 in the event of a reporting failure. [HL2089]

*Asked by **Lord Mendelsohn***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effectiveness of section 113(7) of the Public Contract Regulations 2015; and what plans

they have, if any, to amend that legislation to tackle issues relating to reporting and non-compliance. [HL2090]

Lord True: Section 113(7) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 requires contracting authorities to publish their performance against the 30 day obligation to pay their suppliers within 30 days, together with details of interest payable/paid where they fail to do so. It does not place any obligations or responsibilities upon external auditors in the event of a reporting failure.

The Cabinet Office has included proposals in its Green Paper on Procurement Rules Reform to strengthen the reporting requirements of Section 113(7).

The proposals include legislating to align public and private sector reporting requirements and publishing public sector payment performance in a single location which will allow greater scrutiny and challenge of public sector payment performance.

The outcome of the consultation will be published in due course.

Azerbaijan

Asked by Baroness Cox

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of recent statements by the President of Azerbaijan that parts of Armenia's sovereign territory, including the capital Yerevan, belong to Azerbaijan. [HL2204]

Asked by Baroness Cox

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the recent statement by the President of Azerbaijan that "There is no Nagorno-Karabakh, there is Karabakh", and of whether this violates the rights to self-determination contained in the November Ceasefire Agreement and the OSCE Minsk Group Protocols. [HL2205]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are aware of the recent statements by the President of Azerbaijan. The Minister for the European Neighbourhood spoke to Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Bayramov on 14 June where she reinforced continued UK support for the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs to secure a peaceful, fully negotiated and sustainable settlement to the conflict in line with the Minsk Group Principles. Our Embassies in Baku and Yerevan have also reinforced this ongoing support to those Principles with the relevant authorities and have encouraged both parties to engage with the Co-Chairs' renewed efforts.

Batley Grammar School: Harassment

Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether (1) they, or (2) the police, are paying for the protection of the Batley Grammar School teacher who has received threats on his life; if so, what is the cost of that

protection; and if not, what steps they are taking to ensure his safety. [HL1971]

Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the threats to the Batley Grammar School teacher; and what steps they are taking to support the police to pursue those making such threats. [HL1972]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: It would not be appropriate to provide information or details in relation to a specific case.

Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment have they made as to when the Batley Grammar School teacher who has been receiving threats to his life will be able to return to normal (1) teaching duties, and (2) family life. [HL1973]

Baroness Berridge: The department has continued to work closely with Batley Multi Academy Trust, the local authority and the Police to ensure that the trust is fully supported in implementing any necessary safety measures for the individual staff member.

The department does not hold specific information on individual staff members, as this is deemed personal information and is exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Belarus: Human Rights

Asked by Lord Wharton of Yarm

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the arrest of activists and staff from the human rights organisation Viasna on 14 July in Minsk, Belarus; and what representations they plan to make to the government of Belarus about the release of those detained. [HL2108]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: As the Foreign Secretary made clear in his public statement on 14 July, this latest assault against human rights organisations and independent media by Lukashenko's regime is a further attempt to crush freedom and stifle debate in Belarus. The Government has called for those detained to be released immediately, along with the hundreds of other people detained on political grounds. The Government has raised our concerns directly to the Belarusian authorities, most recently in the Permanent Council of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna on 15 July. The UK stands with the people of Belarus and we will continue to work with our partners to hold those responsible for these human rights abuses to account.

BGI

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports (1) that UK clinics are selling

BGI Group's tests for genetic conditions such as Down's syndrome, and (2) that BGI Group is (a) using these tests to harvest the genetic data of millions of women and their unborn children, and (b) storing this data on a gene database funded by the government of China; and what plans they have to ban BGI Group in the UK. [HL2139]

Lord Bethell: There has been no specific assessment of BGI Group's tests. Public Health England and NHS England have confirmed they do not use BGI technology in their genomic screening services.

On the information provided, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) would anticipate that this type of device would be classified as a List B In-Vitro Diagnostic, which requires the oversight of a conformity assessment body before being placed on the United Kingdom market. The device must comply with the Medical Devices Regulations 2002 No.618. The MHRA understand BGI genetic screening tests are currently available for sale in the UK. These devices do not appear to have been registered with the MHRA at this time, however, due to their risk classification, registration will be required from 1 September 2021 in order to continue placing the products on the market.

Access to health data is controlled by the Data Protection Act 2018 (which incorporates GDPR in UK domestic law) and the common law duty of confidentiality and we have no plans to change these. The Government is clear that health and care data should only ever be used and/or shared where used lawfully, treated with respect, held securely and where the right safeguards are in place. The UK's high standards of data protection will be maintained and enforced.

As outlined in the Genome UK strategy, all our genomic data systems will continue to apply consistent high standards around data security and our intention is that the UK model will be recognised as being the gold standard for how to apply strong and consistent ethical and regulatory standards that support rapid healthcare innovation, adhere to legal frameworks, and maintain public and professional trust.

There are no grounds to prevent BGI Groups operating in the UK provided they comply with UK legislation and regulatory requirements.

Blood Cancer: Immunotherapy

Asked by Lord Forsyth of Drumlean

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to provide doses of monoclonal antibodies to people with blood cancer who have had the COVID-19 vaccine. [HL2119]

Lord Bethell: Immunocompromised patients are a priority cohort for research into therapeutic and prophylaxis treatments such as monoclonal antibody therapies, novel antivirals, and repurposed compounds. Monoclonal antibody treatments could potentially play a complementary role alongside the current vaccines

programme in providing protection for those patients who may receive lower protection from vaccination compared to the general population.

The Therapeutics Taskforce and the cross-agency United Kingdom-wide group RAPID C-19 are monitoring clinical trials of monoclonal antibody treatments. The National Health Service is preparing to deploy antibody treatments as soon as they become available. It is not yet possible to determine the exact patients who may be able to benefit from new treatments, as this will depend on results from clinical trials, licensing approvals from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and clinical policies set by NHS England and expert clinicians.

Bone Diseases: Health Services

Asked by Baroness Merron

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure adequate succession planning within the NHS for (1) osteoporosis, and (2) bone health specialists. [HL2230]

Lord Bethell: Individual National Health Service trusts are responsible for ensuring staffing arrangements are in place which deliver safe and effective care, including succession planning.

Osteoporosis and other bone health conditions are treated by a range of healthcare professionals, such as general practitioners (GPs), endocrinologists, rheumatologists and orthopaedic surgeons. Since 2010, the number of endocrinologists has increased by over 58%, rheumatologists by over 29% and trauma and orthopaedic surgeons by over 24%. We also have over 900 more full-time equivalent GPs March 2021, compared to March 2020. We continue to monitor the NHS's workforce requirements and ensure that the NHS has the staff that it needs, including for the treatment of osteoporosis and bone health.

British Council: Finance

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the British Council regarding the decision to reduce funding to that organisation; what assessment they have made of the impact of the closures of British Council offices that have resulted from the funding cuts; and what assessment they have made of the compatibility of their decision with their Global Britain policy. [HL2217]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The government remains committed to the British Council. As the Integrated Review made clear, the Council is one of the vital instruments of our influence overseas. We agreed a 2021/22 Spending Review settlement totalling £189m, a 27% increase on funding for 2020/21. The Council will continue to operate in over 100 countries promoting the English language, UK arts and culture, and education.

Our commitment to Global Britain is clear through our hosting of the G7 last month, and the UK continues to be a soft power superpower.

British Nationality: Hong Kong

Asked by Lord Crisp

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to grant British citizenship to British-Hong Kong Servicemen and their families. [[HL1949](#)]

Asked by Lord Crisp

To ask Her Majesty's Government when a decision will be made about granting British-Hong Kong Servicemen and families British citizenship. [[HL1950](#)]

Asked by Lord Crisp

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the reason for delaying the decision about granting British-Hong Kong Servicemen and families British citizenship. [[HL1951](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The government remains extremely grateful to those who served in the Hong Kong Military Service Corps.

Under the British Nationality Selection Scheme, introduced in 1990 and run until 1 July 1997, a limited number of Hong Kong Military Service Corps personnel who were settled in Hong Kong could apply to register as British citizens.

We give careful consideration to representations made on behalf of those former Hong Kong Military Service Corps personnel.

Hong Kong Military Service Corps personnel who hold British National (Overseas) status, or are an immediate family member of someone who holds this status, may be eligible for the Hong Kong British National (Overseas) route which was launched on 31 January 2021.

Buildings: Fire Prevention

Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans

To ask Her Majesty's Government what considerations they have given to replicating the Pool Re insurance model to help resolve the insurance premium increases faced by leaseholders in developments with building and fire safety defects. [[HL1919](#)]

Lord Greenhalgh: The Government is aware that some leaseholders are facing high buildings insurance premiums as a result of fire safety issues. We are continuing to closely monitor the market and are working with the insurance industry to encourage market-led solutions.

With regard to Pool Re, we would not typically recommend drawing parallels with existing Government-backed insurance schemes given the specific design of

any intervention is dependent on the size, frequency and nature of the risk being insured.

Cameroon: Armed Conflict

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent assessment they have made of (1) the food security situation in North-West and South-West Cameroon, and (2) the impact of the security situation in Cameroon on regional stability; and what discussions they have had with (a) the Commonwealth Secretary-General, (b) the Secretary General of La Francophonie, and (c) the Chairperson of the African Union, about bringing an end to the conflicts in Cameroon. [[HL2137](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK Government remains deeply concerned about the situation in the North-West and South-West regions of Cameroon, which has left 1.15 million people suffering from food insecurity. We regularly discuss the crisis within multilateral fora and with international partners, and welcome efforts from the African Union, the Commonwealth and La Francophonie to support a peaceful resolution.

Cameroon: Humanitarian Aid

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure safe and unimpeded humanitarian access in North-West and South-West Cameroon. [[HL2138](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: During the Minister for Africa's visit to Cameroon in March, he met project partners to witness the impact of UK aid and called for unimpeded humanitarian access to those in need. The UK's representative reiterated these calls at the UN Security Council briefing on the UN Regional Office for Central Africa in June, and the British High Commission in Yaoundé continues to advocate for access alongside the diplomatic community and the UN.

Cancer: Medical Treatments

Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent progress they have made in ensuring equality in cancer treatment across England. [[HL929](#)]

Lord Bethell: Reducing unwarranted variation in cancer treatment and outcomes is a strategic priority for the National Health Service Cancer Programme. To support cancer services and target local and national actions for improvement, monthly equality data showing first treatment rates by ethnicity, deprivation, sex and age is directly informing the restoration and recovery of cancer services. This includes targeted messaging in the national 'Help us help you' campaign to support people coming forward with symptoms indicative of cancer to

their general practitioner. In May 2021, urgent general practitioner referrals were 14% higher than in May 2019.

NHS England and NHS Improvement have put in place single national commissioning arrangements for a number of cancer treatments to mitigate the risk of unwarranted variation in terms of access and clinical outcomes. Audits are currently being carried out for lung, bowel, prostate and oesophageal cancers and for breast cancer in older people to drive improvements in care and ensure equity. Five new clinical audits will be commissioned for ovarian, pancreatic, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, kidney and metastatic breast cancer to ensure that care is being provided in line with standards and reduce variations.

Carbon Capture and Storage: Planning Permission

Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Greenhalgh on 16 July (HL1706), whether the Environment Agency takes any legal account of CO2 emissions when issuing permits; and whether any local authority has "supported the transition to a low carbon future" by requiring carbon capture technology as part of planning permission. [HL2271]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: On the UK's exit from the European Union all relevant EU environmental legislation became part of UK law. This includes the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) which prescribes much of the permitting requirements the Environment Agency delivers through permits issued to installations in England, under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 (EPR).

The UK no longer participates in the EU Greenhouse Gas Trading System (EU ETS) Directive and has established its own emissions trading scheme. The same framework applies, and the ETS explicitly and directly seeks to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. The Environment Agency is the regulator in England for the ETS and for other climate change regulatory frameworks which may also apply to certain activities, whether they require permits or not. These include Climate Change Agreements and the Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme.

Where an installation's emissions of greenhouse gases are subject to the ETS (which, given the larger scale of IED activities, is likely), the IED prohibits the Environment Agency from setting emission limit values in the environmental permit under EPR. Instead, emissions of greenhouse gases are regulated via the ETS which requires operators to obtain separate ETS permits, to monitor and report all their greenhouse gas emissions and to surrender allowances for every tonne of carbon dioxide, or equivalent, emitted (one allowance is equivalent to one tonne of carbon dioxide).

The Environment Agency seeks to limit direct and indirect emissions of carbon dioxide and many other greenhouse gases via its EPR permitting approaches for

all relevant activities, whether subject to IED or not. Examples include requirements on energy efficiency and resource efficiency (including water, energy and waste) by requiring applicants of such activities to scale and assess the impact of their emissions on global warming (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/assess-the-impact-of-air-emissions-on-global-warming> and attached to this answer), with the intent of reducing their emissions by selecting the best available techniques and processes to control their emissions.

The National Planning Policy Framework is clear that the planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future, including by supporting renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure. Local Planning Authorities should consider this when considering whether to grant planning permission. Where relevant, this can include considering the appropriateness of carbon capture technologies.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Assess impact of air emissions on global warming [Assess the impact of air emissions on global warming - GOV.UK.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-07-21/HL2271>

Care Homes: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many additional cases of COVID-19 have been reported in those care homes approved by Care Quality Commission as 'designated settings' for receiving patients discharged from hospital with COVID-19 in England since the scheme was fully implemented. [HL2074]

Lord Bethell: The Department does not hold the data requested.

Cauliflowers

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to ensure the supply of fresh UK grown cauliflowers in shops. [HL2020]

Lord Benyon: Cauliflower is an important field vegetable for the UK, worth £57m at farmgate in 2019[1]. Defra is taking a number of steps to ensure our delicious home-grown cauliflowers are supplied to shops in both the short- and longer-term.

On 22 December 2020, the Government extended the Seasonal Workers Pilot into 2021, with up to 30,000 visas available, granted for workers to come to the UK, from EU or non-EU countries, for a period of up to six months to pick and package fruit and vegetables on our farms.

In 2021 and beyond, agricultural and food businesses will continue to be able to rely on EU nationals living in the UK with settled or pre-settled status. Over 5.1 million

EU citizens and their families have been granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS).

Defra is working with industry and the Department for Work and Pensions to raise awareness of career opportunities within the food and farming sectors among UK workers.

We will also explore the potential for automation to meet future labour demands of the sector. Defra is leading on a review of automation in horticulture, which will cover both the edible and ornamental sectors in England. The review will support the overall aim of reducing the sector's dependency on seasonal migrant labour.

Defra is aware of the impact haulier shortages could have on the supply chains, including for horticulture products like cauliflower. We are working closely with the sector to understand these impacts. Overall, the UK's food supply is highly resilient. The food industry is well versed in dealing with scenarios that can impact food supply.

[1] Provisional statistic [Latest horticulture statistics](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/latest-horticulture-statistics) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

Children in Care: Restraint Techniques

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Baroness Berridge on 13th July (HL1530, HL1531 and HL1532), why they do not collect data on the use of handcuffs on looked after children; whether the regulations cited apply to those transporting looked after children from one location to another; what specific steps are taken during Ofsted inspections to assess compliance with the regulations both (1) in children's homes, and (2) in transport between locations; and whether they intend to review the policy and its practical implementation in these areas. [HL2214]

Baroness Berridge: Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and accompanying statutory guidance, 'Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations including the quality standards', include provisions around behaviour and restraint. Responsibility for the welfare of children while transported, including from one location to another, from a secure children's home is noted in the protection of children quality standard, Regulation 12. The registered person and local authority overall have a responsibility to ensure that children are kept safe, and their welfare promoted.

All incidents of restraint when a young person is cared for by a children's home must be recorded and made available to Ofsted during an inspection. If transportation is arranged by the local authority who has responsibility for the child, then the care of the child would fall to them. Where local authorities have contract arrangements with transport services, restraint should only be used in very limited circumstances, in accordance with government guidance on the use of restraint, and must always be necessary and proportionate.

During all inspections of children's homes, inspectors assess all incidents of restraint. Where a provider has restrained a child in a way that does not comply with the regulations, Ofsted will take action. This can include suspension of a service if they believe that children are at risk due to the inappropriate use of restraint or restrictive practices.

Data is not collected by the Department for Education on the use of restraint. This is collected by Ofsted.

Children: Remote Education

Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of children educated at home in each of the last two years. [HL2258]

Baroness Berridge: The department does not collect data on children who are home educated, however we are aware of the rising numbers of home-educated children.

The department supports the right of parents to educate their children at home. Most parents do this with the intention of providing their child with the best education possible, and sometimes during challenging circumstances.

However, the rising numbers of home educated children cannot be overlooked. For some parents, the child's education is not the primary reason behind the decision to home educate, which can mean that some children are not being provided with a suitable education.

The government remains committed to a form of registration system for children not in school. Further details on this will be in the government response to the Children Not in School Consultation, which we will publish in the coming months.

China

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the reasons for the US Commerce Department's decision to add BGI Group to an economic blacklist of Chinese companies implicated in human rights violations regarding China's treatment of Uyghurs in the Xinjiang region. [HL2140]

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the (1) Chinese companies which have been banned from operating in the United States but have not been banned in the UK, and (2) reasons why those companies have been banned in the United States. [HL2191]

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel: HM Government has repeatedly condemned the violation of rights and responsibilities in Xinjiang. On 22nd June, a British diplomatic effort helped deliver the support of over 40 countries for a statement on the treatment of Uyghur

Muslims in Xinjiang at the UN Human Rights Council, calling on China to grant unfettered access to the region for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The US is a close partner, but we are an independent nation, with our own decision-making on what constitutes a security threat. The United Kingdom has no equivalent of the US Entity List.

As the passage of the National Security and Investment Act shows, we are strengthening our domestic toolbox in certain sectors. This Act will mandate notification of certain types of transaction to provide a proportionate defence against hostile actors targeting certain sectors. No single country or company is designated as 'high risk'; transactions are dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

In addition, large businesses operating in the United Kingdom are required to report on how they are tackling forced labour in their operations and supply chains under the Modern Slavery Act.

China: Human Rights

Asked by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking in the United Nations to highlight human rights abuses in China. [HL2194]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK Government has led international efforts to hold China to account for its human rights violations in Xinjiang. On 22 June, a global UK diplomatic effort helped deliver the support of 44 countries for a statement on Xinjiang, Hong Kong and Tibet at the UN Human Rights Council. This followed a statement by 39 countries at the UN General Assembly Third Committee in October 2020. The UK led the first two statements on Xinjiang at the UN, in 2019 and 2020 respectively, and the FCDO has utilised its diplomatic network to raise the issue up the international agenda. The Foreign Secretary urged China to grant urgent and unfettered access to Xinjiang for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights or another independent fact-finding expert in a personal address to the UN Human Rights Council on 22 February. We will continue to work closely with our partners and take every opportunity to hold China to account for its human rights violations at the UN.

Common Frameworks

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Common Frameworks scrutiny process; and what is the expected date for completion of the (1) examination, and (2) final publication, of all Frameworks. [HL1917]

Lord True: Parliamentary scrutiny is a key stage in the delivery of a Common Framework; Government officials remain in regular contact with relevant Parliamentary committees about this matter. The Government anticipates that frameworks will be made available for

Parliamentary scrutiny in the Autumn and that the Devolved Administrations will follow a broadly similar timetable. The Government and the Devolved Administrations are committed to delivering Common Frameworks by the end of 2021. Following this, Common Frameworks will be kept under periodic review.

Common Frameworks: Northern Ireland

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in relation to the Common Frameworks programme, what plans they have to support measures on reporting policy divergence between Great Britain and Northern Ireland through the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland. [HL1915]

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have for further discussions with the Northern Ireland Executive regarding the need to complete their scrutiny of the outstanding Common Frameworks. [HL1916]

Lord Frost: The majority of Common Frameworks intersect with the policy areas covered in Northern Ireland Protocol. Common Frameworks contain the governance structures needed to manage divergence arising as a consequence of new or amended EU law applied through the Protocol. Reporting on any divergence arising from the Protocol will be a matter for the relevant Common Framework-owning departments and their Devolved Administration counterparts to consider.

The Northern Ireland Executive has provided provisional confirmation for 21 Common Frameworks. Of the remaining 32 active areas in which a Common Framework is required, 28 Common Frameworks have now been provisionally confirmed and one has been fully implemented. Once sufficiently progressed, the Northern Ireland Executive will be sharing their Frameworks with the Northern Ireland Assembly to allow for Parliamentary Scrutiny in the same way colleagues across the UK Government will be sharing the provisionally confirmed Frameworks with the UK Parliament.

Common Travel Area

Asked by Lord Kilclooney

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there is a Common Travel Area between the Republic of Ireland and the UK; whether there is freedom of movement between the Republic of Ireland and the EU; whether there are border checks on EU citizens travelling from the Republic of Ireland to Great Britain; and whether there are border checks on the movement of EU citizens, not from the Republic of Ireland, travelling through Northern Ireland to the rest of the UK. [HL2124]

Lord Greenhalgh: The Common Travel Area (CTA) facilitates the free movement of people between the

between the UK, Ireland and the Crown Dependencies (Isle of Man, Guernsey and Jersey).

As part of the CTA arrangements, the UK does not operate routine immigration controls on journeys from Ireland to the UK, including from Ireland to Great Britain. There are no immigration checks whatsoever on the Northern Ireland-Ireland land border. However, individuals arriving in the UK, regardless of where they enter from, must do so in line with the UK's immigration framework and we work closely with the Irish Government to prevent abuse of the CTA.

There are no border controls for travel within the UK including from Northern Ireland to Great Britain.

Whether there is freedom of movement between Ireland and the EU is a matter for the Irish government.

Compost: Plastics

*Asked by **Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of how their plans for post-Brexit standards for compostability and microplastics compare to (1) European Union (EN 13432), (2) Australian (AS 5810), and (3) French (NFT 51-800), standards. [[HL1899](#)]

*Asked by **Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to ensure items labelled as home compostable do not contain microplastics. [[HL1900](#)]

*Asked by **Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the need for a UK (1) certification process, (2) verification process, and (3) labelling standards, for plastics labelled as home compostable, now that the UK has left the EU. [[HL1901](#)]

*Asked by **Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to introduce new standards for home compostable plastics before their 2030 deadline of the roll-out of separate household food waste collection. [[HL1902](#)]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan sets out our ambition to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste. The Resource and Waste Strategy published in December 2018 focuses on increasing the reuse and recycling of plastics, in line with our ambition to transition to a circular economy in order to tackle plastic pollution.

The Government recognises that innovation into compostable plastics could help reduce the environmental impacts of plastic pollution. However, concerns persist that plastics which are claimed to be biobased, biodegradable, or compostable, if littered or otherwise released into the environment in an uncontrolled way,

may not degrade quickly or even at all, and they can only be composted if they meet relevant standards.

The Government published a call for evidence in 2019 to help consider the development of product standards or certification criteria for bio-based, biodegradable, and compostable plastics as well as to better understand their effects on the environment and our current waste system. Strong concerns were raised through the responses regarding the extent to which plastics marketed as biodegradable and compostable actually biodegrade in the open environment, and whether the use of such plastics could even encourage littering if citizens consider them to be in some way environmentally-friendly. Responses also highlighted the need to better understand the environmental impacts and any health implications from using compost containing partially-composted plastics, and we welcome further research on this.

The Government's response to the call for evidence was published on 8 April 2021 which is in the enclosed document.

The British Standards Institute (BSI) are appointed by Government as the national standards body (NSB) in the UK. As such they are responsible for the development of standards in the UK and the subsequent certification and verification of products.

The European Union's EN 13432 standard has been adopted in the UK by the BSI as BS EN 13432. We have not made an assessment of this standard against the Australian and French standards. BS EN 13432 applies to industrial composting and there is not currently a standard for home composting. However, the BSI are running a project, BS EN 17427 Packaging: Requirements and test scheme for carrier bags suitable for treatment in well-managed home composting installations. Technical specifications and standards are an important step in ensuring that the materials we use behave as we expect and require them to. We will continue to monitor the extent to which these standards do, or do not, address the issues identified through our call for evidence, and will follow with interest any developments.

We recently consulted on measures to increase the consistency in recycling for a core set of materials to be collected from households for recycling and as compostable packaging is not generally collected for recycling, we have not included it as one of the recyclable waste streams named in the legislation. To be added as a waste stream, compostable packing would need to be proven suitable for recycling, including ensuring that end markets exist for the material. Additional investment in the waste industry would be required to support the widespread introduction of biodegradable and compostable plastics and avoid issues of cross-contamination and machine damage.

The evidence base is clearly still developing in relation to these new types of plastic, particularly in terms of their environmental impacts in comparison to alternatives. In accordance with the waste hierarchy, our current preference remains that most plastics are reusable or recyclable. We recognise though that in some applications

and specific circumstances biodegradable/compostable plastics may be more suitable.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Attachment for HL1899 - hl1902 [Attachment - HL1899 - HL1902.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-07-12/HL1899>

Constitutional Reform Act 2005

Asked by Lord Garnier

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Ministry of Justice's review of the Constitutional Reform Act is considering giving ministers greater influence over senior judicial appointments. [HL2209]

Asked by Lord Garnier

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the findings of the Ministry of Justice's review of the Constitutional Reform Act will be published for public consultation; and if so, when. [HL2210]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: The Government is considering what improvements can be made to the settlement left by the Constitutional Reform Act 2005. Our constitution is always evolving, and it is entirely proper, sixteen years on from the Act, to examine that settlement in the round and to take stock of subsequent debate and of continuing interest in both Houses.

The Lord Chancellor has said that he places great importance on taking an open and consultative approach to any proposals for reform, and the Government will make its plans known in due course.

Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of any possible correlation between patients being discharged from hospital with COVID-19 (1) to their own homes, and (2) subsequent COVID-19 transmission to family members or paid carers, during the period March 2020 to March 2021. [HL2073]

Lord Bethell: No specific assessment has been made.

Asked by Lord Birt

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the percentage of COVID-19 infections transmitted via (1) the air, and (2) surfaces. [HL2251]

Lord Bethell: No specific assessment has been made.

Coronavirus: Contact Tracing

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what the arrangements are for the COVID-19 pilot scheme in which Cabinet members may avoid self-isolating after being contact traced. [HL2180]

Lord Bethell: There are currently two pilot schemes on contact testing. The general public daily contact testing clinical study is a randomised control trial trialling at-home testing led by Public Health England. The workplace daily contact testing pilot evaluation scheme is evaluating the operational feasibility of daily contact testing in workplaces. The Cabinet Office is one of the 20 participating workplaces.

The general public daily contact testing study is comparing two approaches to routine testing of contacts. Participants in the 'self-isolation' group are given one polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test and must isolate for the full self-isolation period even if they receive a negative test result. Participants in the 'daily testing' group are given seven rapid lateral flow tests and can leave self-isolation for 24 hours if the test result is negative and also receive two PCR tests. Only participants in the daily testing group who continue to test negative and do not have symptoms are excused from the legal duty to self-isolate each day. Participants in the daily testing group have a legal duty to tell their employer that they are taking part in the study or if they cease to do so.

For the workplace daily contact testing pilot evaluation scheme, individuals who work at one of the participating workplaces who have been identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 either in or outside the workplace but not within their own household, can opt to take part in daily contact testing. This involves daily lateral flow tests for each day they attend work for a period of seven days. Participants self-isolate until the first test is taken and if they test positive or they develop symptoms.

Coronavirus: Contracts

Asked by Lord Scriven

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the administrative error that caused a week's worth of meetings with companies seeking COVID-19 contracts to be excluded from Lord Bethell's transparency returns; why this administrative error occurred; when the failure to include these meetings was discovered; and who informed the Department of Health and Social Care that the meetings had not been included. [HL1655]

Lord Bethell: These meetings were included in the relevant transparency return. However, the omission was caused by a formatting error during the merger of individual returns into a master document. This has now been corrected with the full list of meetings now available.

Asked by **Lord Scriven**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people contacted the fast track 'VIP lane' for emergency procurement contracts to offer (1) personal protective equipment, and (2) COVID-19 testing equipment or services; and of this number, how many were awarded contracts. [HL1656]

Lord Bethell: The Department's buying unit received offers of personal protective equipment (PPE) from approximately 16,000 companies and individuals commonly referred to as the 'priority' channel. Of the suppliers assessed through this channel, 47 of 493 obtained contracts.

There was no formal 'priority' channel to assess offers of testing kits or services.

Coronavirus: Disease Control

Asked by **Lord Storey**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of hospitalisations and deaths from COVID-19 before restrictions would need to be implemented again. [HL1773]

Lord Bethell: Our approach has always been focused on data, not dates, in determining whether it is safe to proceed. In order to pass the tests and proceed with Step 4, we will need to be confident that easing will not lead to a surge in infections that could put unsustainable pressure on the NHS.

However, we have seen time and time again that the virus is unpredictable, and circumstances can change. We know there are risks ahead, not only from new variants, but also seasonal changes in transmission. We will continue to monitor the data closely and take action if needed to keep the public safe and prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS.

Asked by **Baroness Rawlings**

To ask Her Majesty's Government in what circumstances people may be (1) prosecuted, and (2) fined, for breaking COVID-19 regulations. [HL2094]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Decisions on prosecution is a matter for the Crown Prosecution Service, based on evidence provided to them by law enforcement agencies, including the Police.

On the question of fines, data on the Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued under the COVID-19 regulations by police forces in England and Wales is published by the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) on a monthly basis and can be found on the NPCC website.

The latest publication from 28th June 2021 can be found here and displays a list of the reasons for FPNs being processed:

<https://cdn.prgloo.com/media/fefef3f0ea8241018b9bda2d33fa95be.pdf>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Fixed Penalty Notices - Covid 19 [Fixed Penalty Notices - Covid 19.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-07-15/HL2094>

Asked by **Lord Jones of Cheltenham**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to implement the recommendations of the report of the Independent Panel on Pandemic Preparedness and Response COVID-19: Make it the Last Pandemic, published on 5 May; and in particular, what plans they have to support a political declaration on pandemic planning at the United Nations General Assembly in September. [HL2216]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: It is vital to learn lessons from a global health emergency, particularly one as complex and far-reaching as COVID-19, so that we can be better prepared for future pandemics. We need to take this moment to deliver concrete improvements that allow the international system to respond better in the future. The findings and bold recommendations of the Independent Panel on Pandemic Preparedness and Response, as well as the other reviews into this pandemic, will play an important role in this process. We are carefully considering these recommendations as we approach key discussions, including at the G20, the United Nations General Assembly, and the World Health Assembly Special Session later this year.

Asked by **Lord Jones of Cheltenham**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the reported description by Dr Mike Ryan, head of the World Health Organisation's emergencies programme, of the policy of relaxing COVID-19 restrictions on 19 July as "epidemiological stupidity". [HL2219]

Lord True: The Government made a full assessment of the epidemiological and other relevant data ahead of taking the decision to move to Step 4 of the roadmap on 19 July. The Government is clear that the pandemic is not over and that the public should continue to behave cautiously.

Asked by **Lord Jones of Cheltenham**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the letter in The Lancet 'Mass infection is not an option: we must do more to protect our young', published on 7 July, arguing against relaxing COVID-19 restrictions; and what assessment they have made of how their policy on lifting restrictions meets their objective of "following the science". [HL2220]

Lord True: The Government made a full assessment of the epidemiological and other relevant data ahead of taking the decision to move to step 4 of the roadmap on 19 July and assessed that the four tests had been met. The success of the vaccination rollout has paved the way for the safe and gradual lifting of restrictions. However, the Government has been clear that the pandemic is not over and that the public should continue to practice cautious behaviours.

The risks of hospitalisation and intensive care admission in children due to infection is very low (approximately 8 per 100,000 population under 18 are admitted to hospital). Therefore, from step 4, the Government changed the controls that apply in early years, schools, colleges and higher education institutions to maintain a baseline of protective measures while maximising attendance and minimising disruption to children and young people's education.

Coronavirus: Galapagos Islands

Asked by Baroness Hooper

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the levels of COVID-19 in the Galapagos Islands; and what plans they have, if any, to review its rating as a red list country for travel purposes. [HL2305]

Lord Bethell: Decisions to designate countries as either 'red', 'amber' or 'green' on the international traffic light system are taken by the Government to protect public health. They are informed by evidence including the Joint Biosecurity Centre's risks assessment methodology alongside wider public health factors. We are unable to provide the advice and evidence which informs these decisions as it relates to the ongoing development of Government policy.

Coronavirus: Medical Treatments

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bethell on 6 July (HL964), what plans they have to develop specific clinical guidance for the treatment of people who are immunocompromised or immunosuppressed and become infected with COVID-19. [HL2091]

Lord Bethell: Specific clinical guidance for the treatment of immunocompromised patients may be developed if research identifies effective treatments in the future.

Coronavirus: Protective Clothing

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much money they have paid in the last two years to companies based in China manufacturing masks and

other personal protective equipment; which such companies they have paid; whether there are any complexities in the supply chain which prevent such information from being provided; and if so, what those complexities are. [HL128]

Lord Bethell: The information on the amount paid to Chinese companies and the specific companies involved is not held in the format requested and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. Personal protective equipment (PPE) has been procured from a number of different sources internationally which prevents the Department from identifying Chinese companies as all companies can sub-contract a Chinese company. While the Department records contracts made directly with companies based in China, we do not hold a central record of any sub-contracting. PPE was also procured through intermediaries and this information is not collected centrally.

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of any recommendation from SAGE regarding continued mask-wearing after the lifting of other pandemic restrictions; and what assessment they have made of the effect of (1) mask wearing on the spread of disease, and (2) increased mortality on UK greenhouse gas emissions. [HL1852]

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of members of SAGE recommending that mask-wearing continue after other pandemic restrictions are lifted on 19 July; and what consideration they have given to such recommendations in the context of their policy of following the science in relation to the pandemic [HL1853]

Lord Bethell: The Government has reviewed the Scientific Advisory Group on Emergencies' (SAGE) advice in relation to face coverings. This advice states that in determining what measures to retain, a choice must be made in terms of the epidemiological risks and the societal and economic impacts of measures. In April 2021, SAGE concluded that face coverings could help with decreasing the transmission risk from a potentially infectious person. However, they should be used in combination with other measures to be fully effective and mitigate risk.

Following the success of the vaccination programme, the Government has decided to move away from legal restrictions, including the requirement to wear face coverings, towards personal responsibility and informed judgement. In line with SAGE's advice, the Government's guidance remains that wearing a face covering can reduce the risk of transmission. We recommend that people continue to wear face coverings particularly where the risk of transmission is likely to be greater, such as indoor and crowded enclosed or poor ventilated spaces.

The Department has not made a specific assessment of increased mortality on the United Kingdom's greenhouse gas emissions.

Coronavirus: Protective Clothing and Screening

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what due diligence they undertook to ensure that (1) lateral flow tests, and (2) personal protective equipment, imported from China were not made with the use of slave labour. [HL2190]

Lord Bethell: A dedicated team within the Department's Test and Trace programme has been responsible for overseeing a rigorous inspection and auditing process for all Lateral Flow Device (LFD) suppliers outside of the United Kingdom, which includes a Business Social Compliance Initiative Human Rights audit.

All three of these suppliers manufacture the devices in China and have been assessed as Acceptable (C) overall, with further improvement needed with regards to social management systems and working hours. No evidence of child labour, forced labour or unethical business behaviour were identified over the course of these audits, which are valid for 12 months from the date of issue at which point a further audit will take place.

The Department was aware that the direct, urgent sourcing and purchasing of Personal Protective Equipment in 2020 involved high-risk areas in terms of ethical and business practices and had a number of mitigations in place. To combat Modern Slavery concerns, the Department engaged widely with NHS Supply Chain, the Home Office (HO) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office regarding Modern Slavery issues in awarding contracts. Additional training and guidance was rapidly created and distributed to strengthen buying professionals knowledge of modern slavery risks specific to the pandemic. Working with HO colleagues, the Department participated in a cross-government project to increase the modern slavery awareness of procurement professionals which included supplier training and workshops.

Coronavirus: Screening

Asked by Baroness Rawlings

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the quality of NHS COVID-19 PCR tests, (2) the reasons why airlines do not accept the results of NHS tests in order to travel, (3) the additional cost for travellers of paying for privately-provided tests, and (4) which private sector companies are benefitting from these business practices. [HL2097]

Lord Bethell: All polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests are validated centrally and verified locally as a minimum prior to use. The results of the validation and verification are reviewed by independent subject matter

experts in the field prior to laboratories testing individuals' samples with the assays. PCR tests in all laboratories are subject to an enhanced variant of concern assurance program, facilitated by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and NHS Test and Trace.

National Health Service tests cannot be used for travel in order to preserve existing testing capacity to protect public health. Since requirements were introduced for international travel testing, the costs of testing have fallen significantly. We are committed to working with the travel industry and private providers to reduce the cost of travel testing and we have made NHS Test and Trace tests available at the market mid-point.

A list of private providers used for testing purposes is attached, due to the size of the data. Some organisations which have self-declared that they meet the Government's minimum standards for the type of testing service they offer have opted out from publication of their details of the Government's centrally held list.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

General Private Test Providers [HL2097 TABLE.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-07-15/HL2097>

Coronavirus: Vaccination

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to communicate (1) to affected patients, and (2) to the general public, that there are many people in the UK for whom COVID-19 vaccines do not offer the same level of protection as they do for the rest of the population. [HL1894]

Lord Bethell: Public Health England (PHE) is monitoring vaccine effectiveness via their surveillance strategy, which was released to the public and health professionals. The latest results showed COVID-19 vaccines to be highly effective, including for most people in clinical risk groups. Preliminary results for the OCTAVE study, which looks at vaccine efficacy in specific at-risk groups are also expected to be published shortly to provide a greater understanding on the level of protection provided.

The Deputy Chief Medical Officer and NHS England's National Medical Director wrote to clinicians on 16 July to provide an overview of vaccine efficacy in those with immunosuppression. This included additional information to inform conversations between clinicians and patients on the individual's level of risk. The Department is regularly updating stakeholders in the charitable and healthcare sectors on vaccine efficacy for all groups.

Asked by Lord Rogan

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have with the government of Portugal regarding

the recognition of proof of vaccine status against COVID-19 issued by the NHS in (1) Northern Ireland, (2) England, (3) Scotland, and (4) Wales. [HL1981]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are working closely with Portuguese partners, including through the British Embassy in Lisbon, to ensure all travel restrictions are communicated to UK nationals, including on the recognition of vaccine status. As of 28 June 2021, travellers from the UK to Portugal who are fully vaccinated with a vaccine authorised by the European Medicines Agency do not need to quarantine upon arrival. We are working with the Portuguese to confirm how UK travellers demonstrate vaccine status. The Autonomous Region of Madeira accepts the proofs of vaccination status issued for residents in the UK who were vaccinated under the UK's domestic programme. Full information is available on our FCDO Travel Advice pages, which we update regularly.

Asked by Baroness Helic

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the efficacy of the (1) Sinovac, and (2) Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines. [HL2211]

Lord Bethell: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has not assessed the efficacy of either vaccine.

Asked by Baroness Helic

To ask Her Majesty's Government what funding the UK has provided to COVAX; and what proportion of this is expected to be spent on (1) Sinovac, and (2) Sinopharm vaccines. [HL2212]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Since the beginning of the pandemic, the UK has championed the importance of rapid, equitable access to safe and effective vaccines. We are among the largest donors to the COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC), committing £548 million. Through match-funding, this leveraged \$1 billion from other donors in 2020. This support to COVAX has been critical to its distribution of over 136 million COVID-19 vaccines to over 136 countries and economies, with its aim to provide up to 1.8 billion doses to low and middle-income countries by early 2022. The UK has also committed to sharing 100 million vaccine doses by June 2022, 80 per cent of which will go to COVAX to provide further support for countries in need.

The UK's financial commitment to COVAX contributes to the whole COVAX portfolio, which currently consists of 11 COVID-19 vaccines. Exact numbers of different vaccines supplied to countries will depend on timing of availability, country demand and preferences, overall portfolio mix, and ongoing assessment and guidance from the World Health Organisation (WHO) on vaccine effectiveness as the evidence base for different vaccines continues to evolve. All vaccines disbursed by COVAX must pass robust WHO Emergency Use Listing (EUL) or full pre-qualification assessment.

Asked by Baroness Helic

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the (1) World Health Organisation, (2) Gavi, and (3) COVAX, regarding the (a) Sinovac, and (b) Sinopharm, vaccines and their efficacy. [HL2213]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: As a critical partner in the global vaccination effort, the UK regularly makes representations on this agenda with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Gavi, which operates as the secretariat of COVAX.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the UK has championed the importance of rapid, equitable access to safe and effective vaccines. This requires a truly global effort, and no one country or pharmaceutical company will be able to do this alone.

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government why they are introducing a requirement for proof of vaccination in some indoor spaces from September and not immediately; and what assessment they have made about (1) infection levels, and (2) transmissibility, to inform this decision. [HL2237]

Lord Bethell: Starting this requirement in September allows for all adults in the United Kingdom to be offered vaccination. Infection rates for fully vaccinated in those under 65 years old are three times lower than in the unvaccinated. There is now significant evidence that vaccines are effective at preventing infection and therefore will prevent transmission. There is also further evidence that even if vaccinated individuals become infected there is a reduced risk of transmission to others of approximately 40-45% after one dose.

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will classify the crews of merchant ships coming to British ports as vital workers with priority for vaccination. [HL2077]

Lord Bethell: Merchant ship crews coming into British ports have not been prioritised for vaccination based on their occupation. However, everyone aged 18 and over in the United Kingdom can now receive their vaccination; this includes all seafarers calling in UK ports.

The Government encourages all eligible seafarers and cruise ship employees to receive a COVID-19 vaccine in line with advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). The Department is working closely with the Department for Transport, the Devolved Administrations and NHS England and Improvement to ensure that operational challenges in vaccinating these groups are mitigated so all those who are eligible can access the vaccine in an efficient and convenient way.

For phase one of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout, the JCVI considered evidence on the risk of exposure and risk

of mortality from COVID-19, and subsequently provided advice that only health and social care workers should be prioritised for vaccination. The objective of this prioritisation was to protect workers at high risk of exposure, who, should they become infected, may also expose vulnerable individuals to COVID-19 whilst providing care. The Government accepted the JCVI advice.

Court of Protection: Child Trust Fund

Asked by Lord Young of Cookham

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applications have been received by the Court of Protection where the only asset is a Child Trust Fund. [HL2112]

Asked by Lord Young of Cookham

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applications that have been received by the Court of Protection in respect of Child Trust Funds have resulted in a Deputy being appointed. [HL2113]

Asked by Lord Young of Cookham

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many associated Fee Waivers the Court of Protection has received in respect of Child Trust Fund applications; and how many have been granted. [HL2114]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: The Court of Protection has received fifteen applications since August 2020 where the assets included a Child Trust Fund. Of the fifteen applications received, thirteen have resulted in a deputy being appointed. The remaining two applications resulted in 'one off' orders. In four cases, a Child Trust Fund was the sole asset and the court fees were waived.

Crime Prevention

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by Resolve Taking back our communities - working together to make communities safe, published on 19 July; and what plans they have to develop and deliver effective victim centred strategies to tackle anti-social behaviour. [HL2280]

Lord Greenhalgh: The Government is committed to tackling and preventing anti-social behaviour. We know the serious impact that persistent anti-social behaviour can have on individuals and wider communities.

That's why we have provided police, local authorities and other local agencies with a range of flexible tools and powers that they can use to respond quickly and effectively to ASB through the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. It is for local areas decide how best to deploy these powers depending on the specific circumstances.

Home Office statutory guidance, which was updated in January 2021, supports local agencies to work together to prevent and respond to anti-social behaviour, as well as ensuring a victim-centred approach to tackling ASB.

The Beating Crime Plan published on 27 July laid out the Government's commitment to working with local agencies and partners to drive down anti-social behaviour using the full range of powers and tools in the '2014 Act'.

The Home Office supported Resolve's ASB Awareness Week, which took place the week commencing 19th July.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

ABS Statutory Guidance - Jan 2021
[ASB_Statutory_Guidance.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-07-21/HL2280>

Crossrail

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the delays of Crossrail 1, (1) what were the reasons that the delay announced in August 2018 was not sufficient to prevent the subsequent announcement in July 2021 of a further delay to the opening date of the railway, (2) what assessment they have made of the capacity of Crossrail and its owners to provide reliable forecasts for the project, (3) what was the estimated total cost of the project in April 2019, (4) what estimate they have made of the expected cost of the project by June 2022, (5) what lessons they have learned with regard to the timely forecasting of completion dates, and (6) how they are applying any lessons learnt to other major transport projects, such as HS2. [HL2142]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: In October 2020, the governance of Crossrail transferred over to Transport for London (TfL). As part of the governance transition, the Crossrail Sponsor Board was replaced and the Mayor of London, who chairs the TfL Board, established a new Special Purpose Committee of the TfL Board, called the Elizabeth Line Committee (ELC). The ELC is chaired by the Deputy Mayor for Transport and provides high-level oversight of the Crossrail project. DfT remains a joint sponsor and retains oversight of and scrutiny of the programme and DfT has a Special Representative on the ELC.

The Transport Commissioner is responsible for delivering the project and intended benefits. TfL is responsible for providing reliable forecasts for the project. Crossrail Limited remains a wholly owned subsidiary of TfL.

In August 2018, Crossrail Limited announced a delay to the opening of the Elizabeth line. CRL stated that the reasons for this delay was due to more time being needed by contractors to complete fit-out activity in the central tunnels and the development of railway systems software,

and that testing had started but further time was required to complete the full range of integrated tests.

The most recent announcement was in August 2020, when Crossrail Limited stated that the central section between Paddington and Abbey Wood would be ready to open the first half of 2022. Crossrail announced that the schedule delay was due to lower than planned productivity in the final completion and handover of the shafts and portals and revisions to the schedule assumptions for the completion of the new stations. Crossrail also incurred additional costs and delays as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In April 2019, Crossrail Limited's total estimate costs for the project was £17.6 billion. Crossrail Limited's current forecast cost of completing the programme is up to £18.9 billion. This includes Network Rail On-Network Costs for the surface works but excludes the cost of procuring new trains and depot.

The Department is committed to applying the lessons learned on Crossrail to other major projects, including HS2. In April 2019, the Department co-published a report with the Infrastructure and Project Authority (IPA). This identified a number of practical lessons, building on the experience of Crossrail, across five major themes.

Crossrail Line

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the expected final (1) completion date, and (2) cost, of Crossrail; and what lessons are there, if any, for the HS2 project. [HL1929]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Crossrail comes under the remit of the Mayor of London.

In August 2020, Crossrail Limited announced that the central section of the railway will open in the first half of 2022. Following the opening of the central section, full services across the Elizabeth line from Reading and Heathrow in the west and between Abbey Wood and Shenfield in the east, will be introduced.

Crossrail Ltd.'s overall cost forecast of completing the programme is up to £18.9 billion. This includes Network Rail On-Network Costs for the surface works but excludes the new trains and depot.

Cuba: Democracy and Human Rights

Asked by Lord Dodds of Duncairn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support the promotion of democracy and human rights in Cuba. [HL1953]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK government regularly raises these important issues with the Cuban Government. On 12 July, the UK was one of the first countries to publicly reaffirm the Cuban people's right to peaceful protest. Officials from the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office spoke to the

Cuban Ambassador on the same day, urging respect for fundamental human rights. On 14 July, the British Ambassador in Havana met with officials in the Cuban Government, and urged them to uphold freedom of expression in Cuba.

Cuba: Demonstrations and Religious Freedom

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the anti-government demonstrations in Cuba, and (2) the reports of the forcible detention of religious leaders in that country. [HL1935]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are clear that all Cubans should have the right to protest peacefully. The UK government has called for calm and restraint, and the full respect of all Cubans' human rights. Detention should not be used as a tool to restrict freedom of expression, assembly, and religion. We have raised our concerns directly with the Cuban government, and called for the authorities to release information on detained citizens, including their whereabouts. We will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Cuba: USA

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of the United States of America following (1) the concerns that government have expressed about the Cuban leadership's "calls to combat", and (2) the US President's statement that he stands with the Cuban people. [HL1936]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK and US regularly discuss our perspectives on Latin America, including Cuba. We agree with the US that the protestors' concerns need to be heard, and their right to protest peacefully needs to be respected. Like the US, we have been clear in calling for calm and restraint. We will continue to discuss Cuba with the US and other partners, including our opposition to the US embargo, which we consider to be counterproductive.

Cybercrime

Asked by Lord Lucas

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Barran on 19 July (HL1970), what estimate they have made of the absolute number of (1) people, and (2) businesses, in the UK who were phished in the last period for which figures are available; and what proportion of such phishing attacks were successful. [HL2165]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office collects quarterly data on the number of fraud and Computer Misuse Act (CMA) offences made to Action

Fraud which have been recorded as criminal offences by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB).

The most recently available data is available at Table A5 below and attached:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/crimeinenglandandwalesappendixdixtables>.

From information held centrally, it is not possible to separately identify offences of fraud and CMA offences in which phishing has been involved.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Appendix Tables - Table A5 [appendixtablesmar21 - Table 5 .xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-07-19/HL2165>

Asked by Lord Lucas

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Barran on 19 July (HL1969), on which specific pages of the National Cyber Security Centre's website their statistical data are published. [HL2166]

Baroness Barran: Full details of the NCSC's comprehensive response to the proactive identification and removal of malicious activity on the internet can be found in its Active Cyber Defence Year 4 report: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/acd-report-year-four>. This report outlines all the measures the NCSC takes to identify and remove the malicious activity before it ever reaches the public. Up to date SERS statistics can be found at https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/information/report-suspicious-emails#section_1.

If a person falls victim to a phishing email, that should be reported to the police via Action Fraud and it will be logged as a crime.

The 2021 Cyber Security Breaches Survey found that 32% of businesses identified experiencing phishing attacks in the previous 12 months. The survey does not ask about the proportion of phishing attacks on businesses that were successful. However the survey does find that, among the 39% businesses which identify any cyber breaches or attacks, one in five (21%) of these end up losing money, data or other assets.

The government does not hold similar statistics specifically related to phishing attacks against individual citizens.

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport: Civil Servants

Asked by Lord Moynihan

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many civil servants are employed full time in the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on sport and recreation policy. [HL2310]

Baroness Barran: Please the staff figures below for DCMS teams that work on sport and recreation policy. Data based on staff in post on the 26/07/2021.

Team	Headcount
Commonwealth Games	42
Major Sporting Events	8
Sport Policy	25
Grand Total	75

Department of Health and Social Care: Billing

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Group Accounting Manual 2020-21 published by the Department of Health and Social Care on 19 April, whether they consider that guidance requires in all circumstances (1) a liability to pay interest accruing by virtue of any failure to pay invoices within the 30 day period, and (2) disclosure of such failure whether or not any claim for such liability has been made or settled. [HL2088]

Lord Bethell: The Public Contract Regulations 2015 Regulation 113(7) requires disclosure of the proportion of invoices paid in accordance with an obligation to pay valid and undisputed invoices within 30 days. The Procurement Policy Note 03/16 (PPN) requires disclosure of both the amount of interest paid to suppliers due to late payment and the amount of interest that the authority was liable to pay, whether or not paid, due to a breach of the Regulations. The Department does not interpret liable to pay in the PPN as a strict financial liability it allows for the possibility that the interest is not paid. The Department does not therefore consider that that Group Accounting Manual requires a liability to pay interest in all circumstances.

The Manual reflects the disclosure requirements of the PPN which states that disclosure of liabilities should include the total amount of any liability to pay interest which accrued by failing to pay invoices within the 30-day period where obligated to do so and the total amount of interest actually paid in the discharge of any such liability.

Deportation: Zimbabwe

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will halt the deportation of Zimbabwe nationals who are due for removal from the UK on 21 July. [HL2179]

Lord Greenhalgh: No, this charter flight is part of our standard operational activity to remove Foreign National Offenders.

Returning Foreign National Offenders to Zimbabwe is also not a new development and recommenced in 2018.

*Asked by **Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they sought legal advice in respect of the Zimbabwean nationals due to be deported on 21 July in relation to (1) non-refoulement, and (2) the risk posed to individuals being deported from the UK to Zimbabwe by the Emergency Travel Document process; and if so, what steps they took as a result. [[HL2289](#)]

Lord Greenhalgh: FNOs selected for deportation have either been convicted of an offence that has caused serious harm, are a persistent offender, or represent a threat to national security.

Deportation of foreign criminals is subject to several exceptions, including where doing so would be a breach of a person's European Convention on Human Rights or the UK's obligations under the Refugee Convention. All those that were deported on the flight were provided with the opportunity to raise claims, including asylum and human rights claims, prior to their deportation and were given a minimum of 5 working days' notice of their removal directions, in accordance with published policy.

Re-documentation interviews with officials from countries of return are a standard part of Home Office process where an interview is required by the receiving country to enable the confirmation of nationality and identity, in order for a travel document to be produced.

All of those that were returned were free of any legal barriers. Our priority will always be to keep our communities safe, and since January 2019 we have returned 7,985 foreign criminals from the UK.

Dermatology

*Asked by **Baroness Finlay of Llandaff***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Dermatology GIRFT Programme National Specialty Report: Proposed Recommendations, published on 15 September 2020; and what steps they intend to take in response to the proposed recommendations. [[HL2068](#)]

Lord Bethell: The Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) National report on dermatology was completed in 2020 but has not yet been published, therefore we have not made this assessment. The report will be published later this year, once NHS England and NHS Improvement have reviewed the recommendations.

Development and Use of Supply Chain Finance (And Associated Schemes) in Government Review

*Asked by **Lord Lamont of Lerwick***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions, if any, they have had with Mr Nigel Boardman about the request of representatives of the late Lord Heywood to make representations to the review of Supply Chain Finance during the process of that review. [[HL2163](#)]

Lord True: I refer the Noble Lord to my written statement of 22 July 2021. As the written statement notes, where actions have been attributed to individuals, some of which could be read as critical, the individuals concerned or their personal representative, where applicable, were given the opportunity ahead of the report being finalised to make representations on those sections of the report that could be perceived as criticisms to correct factual inaccuracies.

Lady Heywood has had access to papers that Lord Heywood would have been shown and, representing her late husband, has been treated on equivalent terms to others involved in the review.

During the course of the Review, Lady Heywood made representations to Mr Boardman about the process. Mr Boardman listened to these representations and agreed to undertake additional engagement with Lady Heywood prior to finalising his report.

Development and Use of Supply Chain Finance (And Associated Schemes) in Government Review: Nigel Boardman

*Asked by **Lord Lamont of Lerwick***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to ensure the independence of Mr Nigel Boardman who is conducting their review of the use of Supply Chain Finance. [[HL2162](#)]

Lord True: I refer the Noble Lord to my written statement of 22 July 2021.

Nigel Boardman is a distinguished legal expert, having undertaken a number of reviews scrutinising the Government. He was asked to lead this review following the appropriate consideration of relevant interests.

Disability Living Allowance

*Asked by **Lord Young of Cookham***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much was paid in compensation to beneficiaries of Disability Living Allowance because of financial abuse by their appointees, for the latest year for which figures are available. [[HL2285](#)]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: Where an allegation of financial abuse is confirmed, that is, that the DLA received by the appointee has not been used in the best interests of the claimant, the appointment is revoked. However, compensation is not paid.

District Councils: Liverpool

*Asked by **Lord Storey***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Liverpool City Council: Best Value inspection report by Max Caller CBE, published on 24 March, which recommended that single-member district council wards be implemented in Liverpool for 2023, whether they

intend to proceed with the district council elections in that city in 2022 with the existing ward arrangements. [HL2042]

Lord Greenhalgh: On 10 June, the Secretary of State announced via a Written Ministerial Statement his intention to make an Order using his powers in the Local Government Act 2000 providing for whole council elections from 2023. He confirmed that the Order would postpone for one year the May 2022 elections of one third of Liverpool City Councillors and their extend terms of office accordingly. The announcement can be viewed (attached) here:

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2021-06-10/hcws84>.

In this announcement, the Secretary of State also clarified that he had directed the Council to consider and consult upon a new submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE), as part of the current boundary review, to include consideration of a proposal to reduce the number of Councillors to those consistent with elections on the basis of predominantly single member wards; that is single member wards across the whole Council area save where the LGBCE consider a multi member ward is essential to balance their statutory duties of delivering electoral equality, reflecting interests and identities of local communities, and of promoting effective and convenient local government. The new warding arrangements following the boundary review will be in place ahead of the 2023 elections.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Written Statement [Written statements - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament - HL2042.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-07-14/HL2042>

DNACPR Decisions

Asked by Lord Balfre

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bethell on 13 July 2021 (HL1668), what progress they have made on the misapplication of Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (DNACPR) orders; and what is their timetable for publishing more details on the Ministerial Oversight Group's (1) membership, (2) workings, and (3) decisions. [HL2115]

Lord Bethell: The first meeting of the Ministerial Oversight Group has now taken place and the Group has set out their commitment to driving forward improvements. A summary of the meeting has been shared with interested stakeholders. The membership, workings and decisions of the Ministerial Oversight Group were published on 23 July.

East Coast Railway Line: Finance

Asked by Lord Beith

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reply by Baroness Vere of Norbiton on 15 July (HL Deb, col 1945), what were the principal elements in the estimated £60 million a year in increased revenue from the operation of the proposed new East Coast Mainline timetable. [HL2192]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Under the proposed timetable London North Eastern Railway (LNER) passenger numbers are expected to increase as a result of shorter journey times between key destinations, supporting the Government's decarbonisation plans. It will also enable the addition of 30 per cent more trains per hour and these additional services would provide a significant increase in capacity creating opportunities for increased revenue.

Education: Children

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to support children from endangered (1) ethnic, and (2) religious, communities in securing scholarships that would enable them to be given comprehensive education outside their country of origin. [HL1990]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Defending and promoting human rights, including freedom of religion or belief, has been a long-standing priority for the UK Government. The UK believes that no one should be excluded from education because of their religion or belief. Discrimination damages not only societies, but also holds back economies.

Religious or ethnic discrimination can force families to flee their homes, with refugees and displaced children now constituting the largest group of those out of school, and their number increasing. For this reason, the UK is the founding and leading donor to Education Cannot Wait (ECW), the global fund for education in emergencies. The UK is providing £90 million of funding to ECW from 2019 to 2023. This investment is supporting ECW to expand its operations to more countries, respond to COVID-19, and will support up to 600,000 children living through conflict, and in areas of protracted crises, access education. For example, ECW's support includes the provision of basic education for 88,000 Rohingya children who are now living in refugee camps in Bangladesh.

Education: Standards

Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of educational underachievement in Britain; and whether they feel a one-size-fits-all approach is the answer. [HL2259]

Baroness Berridge: Education is a devolved matter, and the response will outline the education reforms for England.

The government remains committed to raising educational standards for all pupils, to ensure they have the knowledge, qualifications and skills they need to succeed in life. The proportion of schools now rated by Ofsted as Good or Outstanding has risen from 68% in 2010 to 86% in 2020. For all phases of education, there is funding in place that specifically targets disadvantaged children and young people, in order to tackle the attainment gap.

For children in their early years, the department is investing £17 million to deliver the Nuffield Early Language Intervention, improving the language skills of reception age children who need it most during the COVID-19 outbreak. We have also announced £10 million for a pre-reception early language continued professional development programme, supporting early years staff to work with those disadvantaged children who are at risk of falling behind.

Disadvantaged children at school continue to benefit from additional funding given to their schools through the pupil premium, worth over £2.5 billion in 2021/22.

For 16 to 19-year-olds, the national funding formula includes extra funding for disadvantaged students. In 2020/21 the government allocated over £530 million to enable colleges, schools, and other providers to recruit and support disadvantaged 16 to 19-year-olds and to support students with special educational needs and disabilities.

The Disadvantage Gap Index shows that, between 2011 and 2019, the attainment gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils narrowed by 13% at age 11 and 9% at age 16.

Edwardes College Peshawar

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Leeds

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representation they have made to the government of Pakistan about the return of Edwardes College in Peshawar to the Church of Pakistan. [HL2227]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Pakistan's Supreme Court recently ruled that the management of Peshawar's Edwardes College be handed over to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, though the property remains under ownership of the Church of Pakistan's Lahore Diocese. This is an independent judicial process.

Egypt: Children

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Egypt about children being given preliminary death sentences in that country. [HL2078]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The United Kingdom strongly opposes the death penalty in all countries and in all circumstances, as a matter of principle. This is especially the case for juveniles. This is in line with the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Arab Charter on Human Rights. We continue to raise human rights concerns, including the death penalty, with the Egyptian authorities, both privately and in forums such as the UN Human Rights Council. Following recent cases the Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa made clear to the Egyptian Government, at a senior level, our serious concern about the use of the death penalty.

Electric Scooters

Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many fixed penalty notices have been issued for illegal use of e-scooters in each of the last three months. [HL1908]

Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many points have been added to driving licences for the illegal use of e-scooters in each of the last three months. [HL1909]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office collects and publishes data on the number of motoring offences in the 'Police Powers and Procedures, England and Wales' statistical bulletin, which is already reasonably accessible to you here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-powers-and-procedures-england-and-wales>.

However, information on the type of vehicle issued with a motoring offence, including a fine or penalty points is not collected.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Police Powers and Procedures - March 2020 [police-powers-procedures-mar20-hosb3120 (2).pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-07-12/HL1908>

Electronic Surveillance: Mobile Phones

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the reported targeting of human rights activists, journalists and lawyers across the world by governments using hacking software sold by NSO Group; and what steps, if any, they plan to take to protect those affected by such targeting. [HL2135]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are aware of these reports. This is a matter for the company and Israeli regulators. The UK works closely with allies around the world to tackle cyber threats and improve our overall global resilience to attacks. It is vital that all cyber actors use capabilities in a way that is legal, responsible and

proportionate to ensure cyberspace remains a safe and prosperous place for everyone.

Email: Fraud

Asked by Lord Lucas

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Barran on 19 July (HL1969), what proportion of the 6,500,000 reports received by the Suspicious Email Reporting Service resulted in the removal (1) a scam, (2) a web address, and (3) both. [HL2164]

Baroness Barran: The Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) provides the public with a route for the escalation and removal of suspected phishing campaigns. The automated SERS processes emails received from the public, and if a malicious web address (URL) is identified in the email, a take down request is submitted to the hosting provider. To date we have identified more than 97,500 individual malicious URLs for removal which equates to 50,5000 individual scam campaigns. Multiple reports of the same scams have been forwarded to SERS. The total number of reports to SERS stands at 6.5m as at 30th June 2021.

SERS is one tool in HMG's response to cybercrime, and is intended to empower people to simply forward suspicious emails to the NCSC for action. Full details of the NCSC's comprehensive response to the proactive identification and removal of malicious activity on the internet can be found in its Active Cyber Defence Year 4 report. This report outlines all the measures the NCSC takes to identify and remove the malicious activity before it ever reaches the public, and can be found at <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/acd-report-year-four>.

If a person falls victim to a phishing email, that should be reported to Action Fraud and it will be logged as a crime.

Employment Schemes: Internet

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that jobseekers being supported through Department for Work and Pensions programmes have been referred to websites that advise them to state in job interviews that climate change may not exist; and what steps they plan to take as a result. [HL2287]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: This was content provided by a third party supplier and was designed to help individuals understand that they can acknowledge different points of view when answering questions. The choice of "global warming" as an example subject was not appropriate and the content has been removed.

Energy Charter

Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of attempts to reform the Energy Charter Treaty to remove any barriers to phasing out carbon fuels. [HL2023]

Lord Callanan: The UK supports the process to modernise the Energy Charter Treaty in a way that helps the global clean energy transition, such as the right for States to regulate to reach emissions reduction targets and a stronger focus on climate security issues. We are currently in discussions with Treaty partners over proposals to phase out investment protection for fossil fuels.

Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had, if any, with the EU about leaving the Energy Charter Treaty. [HL2024]

Lord Callanan: The Government has had no discussions with the EU on leaving the Energy Charter Treaty.

Environment Protection

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to introduce a target to reduce their environmental footprint by 75 per cent by 2030. [HL1914]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: There is no requirement in the Bill for a footprint target. However, this does not preclude the Government from setting one if it is judged to be the best way to deliver long-term environmental outcomes, building on progress made in delivering the 25 Year Environment Plan.

The Bill framework allows for long-term targets to be set on any aspect of the natural environment, or people's enjoyment of it. The Government is committed to setting targets through a robust, evidence-led process that seeks independent expert advice, provides a role for stakeholders and the public, as well as scrutiny from Parliament.

We have commissioned the Joint Nature Conservation Committee to develop a global environmental footprint indicator to help us understand the UK's global footprint. The first phase of this work was published in May 2021, with further development currently underway. The outcomes of this work will help inform our future thinking on the most appropriate approach to drive change in this area.

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the statement by the Department for Environment, Food

and Rural Affairs to The Independent on 14 July that they hoped to use the Environment Bill “to seek powers to ensure information about environmental impacts, such as carbon emissions, is provided with certain products”, whether they can (1) provide details of the means by which they plan to do this, and (2) list the products to which they expect to apply the powers. [HL2054]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: In accordance with our Resources and Waste Strategy, the powers being sought through our Environment Bill will allow the Government to ensure consumers are provided with clear, consistent and trustworthy information, enabling them to make more sustainable purchasing decisions and helping shift the market towards more resource efficient products. These information-sharing requirements may focus on durability, reparability and recyclability, and there is scope to include other criteria where appropriate, such as embodied carbon or water usage during production. They could take a number of different forms such as consumer information rating schemes, or labels specifying that a product meets a certain environmental standard.

We are working on developing a plan for making use of these powers, and will take on board responses to our recent consultation on the Waste Prevention Programme for England – towards a resource efficient economy. In parallel, as outlined in the Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy is preparing to launch a Call for Evidence on low carbon industrial products. The response to the Call for Evidence will be used to develop proposals for new policies to grow the market for these products, including a new labelling system for intermediary industrial products reflecting their impact on the environment.

Erasmus+ Programme: Costs

Asked by Baroness Coussins

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the cost in each of the five years leading up to the UK's departure from the EU of the UK's participation in the Erasmus and Erasmus+ programmes. [HL1883]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: While the UK was a member state of the EU, we did not make separate contributions to individual EU programmes such as Erasmus+, but instead made an overall contribution to the EU budget which was then used to fund those programmes. It is therefore not possible to calculate a figure for the UK government's direct contributions to Erasmus+.

However, an indicative UK contribution figure can be obtained by taking the total Erasmus+ payments made in each year and applying to it the UK's funding share of the overall EU budget in that year.

Table 1 gives an indicative estimate of the UK's Erasmus+ contributions between 2015 and 2019. The UK

contributions estimate taken from table 1 in the attachment is included below.

Under Erasmus+, the UK already contributed significantly more than we got out in the form of receipts, and the only terms of offer for continued participation would have required an annual gross contribution of £600 million, or a net contribution in the region of £2 billion over the course of the programme.

The Turing Scheme goes further than Erasmus+ by being truly global. It also goes further in enabling more disadvantaged students to benefit from the opportunities of studying abroad, including by providing extra funding for disadvantaged students, and paying for extra costs for them, including travel costs.

Table 1: UK Indicative Erasmus+ contributions in millions of pounds

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
UK Indicative Erasmus+ contributions in millions of pounds	209	201	224	241	296

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL1883_table

[HL1883_attachment_UK's_Erasmus+_contributions_2012_to_2019.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-07-12/HL1883>

Espionage and Surveillance

Asked by Baroness Uddin

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take to protect (1) British citizens, and (2) governing institutions, against espionage and foreign surveillance. [HL2317]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy identifies countering state threats as a key priority for safeguarding our democracy, society and economy. Our approach, is to deter states from aggressive acts through the prospect of punishment by detecting, attributing and responding accordingly; and by denying them the opportunity to act, through reducing our vulnerabilities and improving our resilience.

During the Queen's Speech in May, the Government announced plans for new legislation to provide the security services and law enforcement with additional tools to tackle the evolving threat of hostile activity by states. Following this, the Home Office launched a public consultation on legislative proposals that seek to:

- update existing counter espionage laws to reflect the modern threat and legislative standards;
- create new offences, tools and powers to detect, deter and disrupt hostile activity in and targeted at the UK; and

- improve our ability to protect official data and ensure the associated offences reflect the greater ease with which significant harm can be done in an increasingly digital world.

EU Countries: Frontex

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the statement from Amnesty International on 23 June that there needs to be improvement to the (1) accountability, and (2) transparency, of Frontex's operations in (a) Greece, (b) Croatia, and (c) Hungary. [HL2014]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The accounts in the Amnesty International report are concerning. We welcome the fact that Frontex has conducted an internal investigation into the allegations, and the European Parliament has established a permanent standing committee in order to scrutinise Frontex activity in the Aegean. The UK co-operates closely with our European partners to manage migration and strengthen our collective borders. We are committed to upholding international law and international human rights standards and to avoiding any actions that may endanger human life.

Euro 2020

Asked by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to recognise the success of the England football team in the 2020 European Championships, both in (1) sporting terms, and (2) presenting a positive image of the country. [HL2196]

Baroness Barran: The England team enjoyed a magnificent run in Euro 2020 and I once again pass on my huge congratulations to the team for their work on and off the pitch.

We continue to work closely with the FA on ensuring their players get the appropriate recognition, and recognise that they are already focused on qualification for the Qatar World Cup next year.

Euro 2020: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Oates

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Football Association about the number of stewards employed to provide security at the Wembley Euro 2020 final who were self-isolating on the day, due to (1) a positive COVID-19 test, or (2) having been instructed to do so by the NHS Covid App; and what proportion of total stewards that represents. [HL2177]

Baroness Barran: The UK Government has worked closely with the Football Association (FA) over the course of the Euro 2020 competition. The FA, as owner of Wembley Stadium, is responsible for safety and stewarding within the stadium footprint. Stewards scheduled to work at the Wembley Euro 2020 final who tested positive for COVID-19 or who were instructed to isolate do so by the NHS COVID app were instructed to follow isolation procedures and not attend work.

At the EURO 2020 final at Wembley, the FA had 1,977 stewards rostered to work, with 1,937 stewards reporting for work at the start of their shift. This meant that there was a drop out of 40 stewards (this number being within the allocated contingency). The FA do not hold the data for how many of these missed work because they were self-isolating due to a positive COVID-19 test, or having been instructed to do so by the NHS COVID app.

Eurostar: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

Asked by The Earl of Clancarty

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made towards making Eurostar a CITES-designated port. [HL2199]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: Any specimen covered by CITES controls must be imported or exported through one of the 36 designated land, sea and airports which are all currently operational. The up to date list of the ports is available on the following GOV.UK page: www.gov.uk/guidance/trading-cites-listed-specimens-through-uk-ports-and-airports.

The list of CITES-designated points of entry is kept under review and we are currently working with colleagues in Border Force to determine if it is feasible to designate Eurostar.

EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the reported comments made by the Chief Executive of the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations that the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement is a "betrayal" of the fishing industry. [HL2157]

Lord Benyon: The UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement sets our future relationship with the EU as an independent coastal State and reflects the UK's regulatory autonomy to manage fisheries within our waters.

The agreement also provides for an uplift in UK shares of quota equal to 25% of the value of the average annual EU catch from UK waters, and will be phased in over five years with the majority of this value (15%) being transferred in the first year (2021). Based on Total Allowable Catch and prices at the time the negotiations concluded, it is estimated that the full quota uplifts in

2026 could provide around £146 million more quota than the UK had as a Member State.

The agreement provides for an adjustment period in which there will be continued access to fish in UK and EU waters. From 1 July 2026, access will be a matter for negotiation as is normal for coastal States.

Exploitation: Children

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to amend the Nationality and Borders Bill (1) to protect children who have been trafficked twice or more, (2) to support children who may have committed offences while suffering exploitation, and (3) to protect exploited foreign children by providing leave to remain of sufficient length to guard against further harm. [[HL2076](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Within the Nationality and Borders Bill, we are proposing modern slavery measures to deliver a decision-making process and support system that is fair and provides support for those who genuinely need it.

We recognise that some victims of modern slavery may have had periods of high vulnerability and can have multiple, complex needs, with some individuals experiencing multiple forms of exploitation at different points in time. The proposed measures within the Bill therefore rightly allow for protection and support for individuals subject to repeated exploitation, including child victims whilst seeking to ensure that further support is only provided where needed.

We remain committed to tackling exploitation in all its forms. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 gives law enforcement agencies the tools to tackle modern slavery, including a maximum life sentence for perpetrators and enhanced protection for victims. Where children are found to be potential victims of human trafficking or modern slavery their safety and welfare are addressed as a priority. Local authorities are responsible for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children in their area, including child victims of modern slavery. In addition to this statutory support, the Government has rolled out Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (ICTGs), an additional source of advice and support for all potentially trafficked children, in two thirds of all local authorities in England and Wales.

We will seek to put into legislation for the first time the commitment that all confirmed victims, including children, without immigration status will be considered for a grant of temporary leave to remain in line with specific criteria.

This will bring clarity to decision makers and victims on the process for temporary leave to remain. We will continue to comply with our duties under Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship, and Immigration Act 2009 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Extinction Rebellion: Demonstrations

Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what they estimate they have made of the cost of policing Extinction Rebellion protests in (1) 2019, (2) 2020, and (3) 2021; and whether any of those costs have been met by the organisers of the protests. [[HL2167](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The highly disruptive tactics used by some protesters cause a disproportionate impact on the surrounding communities and are a drain on public funds. The management of protests, including the tactics they use; their cost; and their resourcing, is an operational matter for the police.

During Extinction Rebellion's protests of April and October 2019, the Metropolitan Police Service reported that policing operations for the two extended protests cost around £37m - more than twice the annual budget of London's violent crime taskforce.

The right to peaceful protest remains a fundamental tool of civic expression and will not be curtailed by this Government. Protesters are not charged for the costs of policing protests.

Farms: Tenants

Asked by Lord Teverson

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Benyon on 29 June (HL1134), what plans they have to ensure that those with farm business tenancies will not be excluded from taking part in the long-term commitments for soil, biodiversity and landscape envisaged by the Local Nature Recovery and Landscape Recovery elements of the Environmental Land Management Scheme where landlords are unwilling to grant consent. [[HL1927](#)]

Asked by Lord Teverson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to prevent the landlords of those on farm business tenancies from serving notice to quit on those tenants, in order to participate in the Local Nature Recovery and Landscape Recovery elements of the Environmental Land Management Scheme. [[HL1928](#)]

Lord Benyon: We are engaging with a wide range of farmers and land managers to inform the development of our Sustainable Farming Incentive, Local Nature Recovery and Landscape Recovery schemes, including tenant farmers and landlords. We want to ensure that the schemes are designed in a way that works for all, so all farmers and land managers can be supported to maximise the delivery of environmental outcomes while ensuring effective use of public money.

The Government is aware that a key concern for many tenant farmers is receiving payments for environmental benefits despite not owning the land. Our future schemes will put farmers, foresters and other land managers more in control of how they use their assets in order to deliver

environmental outcomes. For the Sustainable Farming Incentive and Local Nature Recovery schemes we envisage that payments will be made to the person delivering the outcomes of the schemes. In Landscape Recovery we are exploring the role of bespoke agreements and payment approaches and tenancies will be considered as part of this.

Evidence shows that many landlords and tenants work together to find solutions to entering agri-environment schemes. To encourage this further the Tenancy Reform Industry Group have updated their best practice guide on how tenants and landlords can work together to deliver environmental schemes successfully. This includes encouraging a culture change within the sector to look at the opportunities that longer-term agreements offer in delivering productivity and environmental improvements which both landlords and tenants can benefit from.

We look forward to engaging further with stakeholders including tenant farmers and landlords as we develop the design of the three schemes.

Finance

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the report by Christians Against Poverty Shipshape or sinking ship?, published on 21 July, what plans they have to annually assess levels of financial wellbeing across the UK. [[HL2274](#)]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The Government recognises that the full impact of COVID-19 on people's personal finances is still unfolding, and that some are struggling with their finances during these challenging times. The Government is committed to helping people improve their financial wellbeing, and is working with stakeholders from the public, private and third sectors on these issues.

In 2020, the Money and Pensions Service (MaPS), an arms-length body of Government, published the UK Strategy for Financial Wellbeing, which sets out five goals to improve financial wellbeing in the UK by 2030. These include increasing the number of children and young people receiving a meaningful financial education, encouraging saving, decreasing the number of people often using credit for food and bills, increasing the number of people accessing debt advice, and helping people plan for later life. It also includes cross-cutting workstreams focusing on gender, mental health, and wellbeing in the workplace.

The Government also works closely with Fair4All Finance, an independent body which was founded in 2019 to improve the financial wellbeing of those who are financially vulnerable through fair and affordable financial products and services. Since 2019, the Government has provided £96 million of dormant asset funding towards financial inclusion, which are being distributed by Fair4All Finance.

The Government has close and regular engagement with the financial services regulators on issues which

contribute to financial wellbeing. For example, in February 2021, the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) published its finalised guidance for firms on the fair treatment of vulnerable customers. The Government is supportive of recent FCA work on vulnerable customers.

In addition, at Budget 2021, the government announced up to £3.8m for a pilot No-Interest Loans Scheme to support vulnerable consumers who would benefit from affordable credit to meet unexpected costs as an alternative to relying on high-cost credit.

Finally, the Government considers financial inclusion and capability as key determinants of financial wellbeing. The Government reports annually on progress made on financial inclusion through the Financial Inclusion Report. Furthermore, MaPS monitors levels of financial capability in the UK through the Financial Capability Survey, a nationally representative survey of adults living in the UK.

Flood Control: Coastal Areas

*Asked by **Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they regard the UK Climate Projections 18 (UKCP18) as an (1) up-to-date, and (2) reliable, tool for the future planning of sea defences; and what assessment they have made of the International Panel on Climate Change's revisions to its high emissions scenario which underpin UKCP18. [[HL2222](#)]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: Sea level rise projections for the UK were updated in 2018 with the release of latest UK climate projections (UKCP18, Met Office, 2018). The UKCP18 projections for time mean sea level rise around the UK improve on the previous generation of climate projections (UKCP09) through improved understanding of the components of sea level rise (as demonstrated by a better agreement between models and observations) and the inclusion of ice sheet dynamics (Palmer et al., 2018).

The Environment Agency has used the UKCP18 marine projections to derive allowances for sea level rise out to 2125 for each of the six river basin districts in England, based on the 70th and 95th percentiles from Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 8.5. These allowances can be found in 'Flood risk assessments: climate change allowances' and are intended to help ensure that new development adequately addresses the future risk of sea level rise. The marine projections are also used to inform sea level rise allowances in Flood and coastal risk projects, schemes and strategies: climate change allowances.

There is a lot of uncertainty around the absolute upper limit of sea level rise this century but the science can provide low likelihood high end scenarios, called H++ scenarios, which can be used in planning. Such a scenario was produced as part of UKCP09. No probability is assigned to these but a range from 0.93 to 1.9 m was considered to be physically plausible and cannot be ruled

out (Met Office, 2009). This scenario was designed to encourage people to think about the limits to adaptation from sea level rise. While the marine projections from UKCP18 include ice sheet dynamics, there is still uncertainty around the full range of contributions from ice-sheet melt (in particular from the West Antarctic Ice Sheet), and the assessment of literature available at the time of writing UKCP18 indicated that the H++ scenarios from UKCP09 can still be used alongside the UKCP18 marine projections when considering plausible extreme scenarios.

The Environment Agency currently allows for a full range of future climate (up to and including the 95th percentile of the high emission RCP 8.5 case) in its sea level rise allowances, extended beyond the end of the century, as well as considering the H++ scenarios where appropriate. While these are conservative estimates, using all of the best-available data allows for the uncertainty inherent in climate modelling, the rapid rate of sea level rise we have seen in recent years and the plausible extreme scenarios currently outside of the probabilistic models. The Environment Agency regularly assesses the suitability of climate allowances as and when further information becomes available.

The Environment Agency considers the UKCP18 climate projections to be a reliable and up-to-date dataset to inform future planning for climate impacts, while recognising that uncertainties remain, particularly in future emissions and ice sheet dynamics. The Environment Agency accounts for climate change through the application of allowances when designing and constructing sea defences, using a range of climate change scenarios, including a 4°C rise in global temperatures by 2100. The Environment Agency provides guidance to flood risk management authorities, developers and local planning authorities on how to account for climate change in new flood and coastal risk management schemes and development. In July 2020, the Environment Agency updated this guidance to account for future sea level rise and on 20 July 2021 updated the guidance to account of future increases in peak river flows.

The Met Office will continue to assess the science of sea-level rise as part of the Met Office Hadley Centre Climate Programme, including examining the implications of the next IPCC assessment. It is not possible to comment on the content of the next IPCC assessment ahead of its publication. However, we do note that the model assessment exercise on which the IPCC assessment is based, called the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 6 (CMIP6), used a range of emission scenarios including one with a similar level of radiative forcing to RCP8.5.

Flour: Folic Acid

Asked by Lord Rooker

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Bethell on 13 July (HL Deb, col 1701),

what plans they have to consult scientists on folic fortification, following their consultations with the devolved administrations. [[HL2040](#)]

Lord Bethell: There are no current plans to further consult scientists on flour fortification. We are finalising agreement of a four-nation response to the United Kingdom-wide consultation on the proposed mandatory fortification of flour with folic acid which ran from 13 June to 9 September 2019. The next steps will be laid out in the Government's response.

Asked by Lord Rooker

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Bethell on 13 July (HL Deb, col 1702), what are the stated "implications of the Northern Ireland Protocol" in respect of folic fortification, given that nutrition is a matter for EU member states. [[HL2041](#)]

Lord Bethell: Under the terms of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland, European Union legislation will apply in the United Kingdom in respect of Northern Ireland. Regulation 1925/2006 on the Addition of Vitamins and Minerals to Foods is included the Northern Ireland Protocol. Consideration is therefore necessary in discussion with the devolved administrations to ensure the consultation response and any proposed fortification policy takes into account the Northern Ireland Protocol.

Football: Safety

Asked by Lord Mann

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to publish their Standing at Football review. [[HL2082](#)]

Asked by Lord Mann

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether it is their policy to permit safe standing in football stadiums through rail seating when requested by clubs; and what is the timetable for doing so. [[HL2083](#)]

Asked by Lord Mann

To ask Her Majesty's Government which Premier League clubs are being permitted to introduce rail seating for the new football season; what form this permitted rail seating will take; whether it will be described as "safe standing"; and how many of such seats each club will have. [[HL2084](#)]

Asked by Lord Mann

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Sports Ground Safety Authority regarding the form of rail seating required at some football clubs for the new season; and if these (1) will be a permanent solution, and (2) will be defined as safe standing areas. [[HL2085](#)]

Asked by Lord Mann

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Sports Ground Safety Authority

about the form of rail seating; whether such seating is regarded as a temporary measure; and if so, when further changes by football clubs to adapt seating for the new season will be required. [HL2086]

Asked by Lord Mann

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Sports Ground Safety Authority regarding technical safety differences between requirements for a form of rail seating and the requirement for formal approval of safe standing areas. [HL2087]

Baroness Barran: In 2019, the Government made a commitment to work with fans and clubs to introduce safe standing at football stadia. The Government is working closely with the Sports Grounds Safety Authority (SGSA) on planning the next steps for implementing this manifesto commitment. In June 2021, the SGSA published its research into the Safe Management of Persistent Standing in Seated Areas at Football Stadia, which found that the installation of barriers or rails can have a positive impact on spectator safety, particularly in mitigating the risk of a progressive crowd collapse.

The technical requirements for seats with barriers or independent barriers are detailed in the current (6th) edition of SGSA's Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds (Green Guide). Football clubs may, in consultation with the relevant local authority and other partners, install such types of spectator accommodation in any part or all of their grounds as part of their management strategies for persistent standing.

As the all-seater policy remains in place, these areas are licensed as seating areas only at present.

Fractures: Health Services

Asked by Baroness Merron

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact that the Getting it Right First Time programme will have in delivering improved levels of onward referral for patients with newly diagnosed vertebral fractures. [HL2172]

Lord Bethell: The Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) programme reviewed all spinal surgery providers in England in 2019 and highlighted several areas for improvement. We are assessing the impact of these findings and the GIRFT team is due to report on progress later this year when new 'time to surgery' data for these conditions has been collected. NHS England and NHS Improvement also plan to increase the number of rehabilitation beds available nationally, which is expected to have a significant impact in improving levels of referrals.

Free Zones

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to provide more clarity surrounding freeports

and how they will be (1) operated, and (2) governed. [HL1984]

Lord Greenhalgh: The Freeport model will provide a wide package of tax reliefs and simplified customs procedures. HMT and HMRC are working with Freeports to review and confirm the boundaries of their proposed tax sites, prior to approval and commencement of tax measures. Operators of customs sites will need to obtain authorisation for their customs sites and will be responsible for ensuring goods on site follow the correct customs processes. The Government is actively working with the Freeports to support delivery of the policy and subject to confirming their governance arrangements and business case approval, the first are planned to open for business in late 2021.

Each Freeport was asked to set out in the bid proposals their preferred governance structure. The Government is open to any degree of formality and legal structure providing the proposals meet the criteria and core standards on governance set out in the Bidding Prospectus. The Government is assessing the proposals and will work with the Freeports to ensure that governance is robust. The relevant public body (Local Authority or Authorities or Mayoral Combined Authority) of the Freeport Governance Body will be accountable to MHCLG for the expenditure and management of public money.

The Freeport Governance Body will be responsible for the effective delivery of the Freeport according to the economic strategy determined through the bidding process and the Freeport Governance Body will work with Government to ensure the Freeport stays aligned with national policy and delivers on its monitoring and evaluation commitments.

Business cases from each Freeport will give further information on how their proposals will be delivered. The business cases will need to be approved by Government before seed funding can be released and they become operational.

Further Education: Ethnic Groups

Asked by Lord Woolley of Woodford

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review the (1) guidance, and (2) duty being placed on colleges, to review local skills provision, to include an explicit reference to ethnicity. [HL2282]

Asked by Lord Woolley of Woodford

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that the (1) guidance, and (2) duty being placed on colleges, to review local skills provision includes guidance on advancing race equality in further education. [HL2283]

Baroness Berridge: Draft statutory guidance makes clear that in carrying their reviews, the governing bodies of colleges will need to ensure that they comply with their

existing statutory obligations, including those related to equality law, under the Equality Act 2010.

Asked by Lord Woolley of Woodford

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to reference race equality in the Skills and Post-16 Education Bill. [HL2284]

Baroness Berridge: In line with the government's legal duties and its commitment to equalities, care has been taken to ensure that our proposed legislation is informed by assessments of their impacts for those from protected characteristics. The Impact Assessment of the Skills and Post-16 Education Bill was published on 18 May 2021 and includes an assessment of the impacts of its measures on those who share protected characteristics, including in reference to race. This is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/skills-and-post-16-education-bill-impact-assessment-and-jchr-memorandum>.

Gaza: Humanitarian Aid

Asked by Baroness Sheehan

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 8 June (HL535), what information was contained in the (1) "qualitative analysis", and (2) "sectoral analysis of thematic trends". [HL2238]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: During the FCDO ODA allocation process, officials considered the risks and impacts across overall bilateral programming to inform their advice to Ministers. An overarching Equalities Impact Assessment analysed impacts across bilateral country spend and this was considered by Ministers as they reviewed plans. The assessment showed no evidence that programmes targeting those with protected characteristics are more likely to be reduced or discontinued than other programmes.

The internal allocations process also assessed alignment with the Strategic Framework for ODA, alongside UK capabilities and comparative advantage to deliver, and our public and legal commitments.

Gaza: Israel

Asked by Baroness Sheehan

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor, published on 2 July, that nine out of 10 children in the Gaza Strip suffered some form of conflict-related trauma after the Israeli military earlier this year. [HL2240]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are aware of the Euro-Med Monitor report "One Year Older" of 4 July 2021. We continue to stress the importance of the Israeli and Palestinian security forces providing appropriate protection to the civilian population, in particular the need to protect children, and urge restraint in the use of live fire. We remain concerned by the number of Palestinians, including children, killed and injured in the West Bank and Gaza.

Global Navigation Satellite Systems

Asked by Lord Bowness

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Henley on 7 December 2018 (HL11885), whether the UK Space Agency has yet developed options for a UK Navigation Satellite System; if so, (1) what those options are, and (2) whether their costs are within the £92 million set aside for the Engineering and Design studies. [HL2255]

Lord Callanan: The Space-Based Positioning Navigation and Timing Programme (SBPP) is on track and is continuing to explore innovative ways of delivering space-based Position Navigation and Timing (PNT) services to the UK. The programme will advise on options to Government for a space-based solution to improve our PNT resilience, as part of a mix of technologies, in November this year.

SBPP follows on from the work of the UK Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) Programme, which concluded in September 2020. The cost of this programme was contained within the £92m allocated. In conjunction with industry, the GNSS programme developed detailed designs for a Medium-Earth Orbit (MEO) PNT satellite system. SBPP is now looking at a broader set of innovative concepts for securing global space-based PNT services, to meet the resilience needs of our Critical National Infrastructure (CNI) and wider economic and domestic users.

Asked by Lord Bowness

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Callanan on 20 October 2020 (HL8804), whether the Space-Based Positioning Navigation and Timing Programme has completed its exploration of new and alternative ways to deliver satellite navigation services to the UK; if so, what the result of that exploration is; and whether OneWeb has a role in any of the options being considered. [HL2256]

Lord Callanan: From October to November 2020, the UK Space Agency engaged industry and academia specialising in Position, Navigation and Timing (PNT) via a Request for Information (RFI), designed to ensure a wide range of space-based concepts can be explored by the Space Based PNT Programme (SBPP).

SBPP's analysis is ongoing and will assess how well different options meet the UK's requirements for PNT information from space.

Great Musgrave Bridge: Repairs and Maintenance

*Asked by **Baroness Randerson***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with Highways England about their work at Great Musgrave Bridge in Cumbria on why weight restrictions and repointing were not considered as an alternative to infilling; and what assessment they have made the cost of removing the infilling if retrospective planning permission is not granted. [[HL2311](#)]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Department for Transport approved the works at Great Musgrave after being advised by Highways England that urgent action was needed on the grounds of public safety. This urgent need to act was due to the structure of the Great Musgrave bridge being weak and liable to cause the bridge deck to fall suddenly. The bridge was deteriorating, and no weight restriction was in place, meaning it could be used by vehicles of any weight; weight restrictions on bridges are the responsibility of the Local Highway Authority. A bridge assessment completed in 1998 confirmed that the bridge had a 17-tonne capacity, but no weight restrictions by the Local Highway Authority have been implemented.

The support provided by infilling removes the risk that the bridge deck will fall and means a weight limit is no longer required and the bridge will remain safe for everyone who wishes to use it.

Alternatives to infilling any bridge are assessed on a case-by-case basis and depend on the specific structure and the requirements for access being retained.

In the case of Great Musgrave, the aspiration locally is to re-open the route for use as a heritage railway line going under the bridge; it is not expected that this location would be used for a cycling and walking route. Before a heritage railway could be established, there are land ownership issues to be resolved and a replacement river bridge over the River Eden would need to be constructed.

The potential cost of removing the infilling depends on what is done with the fill material. If the fill material is disposed of offsite the estimated cost is £30,000. If it can be re-used to form a walking path, then it is more likely to be £10,000.

Removing the infill would then require appropriate protection and strengthening work for the bridge, which is dependent on the required use. For a heritage railway to be established under the bridge, not only would the bridge need strengthening, but excavation works would likely be required to ensure there is sufficient clearance.

The infill was carried after written confirmation from the Local Planning Authority was received that the works are classed as Permitted Development. Despite this, Highways England has agreed with the Local Planning

Authority to submit formal retrospective planning application at the appropriate time.

The infill material will be covered with soil and seeded with grass and have the appearance of a grass embankment when completed; this will be similar in appearance to other projects, such as those at Tadcaster and Lochaber.

Greece: Migrants and Refugees

*Asked by **Lord Hylton***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by Amnesty International Greece: Violence, lies, and pushbacks, published on 23 June. [[HL2011](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The accounts in the report are concerning and illustrate the difficulties presented by irregular migration. As the report notes, Greece has denied using any illegal practices, while Frontex has conducted an internal investigation into the allegations, and the European Parliament has established a permanent standing committee in order to scrutinise Frontex activity in the Aegean. HMA Athens has raised this issue with Greek Migration Minister Mitarakis and we will continue to urge all parties to uphold international law and international human rights standards, and to avoid any actions that may endanger human life. More broadly, the UK is committed to engaging with European and other partners on a 'whole of route' approach to tackling the challenges of, and risks posed by, irregular migration.

Hammersmith Bridge

*Asked by **Lord Birt***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Vere of Norbiton on 12 July ([HL1445](#)), what assessment they have made of the social and economic value of Hammersmith Bridge beyond the boundaries of the local authorities it connects; and what plans they have to review whether such strategic assets of wide economic value are best owned by local authorities. [[HL1942](#)]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: As highlighted in my Written Answer on 12 July ([HL1445](#)), Hammersmith Bridge is owned by the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBHF) and therefore the Department for Transport has not undertaken any assessments of the social or economic value of the closure of the bridge or its impact on other local authorities. Analyses of the impact of the closure of the bridge will be required as part of the submission of a satisfactory business case by LBHF. The submission of such a case is a condition for the release of any Government contribution to the cost of repairing the bridge, as agreed in the Transport for London extraordinary funding and finance agreement of 1 June 2021.

Under the current system of local government finance, local authorities are free to determine their own capital strategies to deliver local services, on the principle that they are best placed to make the decisions needed to support their local communities and to ensure local accountability.

Following the Government's investment of £4 million toward emergency mitigation works, the Board responsible for the Case for Continued Safe Operation made the decision to reopen Hammersmith Bridge to pedestrians, cyclists and river traffic on 17 July. This is a very welcome development, especially for the people and businesses that use the Bridge.

Asked by Lord Trefgarne

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect Hammersmith Bridge to be re-opened to vehicular traffic. [HL2315]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Hammersmith Bridge is owned by the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBHF) and therefore responsibility for maintaining the bridge, and making decisions on its repair, lies with the borough.

The Government has set out a clear commitment to support LBHF in finding a long-term solution for the bridge. As agreed in the Transport for London Extraordinary Funding and Finance agreement of 1 June 2021, the Government will contribute up to 1/3 of the total costs, but no more.

The next step to permanent reopening to motor vehicles lies with LBHF, which must submit a satisfactory business case to the Department for Transport. The submission of such a case is a condition for the release of any Government contribution to the cost of repairing the bridge. As the asset owner, it is up to LBHF to take the decision on its preferred engineering solution. The timeline of the project is dependent on the solutions chosen by LBHF.

Health: Disadvantaged

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what economic changes and interdepartmental strategies they propose to address the health and financial inequalities which have resulted in certain groups being disproportionately affected by the impact of COVID-19. [HL2072]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: Throughout the pandemic, the Government has sought to protect people's jobs and livelihoods while also supporting businesses and public services across the UK. We recognise that some groups have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and the pandemic has exacerbated pre-existing socio-economic inequalities.

The Government has put in place an economic package of support totalling £352 billion through the furlough and self-employed income support schemes, support for

businesses through grants and loans, and business rates and VAT relief.

To support people on low incomes, the Government has provided one-off £500 Test and Trace Support Payments (TTSP) to help them self-isolate when they are required to do so; to date, the government has provided more than £176 million of funding to local authorities to meet the costs of TTSP.

The Government has also extended the temporary £20 per week uplift to the Universal Credit (UC) standard allowance to the end of September, with similar support for eligible Working Tax Credit (WTC) claimants. The suspension of the Minimum Income Floor for self-employed Universal Credit claimants has been extended until the end of July. The increase to Local Housing Allowance rates for Universal Credit and Housing Benefit in cash terms in 2021-22 has also been maintained, an increase which was worth an extra £600 on average in 2020-21 for over 1.5 million households.

Women have benefited from a variety of schemes as part of this package. For example, where it was possible to link the data, 1.72 million roles held by women were furloughed at 30 April 2021 compared with 1.67 million roles held by men. As of June 6 2021, the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) has received over 2.6 million claims from self-employed women across the four rounds of grant. The majority of Universal Credits claimants are women: 53 per cent in April 2021.

As part of the Government's broader support for individuals, in April workers on the National Living Wage (NLW) saw a 2.2 per cent pay increase to £8.91 an hour – worth over £345 a year for a full-time worker. The Government also extended the NLW to those aged 23 or over.

Asked by Baroness Manzoor

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the health inequalities that have arisen as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in cardiovascular diseases; and what steps they are taking to rectify this issue. [HL2307]

Lord Bethell: The Government has made no assessment of the health inequalities from the COVID-19 pandemic for cardiovascular diseases. However, NHS England is collating audits data and feedback from NHS services. The NHS has made clear that a central part of responding to COVID-19 and restoring services must be to increase the scale and pace of system-wide action to tackle inequalities, with a particular focus on the issues exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The most recent NHS England and NHS Improvement planning guidance outlined the health inequalities delivery strategy from a national and local perspective which prioritised eight key urgent actions to address inequalities in NHS provision and outcomes. Action four emphasises the need to accelerate preventative programmes which proactively engages those at greatest

risk of poor health outcomes, which includes prioritising and addressing cardiovascular disease.

Healthcare Assistants and Nurses

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many full time equivalent NHS contracts for (1) registered nurses, and (2) health care assistants, there were in hospital trusts and community trusts in England in each year between 2010 and 2019. [HL2071]

Lord Bethell: NHS Digital publishes Hospital and Community Health Services workforce statistics for England. These include staff working in hospital trusts and clinical commissioning groups, but not staff working in primary care, general practice surgeries, local authorities or other providers. The following table shows the number of full time equivalent (FTE) registered nurses including health visitors and healthcare assistants as at September each year between 2010 and 2019.

	FTE registered nurses	FTE healthcare assistants
September 2010	279,883	44,024
September 2011	277,047	45,401
September 2012	271,407	47,174
September 2013	274,627	51,645
September 2014	278,981	54,533
September 2015	281,474	58,919
September 2016	284,288	63,103
September 2017	283,853	65,840
September 2018	285,674	66,880
September 2019	291,533	70,331

Heating

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to publish the Heat and Buildings Strategy 2021. [HL2056]

Lord Callanan: The Government is planning to publish a Heat and Buildings Strategy in due course. The strategy will set out the immediate actions we will take for reducing emissions from buildings, as well as our approach to the key strategic decisions needed to achieve a mass transition to low-carbon heat.

Asked by Lord Foster of Bath

To ask Her Majesty's Government when their proposed Heat and Buildings Strategy will be published. [HL2145]

Lord Callanan: As my Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State set out in the BEIS Select Committee on 20/07/21, the Government is planning to publish a Heat and Buildings Strategy in due course. The strategy will set out the immediate actions we will take for reducing emissions from buildings, as well as our approach to the key strategic decisions needed to achieve a mass transition to low-carbon heat.

In order to ensure that we remain on a credible path to net zero while retaining the option to pursue the optimal mix of technologies, we will grow the heat pump market to 600,000 per year by 2028; and undertake large-scale trials for hydrogen, to prove their safety case and build the market.

Heating: Refrigerators

Asked by Lord Foster of Bath

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 12 July (UIN28169), what plans they have to consult (1) consumer bodies, (2) the industry, and (3) MPs and Peers, as part of their review of the legislation covering hydrofluorocarbons. [HL2208]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are the most common type of gas in the group known as fluorinated greenhouse gases (F-gases) and their use is being phased down under F-gas legislation.

We are currently reviewing the F-gas legislation and plan to publish an Assessment Report based on the review by spring 2022. We are engaging with industry stakeholders to gather information and technical evidence to inform the Assessment Report. This includes engagement with key trade bodies, such as the Federation of Environmental Trade Associations and the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Industry Board.

Following publication of the Assessment Report, we intend to publish a legislative proposal and run a formal public consultation during 2022. Any new legislation will be introduced to Parliament in the normal way, including consultation with hon. Members and Peers.

Home Office: Training

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Durham

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) departmental officials, and (2) Ministers, have undertaken the 'Face behind the case' training. [HL2008]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: (1) The 'Face Behind the Case' e-learning is for UKVI staff, to highlight the impact decisions have on our customers. As of 28 June 2021, the training has been completed by 9,633 officials across the Home Office. (2) This data is not held by UKVI.

Homelessness

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to introduce a system of (1) means-tested grants, or (2) interest-free loans, to repay arrears in order to prevent an increase in homelessness. [HL2245]

Lord Greenhalgh: The UK Government has provided an unprecedented package of financial support which is available to tenants.

We have extended the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and £20 per week uplift in Universal Credit until the end of September helping renters to continue paying their rent. Local housing allowance rates have been maintained at their increased level in cash terms in 2021/22, meaning claimants renting in the private rented sector continue to benefit from the significant increase in the local housing allowance rates applied in April 2020. For those who require additional support, Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) are available. For 2021-22 the Government has made £140 million available in DHP funding, building on the £180 million provided last year.

Renters will continue to benefit from longer notice periods, giving them more time to make alternative arrangements. As of 1 June, until at least 30 September, notice periods will be at least 4 months except in the most egregious cases.

We are also providing local authorities with £310 million through the Homelessness Prevention Grant. This funding represents a £47 million increase on the previous year's funding and can be used to offer financial support for people to find a new home, to work with landlords to prevent evictions, and to ensure families have a roof over their head.

We do not wish to encourage more debt and have prioritised non-repayable support. We believe the best way to support people in need is through the existing welfare system, and this is what our extensive package of economic support is doing.

We continue to monitor the effectiveness of other examples of support, such as those from the devolved administrations in the UK, and note that uptake for loan support has been relatively low in Scotland and Wales.

Hospitals: Ventilation

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reply by the Secretary of State for Health on 12 July (HC Deb, col 26), what percentage of the £90 billion extra provided to the health and care system during the pandemic has been spent on air ventilation units. [HL2288]

Lord Bethell: The information requested is not held centrally as much of this funding was spent at trust level.

Human Rights: Sanctions

Asked by Lord Moonie

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken under the Global Human Rights sanctions regime since 6 July 2020. [HL2127]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Global Human Rights sanctions regime gives the UK a powerful tool to hold to account those involved in serious human rights violations or abuses. Since it was established on 6 July 2020, we have designated 72 individuals and 6 entities under this sanctions regime. The full UK Sanctions List is available on GOV.UK website (www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-sanctions-list), which provides details of those individuals and entities designated under sanctions regulations made under the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act. We will continue to consider targets globally, guided by the objectives of the Global Human Rights sanctions regime and the evidence.

Immigration

Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 14 July (HL1628), whether someone (1) born in the EU, (2) with an EU Member State passport, (3) who is married to a UK citizen, and (4) has (a) resided, and (b) been employed, in the UK for over 20 years, including paying taxes or drawing pension payments, would automatically have "UK immigration status" by dint of those characteristics; or whether they might still need to apply for it under the EU Settlement Scheme. [HL2059]

Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 14 July (HL1629), whether someone (1) born in an (a) European Economic Area, or (b) European Free Trade Area, state other than the UK, (2) who carries a non-UK passport, (3) who is married to a UK citizen, and (4) has (a) resided, and (b) been employed, in the UK for over 20 years including paying taxes or drawing pension payments, would automatically have "UK immigration status" by dint of those characteristics; or whether they might still need to apply for it under the EU Settlement Scheme. [HL2060]

Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 14 July (HL1628 and HL1629), what are the additional rights available to EU, EEA and EFTA nationals under the Citizens' Rights Agreements that they will not possess if they do not apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. [HL2063]

Lord Greenhalgh: An EU, European Economic Area (EEA) or European Free Trade Association (EFTA) national who was settled in the UK before 1 January 1973 may have acquired indefinite leave to enter or remain automatically under section 1(2) of the Immigration Act 1971.

Where they hold indefinite leave to enter or remain obtained in this way, or where an EU, EEA or EFTA national holds such leave obtained by applying for it under another immigration route, they do not need to apply for status under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS), but they may do so if they wish given the benefits of doing so.

Indefinite leave to enter or remain granted under the EUSS (referred to as 'settled status') enables the holder to access additional rights in line with the Citizens' Rights Agreements. For example, they can be absent from the UK for five consecutive years, rather than two years, before their settled status lapses, and they can sponsor certain family members to join them in the UK without meeting the requirements of the family Immigration Rules.

Where an EEA national was resident in the UK by 31 December 2020 based on free movement rights, they must apply to the EU Settlement Scheme for status under UK immigration law. The deadline for doing so was 30 June 2021, but late applications will be accepted where reasonable grounds exist for missing the deadline. This includes where someone has lived in the UK for many years and did not realise they needed to apply.

Immigration: EEA Nationals

Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 14 July (HL1628 and HL1629), how someone would check whether they had (1) "UK immigration status", and (2) indefinite leave to enter or remain in the UK. [HL2061]

Lord Greenhalgh: A person who is issued with a UK Immigration status or Indefinite leave to Enter or Remain are provided with a visa in their passport, a biometric residence permit or an electronic visa confirming their status. Our decision notices also provide customers with details on their terms of leave.

A person who has applied to the EU Settlement Scheme or via the fully digital processes for the British Nationals (Overseas) and Points Based System routes, will have created a UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) account. They can use their UKVI account credentials to log into the online View and Prove service.

If an individual has been notified they have a digital certificate of application, they are able to use the View and Prove service to prove their rights:

<https://www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status>.

The Home Office also publishes information to assist EU national customers understand their immigration status. Further information can be found on our website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/view-and-prove-your-immigration-status-evisa/your-immigration-status-an-introduction-for-eu-eea-and-swiss-citizens-accessible-version>.

For longer-term settled residents who wish to replace their visa for a biometric residence permit, they can submit an application for a biometric residence permit. Further information can be found on the gov.uk website: <https://www.gov.uk/biometric-residence-permits/replace-visa-brp>.

Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 14 July (HL1628 and HL1629), how they are informing EU, EEA and EFTA nationals who acquired a right of permanent residence in the UK under EU law that (1) they need to apply for status under the EU Settlement Scheme, and (2) the benefits of applying. [HL2062]

Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 14 July (HL1628 and HL1629), what steps they are taking to inform EU, EEA and EFTA nationals living in the UK about the benefits of the additional rights available to them under the Citizens' Rights Agreements. [HL2064]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Since the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) opened in March 2019, the Home Office has undertaken a broad range of communications and stakeholder engagement activity to encourage EU, European Economic Area (EEA) and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) nationals, and their family members, to apply for status under the EUSS and to explain why they should do so and secure their rights under the Citizens' Rights Agreements.

We launched a further wave of UK-wide advertising in mid-May to help ensure they were aware of the EUSS and its benefits and of how to apply and access support in doing so if they needed it, although existing ILR holders need not apply. This built on the successful campaign already delivered – with £7.9 million having now been invested in such activity – with targeted adverts appearing on social media, website banners, catch up TV and radio up to the application deadline of 30 June.

The Home Office has also made available £22 million in grant funding for a network of now 72 organisations across the UK, which includes charities, local authorities and community groups, to engage with vulnerable groups and help them apply to the EUSS.

We are also continuing to engage with local authorities, the Devolved Administrations, employers, community groups and others to raise awareness of the EUSS and encourage those eligible who are yet to apply to do so.

Immigration: EU Nationals

*Asked by **Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to provide funding to agencies and local authorities to support EU citizens facing problems accessing their rights and entitlements in the UK, including issues with the EU Settlement Scheme, given that the Independent Monitoring Authority for the Citizens' Rights Agreements does not deal with individual cases. [HL2055]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office remains committed to ensuring those who are eligible can apply to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS), including those who are vulnerable, need extra support or are harder to reach. £22 million of funding, through to 30 September 2021, has been awarded to a network of 72 charities and local authorities across the UK, to ensure important information and assistance gets through to those who are hardest to reach, and no one is left behind. This support has continued beyond the 30 June 2021 deadline to ensure continuing support for vulnerable citizens applying late.

Guidance on how to apply and details of the support available to applicants is available through the EU Settlement Resolution Centre (SRC), which is open seven days a week to provide assistance over the telephone and by email, and the SRC also provides a direct line for organisations, charities, social workers, and local authorities working with vulnerable groups.

We are working closely with the Grant-funded Network (GFN) and other key stakeholders, collating feedback, to help establish the needs and scale of support beyond September 2021.

Immigration: Hong Kong

*Asked by **Lord Goodlad***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they are making available to immigrants from Hong Kong; and, in particular, those settling in London. [HL1888]

Lord Greenhalgh: On 31 January, the UK launched a new immigration route for British National (Overseas) [BN(O)] status holders and their dependents and on 8 April, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government announced a new UK-wide Welcome Programme to support Hong Kong BN(O) status holders with a package worth £43.1 million. Further detail on the announcement was published (attached) on GOV.UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-welcome-for-hong-kong-arrivals>.

Alongside this announcement, a comprehensive Welcome Guide was published on GOV.UK for Hong Kong BN(O) status holders settling in the UK, in both English and Cantonese. Further information is available (attached) at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/welcome-a-guide-for-hong-kong-british-national-overseas-visa-holders-in-the-uk>.

To co-ordinate support and offer practical advice to BN(O) status holders, MHCLG is working with Strategic Migration Partnerships (SMPs) to establish a network of 12 Welcome Hubs across the UK including in London.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Guide for Hongkong British National [Welcome_ a guide for Hong Kong British National (Overseas) visa holders in the UK - GOV.UK HL1888.pdf]

National welcome for Hong Kong arrivals [National welcome for Hong Kong arrivals - GOV.UK - HL1888.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-07-12/HL1888>

Immigration: Public Consultation

*Asked by **The Lord Bishop of Southwark***

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will publish their response to their consultation on the New Plan for Immigration, published on 24 March; and what assessment they have made of their compliance with paragraph J of their Consultation Principles, published on 17 July 2012, in respect of their response to this consultation. [HL2106]

Lord Greenhalgh: This has been published already.

In Vitro Fertilisation

*Asked by **Baroness Deech***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Bethell on 20 October 2020 (HL9219) and 25 June (HL1299), why they have not yet published the outcome of their consultation on gamete and embryo storage limits. [HL2262]

Lord Bethell: We intend to publish the Government's response after the summer recess.

Incinerators: Recycling

*Asked by **Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park on 6 October 2020 (HL 8373), (1) whether the "further monitoring" provided an accurate picture of incinerator capacity planned between now and 2025, (2) how that compares with levels of residual waste, and (3) what impact it will have on national recycling rates. [HL2223]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: We are currently assessing planned incinerator capacity against expected future residual waste arisings so we can understand what future incineration capacity may be required following implementation of key commitments in the Resources and

Waste Strategy. A further assessment of residual waste treatment capacity needs, updating the details included in the Resources and Waste Strategy, will be published in coming months.

Industrial Health and Safety

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to provide regulations and guidance for workplaces on health and safety compliance measures. [HL2045]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is the national regulator of health & safety legislation in Great Britain. The principal legislation is the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, which is supported by a framework of Regulations covering specific topic areas e.g. the Work at Height Regulations 2005, Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 etc.

HSE provides an advisory service which can be accessed online via a form or by telephone. In addition, it provides a comprehensive suite of guidance documents and publications on compliance with all aspects of health and safety law and which are available for free from its website <https://www.hse.gov.uk/guidance/index.htm>.

During the period 1 March 2020 – 28 February 2021, HSE's analytics recorded:

- 74.3 million page views of its guidance;
- 17.5 million people visited the site;
- 6.3 million downloads of our free publications (books) and guidance material; and
- 71 per cent of users surveyed said the guidance they used was useful.

Industrial Health and Safety: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to produce guidance for employers, to accompany the lifting of COVID-19 related restrictions on 19 July, about the health and safety of employees who are immunocompromised or immunosuppressed and therefore not protected by the COVID-19 vaccine. [HL2092]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: Throughout the pandemic, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has encouraged businesses to manage risks in order to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in workplaces through the provision of detailed guidance. HSE published updated guidance on 19 July - Keeping workplaces safe as coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions are removed (which can be found at [https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/roadmap-further-](https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/roadmap-further-guidance.htm)

[guidance.htm](https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/roadmap-further-guidance.htm)) to reflect changes as a result of the lifting of coronavirus restrictions in England.

HSE does not consider vaccination of employees to be a workplace control. Businesses must control the risks and review and update their risk assessment to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 by providing adequate ventilation, regular cleaning and frequent handwashing. Businesses can also continue to reduce the risk of transmission during the pandemic by taking measures to limit the number of people their workers are in contact with, and UK government guidance on working safely (which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-covid-19>) provides further information and advice on these measures covering a range of different types of work.

Employers' health and safety responsibilities include taking reasonable steps to protect all workers and others from the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in connection with their work activities. As these control measures apply to all workers, regardless of their relative levels of vulnerability or the potential outcome, there are no expectations of additional control measures for Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) workers or the need for individual risk assessments.

HSE advises employers to have individual discussions with their CEV employees about any workplace concerns and understand what is in place to protect them. There is specific guidance on the HSE website to support employers to do this at:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/working-safely/protect-people.htm>.

Industry: Liverpool City Region

Asked by Baroness Hooper

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to expand their Industrial Clusters Mission to other regions; and what consideration they have given to the Liverpool City Region being a suitable cluster. [HL2304]

Lord Callanan: Industrial clusters account for just over half of the emissions by industry, which is why we committed in the Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy to delivering four low-carbon clusters by 2030 and at least one fully net zero cluster by 2040. The North West cluster already covers the Liverpool City region. The cluster's decarbonisation plans will provide over £4bn in investment, delivering at least 33,000 jobs and abating 10m tonnes of carbon across the North West.

We have already invested over £45 million into the Hynet Project in the region, through the Industrial Decarbonisation Challenge and BEIS Hydrogen Supply and Industrial Fuel Switching competitions, to help kickstart hydrogen and carbon capture and storage.

Influenza: Death

Asked by Baroness Masham of Ilton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the worst case scenario for flu deaths ahead of the 2021–22 winter flu season. [[HL1763](#)]

Lord Bethell: Public Health England has not made such an assessment. The number of cases and deaths due to influenza-related complications varies each season. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the low levels of flu virus circulation globally in 2020 and 2021, predictions for the 2021/22 influenza season are particularly uncertain. The average number of estimated deaths in England for the last five seasons was over 11,000 deaths annually. This ranged from almost 4,000 deaths in 2018/19 to over 22,000 deaths in 2017/18. Of these deaths, many were in people with underlying conditions.

Infrastructure and Projects Authority

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Annual Report on Major Projects 2020–21 by the Infrastructure and Projects Authority, published on 15 July, in respect of the projects categorised 'red', what plans they have (1) to reassess the need for these projects, and (2) to cancel these projects; and what estimate they have made of the savings that would result from cancelling these projects. [[HL2143](#)]

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Annual Report on Major Projects 2020–21 by the Infrastructure and Projects Authority, published on 15 July, (1) why historical data of eight years of 'amber/red' or 'red' colour ratings has been deleted, (2) why the HS2 project has been separated into Phases 1, 2a and 2b, and (3) on what (a) costs, (b) benefits, and (c) timetable, are the revised assessments of Phases 1 and 2b made; and what steps they plan to take to ensure these are assessed as 'amber' or 'green' in the 2021–22 report. [[HL2144](#)]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The IPA is not responsible for the individual GMPP projects, and the decisions to reassess, or cancel a project belong to the relevant Departmental Accounting Officer.

The previous Delivery Confidence Assessment (DCA) rating colours for HS2 are not shown as this is the first time that the individual phases of the project have been presented in the IPA's Annual Report, previously HS2 has been presented as a single project.

The IPA will continue to work closely with all departments and delivery bodies, including the Department for Transport and HS2 Ltd to ensure efficient and effective delivery to drive construction innovation and capture and share lessons learned.

Insolvency: Fees and Charges

Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the report by Christians Against Poverty Shipshape or sinking ship?, published on 21 July, what plans they have to remove insolvency fees for individuals with insufficient surplus income. [[HL2273](#)]

Lord Callanan: There are no immediate plans to review the bankruptcy application or Debt Relief Order (DRO) fees. Where the fee is an issue, assistance is already available to allow a debtor to pay in instalments prior to the making of the bankruptcy order or DRO. In addition, some charities offer help with paying the fee.

The Government has announced that it will be conducting a review of the personal insolvency framework in due course to ensure that it continues to be fit for purpose.

Integrated Care Systems

Asked by Baroness Merron

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure musculoskeletal, fragility fractures and falls are being incorporated into Integrated Care Systems. [[HL2169](#)]

Asked by Baroness Merron

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that National Health Service Improvement Musculoskeletal Pathway is included and prioritised within individual Integrated Care Systems. [[HL2170](#)]

Lord Bethell: We expect musculoskeletal, fragility fractures and fall services to be fully incorporated into integrated care systems (ICSs) and for the musculoskeletal pathway to play a key role in shaping planning and decision-making.

NHS England and NHS Improvement have convened the National Pathways Improvement Programme to reduce variation in access and outcomes and improve performance. Within this programme the Best MSK health collaborative is supporting those in musculoskeletal leadership roles, including within ICSs, and a specific work stream is focused on osteoporosis, falls and fragility fractures in collaboration with professional and patient-facing stakeholders, as well as those with lived experience.

Investment Income: Holiday Accommodation

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many individuals in each local authority declared income from furnished holiday lettings on their Self-Assessment tax returns in the latest year for which data is available. [[HL2081](#)]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The numbers of individuals in each local authority that declared income from furnished holiday lettings via their self-assessment tax returns in 2019-20, rounded to the nearest 10 are provided in the attached table.

It should also be noted that:

- Not all individuals with property income are required to declare it. For example, those with income below the £1,000 property allowance are not required to tell HMRC.
- Some individuals with property income between £1,000 to £2,500 will declare this via PAYE rather than self-assessment. These individuals are not included here.

In March, the Government announced that it will legislate to change the criteria determining whether a holiday let is valued for business rates to account for the number of days it was let. This will ensure that owners of properties cannot reduce their tax liability by declaring that a property is available for let while making little or no actual effort to do so. Further details of the change and implementation will be included in the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG) response to the consultation on the business rates treatment of self-catering accommodation which will be published shortly.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Self-Assessment tax returns for individuals [HL2081 Supporting table.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-07-15/HL2081>

Investment Income: Property

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many individuals in each local authority declared income from property, excluding furnished holiday lettings, on their Self-Assessment tax returns in the latest year for which data is available. [HL2080]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The numbers of individuals in each local authority that declared income from property excluding furnished holiday lettings via their Self-Assessment tax returns in 2019-20 are provided in the attached table, rounded to the nearest 10.

It should also be noted that:

- Not all individuals with property income are required to declare it. For example, those with income below the £1,000 property allowance are not required to tell HMRC.
- Some individuals with property income between £1,000 to £2,500 will declare this via PAYE rather than Self-Assessment. These individuals are not included in this data.

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The Answer includes the following attached material:

Self-Assessment tax returns 2019-20 [HL2080 Supporting table.doc]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-07-15/HL2080>

Iraq and Syria: Minority Groups

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the situation of the (1) Yazidi, (2) Christian, and (3) Mandeian, communities in (a) Iraq, and (b) Syria; what plans they have to (i) recognise them as endangered communities and (ii) to identify policies to protect them; what assistance they are providing, if any, to these communities; and what assessment they have made of how any such assistance is protecting them. [HL1987]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK is firmly committed to supporting the rights of ethnic and religious minorities in Iraq and Syria who have suffered as a result of conflict and been persecuted, particularly by Daesh. We have contributed £28 million to the UNDP Funding Facility for Stabilisation (FFS), which is helping to enable the return of internally displaced persons, including minorities, to areas liberated from Daesh by restoring vital infrastructure and basic services.

Iraq and Syria: War Crimes

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the possibility of designating the destruction of cultural heritage as an early warning sign of atrocity crimes, in line with the requirements of the UN Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes; and what plans they have to support (1) the preservation of the cultural heritage, and (2) the protection of places of worship, of endangered (a) ethnic, and (b) religious, communities in (i) Iraq, and (ii) Syria. [HL1989]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK remains active and committed in this field. The UK was a penholder on UN Security Council Resolution 2347, which treats protection of cultural heritage as an issue of key importance to international peace with implications for national security. In Iraq and Syria, UK support for cultural heritage protection has ranged from providing psycho-social support to Yazidi women trafficked by

Daesh, to addressing illegal antiquities trafficking through the flagship Cultural Protection Fund. The UK government is considering further work in both Iraq and Syria through the next round of the Cultural Protection Fund.

Islam: Curriculum

Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, subject to a parental right to withdraw children from particular lessons, to require depictions of the Prophet Mohammed to be shown to pupils and discussed as part of Religious Studies in the school curriculum; and if they have no such plans, why not. [HL2235]

Baroness Berridge: The department does not specify what a religious education (RE) curriculum should consist of, or how lessons on particular religions or non-religious beliefs should be taught. This is a matter for the school and the local authority's Agreed Syllabus Conference, depending on whether a school is maintained or an academy, and whether the school has a religious designation or not. The details of these arrangements can be found in department guidance found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/religious-education-guidance-in-english-schools-non-statutory-guidance-2010>, and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/re-and-collective-worship-in-academies-and-free-schools>.

There are therefore no plans for the department to require the depictions of the Prophet Mohammed to be shown to pupils and discussed as part of RE.

Schools are free to include a full range of issues, ideas, and materials in their curriculum, including where they are challenging or controversial, subject to their obligations to ensure political balance. They must balance this with the need to promote respect and tolerance between people of different faiths and beliefs, including in deciding which materials to use in the classroom.

Israel: Arms Trade

Asked by Baroness Janke

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Minister for Middle East and North Africa on 15 June (UIN900776), what assessment they have made of whether British arms exported to Israel have been used in assaults on Palestinian (1) people, and (2) property, in the Occupied Palestinian Territories; and what assessment they have made of the implications of any such use for the UK's export control responsibilities. [HL2152]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: HM Government takes its export control responsibilities very seriously and operates one of the most robust arms export control regimes in the world. We consider all export applications

thoroughly against a strict risk assessment framework and keep all licences under careful and continual review as standard. HM Government will not grant an export licence if to do so would be inconsistent with the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria. If extant licences are found to be no longer consistent with the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria, those licences will be revoked. HM Government publishes quarterly and annual statistics on all export licensing decisions, including details of export licences granted, refused and revoked. These can be accessed at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/strategic-export-controls-licensing-data>.

Israel: Gaza

Asked by Baroness Janke

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about that government's ban on bringing construction raw materials into the Gaza Strip; and what assessment they have made of the impact of this ban on efforts to repair damage to Gaza's water and sewage infrastructure caused by the conflict in May. [HL2154]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK welcomed the announcement of a ceasefire in Israel and Gaza on 20 May, which is an important step to ending the cycle of violence and loss of civilian life. The UK priority now is ensuring timely humanitarian access into and out of Gaza, including for essential health services. We are urging the Government of Israel to ensure this access is maintained. We have made clear our concern about the ongoing humanitarian situation in Gaza, including significant damage and destruction of civilian infrastructure including homes, schools, hospitals, and clinics.

Israel: Palestinians

Asked by Baroness Janke

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that the Israel Defence Forces have used Ruger semi-automatic rifles against Palestinian protestors in the West Bank. [HL1957]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are aware of these reports. We repeatedly call on Israel to abide by its obligations under international law and have a regular dialogue with Israel on legal issues relating to the occupation. We urge restraint in the use of live fire.

Asked by Baroness Janke

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the United Nations Children and Armed Conflict, published on 6 May; and, in particular their finding of "grave violations against 340 Palestinian and 3 Israeli children" in the West Bank. [HL1958]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are aware of the assessments made in the Annual Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) for 2020. We continue to stress the importance of the Israeli and Palestinian security forces providing appropriate protection to the civilian population, in particular the need to protect children, and urge restraint in the use of live fire. We remain concerned by the number of Palestinians, including children, killed and injured in the West Bank and Gaza.

Asked by Baroness Janke

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports of the destruction by the Israeli army of the Jenin Al-Tafawk children's centre. [HL1959]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK opposes Israel's demolitions of Palestinian schools and we continue to urge Israel to cease such policies. The Foreign Secretary raised ongoing evictions, demolitions and settlement activity with the Israeli Authorities during his visit to the region on 26 May. The UK is clear that in all but the most exceptional of circumstances, demolitions are contrary to International Humanitarian Law.

Asked by Baroness Janke

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports this month that the Israeli military blocked the UN from delivering aid to Palestinians whose homes had been demolished in the Jordan Valley. [HL2151]

Asked by Baroness Janke

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the statement by the UN Resident Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory on 9 July that attempts by Israeli authorities to force the Palestinian community of Humsa Al Bqai'a to relocate to an alternative location raise "a serious risk of forcible transfer". [HL2153]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are aware of these reports. The UK regularly raises the issue of demolitions and forced evictions of Palestinians from their homes with the Government of Israel, most recently on 12 July. The Foreign Secretary raised ongoing evictions, demolitions and settlement activity with the Israeli Authorities during his visit to the region on 26 May. We repeatedly call on Israel to abide by its obligations under international law and are clear that in all but the most exceptional of circumstances, evictions are contrary to International Humanitarian Law.

Asked by Baroness Sheehan

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they will make to the government of Israel about reports of sexual threats made to Palestinian women during raids in Hebron by Israeli soldiers and settlers. [HL2242]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We expect any such allegations to be thoroughly investigated by the Israeli authorities. We repeatedly call on Israel to abide by its obligations under international law and have a regular dialogue with Israel on legal issues relating to the occupation. We continue to stress the importance of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population.

Israel: West Bank

Asked by Baroness Sheehan

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about the confiscation by Israeli forces of a prefabricated building which served as a clinic in the South Hebron Hills. [HL2239]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK regularly raises the issue of demolitions and forced evictions of Palestinians from their homes with the Government of Israel. The Foreign Secretary raised ongoing evictions, demolitions and settlement activity with the Israeli Authorities during his visit to the region on 26 May. The UK is clear that in all but the most exceptional of circumstances, demolitions and evictions are contrary to International Humanitarian Law.

Jerusalem: Religious Buildings

Asked by Baroness Sheehan

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the reports of increasing number of incursions by Jewish settlers into the Al Aqsa Mosque compound, and (2) the calls by extremist groups for raids to take place on the Mosque during Muslim holidays. [HL2241]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK Government strongly condemns all forms of violence and incitement to violence, including the use of racist, hateful or anti-Palestinian language and any actions that could stir up hatred and prejudice. We are concerned by the number of Palestinians, including children, killed in the West Bank and Gaza. In instances where there have been accusations of excessive use of force, we urge the Government of Israel to conduct swift and transparent investigations. We welcome the efforts of Israeli authorities to address settler violence, and urge them to thoroughly investigate every instance to bring those responsible to justice and end the culture of impunity. We continue to stress the importance of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population.

Job Security: Ethnic Groups

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reduce the number of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic individuals in insecure work. [HL2043]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The Government is committed to supporting people from all backgrounds, including those from ethnic minorities, to move and stay in work. Our Plan for Jobs Programme protects, supports and creates jobs, targeting young people, the long term unemployed, and those in need of new training and skills.

As the economy improves, we will increasingly focus on progression to improve opportunities for those in low-paid work and support them towards financial independence. The In-Work Progression Commission published an independent [Call for Action](#) (see attached) to help people progress out of low pay on the 1 July. Government will consider the recommendations and respond later in the year.

We also continue to develop the evidence base for helping people progress their careers and raise their earnings. Building on the findings of our In-Work Progression Randomised Controlled Trial, published in 2018 we are conducting research and working across Government to support progression. We are also testing a work coach led support offer to develop new approaches to progression for Universal Credit claimants.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Attachment 1 [HL2043 Attachment.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-07-14/HL2043>

Key Workers: Quarantine

Asked by Baroness Manzoor

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking, if any, to change the self-isolation period before 16 August for key workers who have received two COVID-19 vaccines so that they do not have to self-isolate if contacted by Test and Trace; and whether they will list those professions which fall under the key worker category. [HL2308]

Lord Bethell: To protect the delivery of public services before the self-isolation rules change on 16 August, a very limited number of named critical workers will be informed that they are considered to have a reasonable excuse to leave self-isolation to attend work if they are contacts. This will only apply to workers who are fully vaccinated (defined as someone who is 14 days post-second dose) and is solely for the purpose of going to work. To mitigate the risk of increased transmission, certain conditions must be followed. This is a short-term and highly focused measure intended to apply only in exceptional circumstances with the core purpose of preventing significant harm to public welfare as a result of disruption to critical services.

The list of sectors that are currently eligible for consideration are as follows: Border Control; Clinical Consumable Supplies; Digital Infrastructure; Emergency Services; Energy (including Civil and Nuclear); Essential Chemicals; Essential Defence; Essential Transport; Food

Production and Supply; Health and Social Care; Local Government; Medicine; Medical Devices; Waste; Water & Veterinary Medicine.

Kickstart Scheme

Asked by Lord Farmer

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many jobs facilitated by the Kickstart Scheme have (1) been approved, (2) been advertised, and (3) started, in each region of Great Britain. [HL2268]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: As of the 22nd July, 50,000 young people have started Kickstart jobs.

As of the 21st of July, over 155,000 jobs have been made available for young people to apply for through the Kickstart Scheme with over 263,000 jobs approved for funding by the Scheme.

Between 23/06/2021 and 22/07/2021 an average of almost 600 young people started a Kickstart job each working day.

We are currently unable to provide data on the number of approved jobs by location, as at that stage in the process we do not hold information about the exact location of a job, only the head office of the employer.

Below are tables listing the number of Kickstart jobs which have been made available and started by young people to date by geographical area of Great Britain and work sector. The figures used are correct as of the 21st July and these figures have been rounded according to departmental standards.

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.

Location	Jobs Made Available	Total Jobs Started
East Midlands	10,200	3,000
East of England	12,200	3,500
London	30,400	11,110
North East	6,000	2,400
North West	20,200	6,300
Scotland	11,200	4,400
South East	18,100	5,400
South West	11,600	3,400
Wales	8,900	2,600
West Midlands	14,400	4,400
Yorkshire and The Humber	11,900	3,700

*These numbers are rounded and so may not match provided totals. Figures provided include jobs created but not funded by the scheme.

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Jobs Made Available</i>	<i>Total Jobs Started</i>
Administration	38,800	12,900
Animal Care	700	400
Beauty & Wellbeing	1,100	400
Business & Finance	5,700	1,800
Computing, Technology & Digital	11,400	4,600
Construction & Trades	4,900	1,700
Creative & Media	11,800	5,100
Delivery & Storage	4,800	1,500
Emergency & Uniform Services	300	100
Engineering & Maintenance	5,400	1,500
Environment & Land	2,900	1,000
Government Services	600	100
Healthcare	4,600	1,200
Home Services	1,200	200
Hospitality & Food	15,400	3,600
Law & Legal	300	200
Managerial	1,000	300
Manufacturing	3,700	1,400
Retail & Sales	23,600	8,000
Science & Research	700	200
Social Care	3,900	800
Sports & Leisure	3,800	1,100
Teaching & Education	7,700	1,800
Transport	600	100
Travel & Tourism	500	200

* These numbers are rounded and so may not match provided totals. Figures provided include jobs created but not funded by the scheme.

Land Mines

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government why they have withdrawn support for mine clearance in (1) Lebanon, (2) Sri Lanka, and (3) Vietnam; and what impact they expect this will have on future trade deals with those countries. [HL2160]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK is a leading donor in mine action. Our mine action funding saves lives, limbs and livelihoods across the world, supporting those most in need and delivering UK treaty obligations. Since 2018, UK funding has cleared and confirmed safe

over 397 million square metres, the equivalent of 55,600 football pitches, and delivered life-saving risk education to 3.2 million people living in mine-affected communities.

The UK continues to fund mine action in Sri Lanka and Vietnam. Development and global prosperity are at the heart of UK trade and investment policy and the Department for International Trade remains committed to enhancing its bilateral economic relationship with Lebanon, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

Languages: Education

Asked by Baroness Coussins

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the cost of restoring the Modern Foreign Languages bursary to its pre-2020/21 level of £26,000 per student. [HL1884]

Asked by Baroness Coussins

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the cost per annum of restoring the Language Teacher Training Scholarships. [HL1885]

Baroness Berridge: The Department reviews the bursaries and scholarships offered for initial teacher training (ITT) before the start of each annual recruitment cycle. Factors such as historic recruitment, forecast economic conditions, and teacher supply need are considered. Being able to change the financial incentives offered for ITT provides flexibility in responding to the need to attract new teachers and ensures money is spent where it is needed most.

The financial incentives for trainee teachers starting ITT in the academic year 2022/23 will be announced this autumn. In advance of this, the Department will consider the need and potential impact of incentives for Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) alongside the offer for all other subjects.

It is not possible to say what the cost of increasing the MFL bursary or restoring the MFL scholarship would be in future, as this is dependent on the number of eligible trainee teachers that are recruited. The Department publishes ITT census data each year showing the numbers of trainee teachers recruited, from which we can estimate the cost per annum. The published 2019/20 ITT census data shows approximately 1,145 MFL trainees were eligible for either a £26,000 bursary or £28,000 scholarship[1][2][3].

[1] Includes postgraduate MFL trainees with 1st, 2:1 and 2:2 degree classes only from the following routes only: Higher Education Institution, School Centred ITT and School Direct (fee-funded). Total excludes trainees whose degree classes are unknown.

[2] It is possible that some of these trainees may have been ineligible for a bursary or scholarship because they were in fact awarded a degree classification lower than a 2:2.

[3] A small minority of these trainees will also have been ineligible for a bursary or scholarship because they were ineligible for student finance.

Levelling Up Fund

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in assessing applications to their Levelling Up Fund, they plan to take into account (1) the principles contained in their consultation *Reforming Competition and Consumer Policy: Driving growth and delivering competitive markets that work for consumers*, published on 20 July, in particular those about (a) levels of consumer harm, and (b) businesses blocking competition, (2) the availability of potential competition, and (3) value for money for taxpayers. [HL2250]

Lord Greenhalgh: The £4.8 billion Levelling Up Fund will invest in infrastructure that improves everyday life across the UK, including regenerating town centres and high streets, upgrading local transport, and investing in cultural and heritage assets.

The Fund will operate UK-wide, extending the benefits of funding for priority local infrastructure across all regions and nations.

We published a technical note setting out further guidance for the first round of the Levelling Up Fund on GOV.UK.

Loans: Repayments

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to allow small businesses flexible government loan repayment plans. [HL2185]

Lord Callanan: We have always been clear that businesses are responsible for repaying any finance they take out. However, we recognise that some borrowers will benefit from additional flexibility with regards to their repayments. That is why we announced the Pay As You Grow measures last year.

Pay As You Grow is designed to provide Bounce Back Loan borrowers more time and flexibility over their repayments by giving them the option to:

- Extend the length of the loan from six years to ten.
- Make interest-only payments for six months, with the option to use this up to three times throughout the loan.
- Take up a six-month repayment holiday. This option is available once during the term of their loan.

Businesses are able to use these options either individually or in combination with each other. These are only available once a business has started making repayments on the loan. In addition, they have the option to fully repay their loan early and will face no early repayment charges for doing so.

While the Government covers the interest due on Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) facilities for the first twelve months, repayments of capital are required during this period unless the lender chooses to grant additional forbearance measures.

CBILS lenders are able to extend the repayment period for CBILS facilities where this is needed, to a maximum of 10 years. CBILS term extensions are offered at the discretion of lenders, and for forbearance purposes only.

The British Business Bank has a range of guidance and resources available to all businesses, including content on managing cashflow and a list of independent advice services. Details can be found online at the British Business Bank website.

Local Government and NHS Trusts: Billing

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government why National Health Service Trusts and English Local Authority Councils are allowed to be signatories to the Prompt Payment Code given the reports about failures to pay promptly and make the relevant disclosures under section 113(7) of the Public Contract Regulations 2015. [HL2168]

Lord True: The Office of the Small Business Commissioner administers the Prompt Payment Code (the Code) on behalf of BEIS. The Office of the Small Business Commissioner is an independent public body set up by Government under the Enterprise Act 2016. The Code is a voluntary code of practice which any private or public sector organisation may sign up to. If an organisation chooses to sign up to the Code, they must demonstrate they meet the Code standards.

However, public sector organisations in scope of Reg 113 of the PCRs 2015 are required to meet payment standards as set out in legislation. This requires contracting authorities to include contractual provisions to make payments due to a contractor no later than 30 days from the point it is declared valid and undisputed, and for that verification to take place in a timely fashion and without undue delay.

Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many functional economic areas there are in England; and what plans they have to match them with local authority administrative boundaries. [HL2318]

Lord Greenhalgh: HM Government does not recognise a set number of functional economic areas. As such, there are no plans to match them with local authority administrative boundaries.

Local Government: Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to provide local authorities with clarity about their role in achieving net zero emissions by 2050. [HL2182]

Lord Callanan: Officials regularly engage with local leaders on a range of net zero issues, for example through the local energy contact group which last met on 8th July 2021.

Future plans for the role of local authorities in meeting net zero will be outlined in the Net Zero Strategy, which is currently under development and due to be published before COP26.

Lockheed Martin and Virgin Orbit

Asked by Lord Bowness

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much funding (1) Lockheed Martin, and (2) Virgin Orbit, received from the UK Space Flight Programme, and for what purpose. [HL2257]

Lord Callanan: The UK Spaceflight Programme has provided:

- £23.5 million in two separate grants to Lockheed Martin. This includes £13.5m to establish launch operations at Saxa Vord Spaceport in Shetland and £10m for the research and development, build and flight demonstration an orbital manoeuvring vehicle.
- £7.35m to Virgin Orbit as part of £20m central and local government funding to support horizontal launch by from Spaceport Cornwall.

Lord Wilson of Rievaulx

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish the results of the inquiry by Lord Hunt of Tanworth in 1996 into allegations of a security service plot against Harold Wilson. [HL1897]

Lord True: Official papers relating to allegations of a security service plot against Harold Wilson are retained by the Cabinet Office. Retained papers are reviewed regularly to decide whether they can be released.

Lugano Convention

Asked by Baroness Hamwee

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment the (1) Cabinet Office, and (2) Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, have made of the impact of the UK not becoming a party to the Lugano Convention. [HL1891]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: The Government is committed to ensuring cross-border legal disputes can be resolved smoothly, in the interests of families, consumers and businesses both in the UK and across Europe. From 1st January this year cross border disputes are managed through the domestic arrangements of the UK and EU / EFTA states as well as our international agreements under the Hague Conventions.

Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they intend to take as a result of the European Commission's rejection of the UK's application to join the Lugano Convention. [HL1892]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: The Government is aware of the European Commission's notification that it is not in a position to give its consent to UK accession to the Lugano Convention 2007. However, we understand that member states have not yet been given an opportunity to formally vote on that position.

We are committed to ensuring cross-border legal disputes can be resolved smoothly, in the interests of families, consumers and businesses both in the UK and across Europe. We maintain that we meet the criteria for accession – it is open to countries outside the EU; all non-EU parties to Lugano support UK membership.

Lung Diseases: Nurses

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many full time equivalent specialist respiratory community nurses were working in England to support patients with chronic respiratory conditions in each year between 2010 and 2019. [HL2070]

Lord Bethell: The Department does not hold the data requested.

Mali: Females

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of their activities in Mali on the rights of women and girls; and what discussions they have had with organisations supporting women and girls rights in Mali about this subject. [HL2053]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK is committed to supporting women and girls in Mali. We are providing funding for women-led peacebuilding in Northern Mali, working with women delegates to Mali's Peace Agreement Monitoring Committee. In the most recent renewal of MINUSMA's mandate, we secured strong benchmarks on the meaningful participation of women in the peace process and wider political processes. We are also providing programmatic support to allow crisis-affected children (at least 50% girls) in Mali to continue their education, and have invested to support women's sexual and reproductive health. The UK Embassy in Mali

is in regular contact with civil society groups that support women's and girls' rights, including in the lead up to a joint UK-France co-hosted event at the UN in May this year. This event provided a platform for women delegates of Mali's Peace Agreement Monitoring Committee and local women's rights organisation, to share their experiences and understanding of the challenges and opportunities of increasing women's meaningful participation in stabilisation, mediation and conflict resolution processes.

Mandarin Language: Education

Asked by Baroness Coussins

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much they contribute per annum to support the Mandarin Excellence Programme. [HL1881]

Asked by Baroness Coussins

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the annual cost of supporting Modern Foreign Languages Hubs. [HL1882]

Baroness Berridge: The annual funding of the existing Mandarin Excellence Programme committed by the department since the launch in 2016 is set out in the table below:

Financial year	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Total
Funding (£ million)	0.93	1.47	2.63	1.35	2.97	9.35

The programme is led by the Institute of Education, University College London. It initially started with 14 schools and has now grown to 75 schools with over 6,300 pupils, and the increased funding over the period reflects this. The next phase of the programme and funding is due to be announced shortly and will start from September this year.

The funding of the Modern Foreign Language (MFL) Pedagogy Pilot Hubs by contract period, committed by the department, is set out in the table below:

Contract period	Dec 2018 - Dec 2020	Dec 2020 - Dec 2021	Dec 2021 - Dec 2022	Total
Funding (£ million)	2.17	1.45	1.17	4.79

The MFL Pedagogy Pilot is managed by the National Centre for Excellence for Languages Pedagogy (NCELP) and was launched in December 2018. In addition to the support provided to the 45 schools in the pilot programme, NCELP has also so far developed Key Stage 3 schemes of work, lesson plans and accompanying resources for French, German and Spanish, which are available free of charge through its resource portal for all teachers.

In the 4th year of the programme, NCELP will deliver free professional development courses on MFL curriculum design and pedagogy to over 1,350 teachers

nationally and develop fully resourced schemes of work for Key Stage 4 that will align with the new GCSE in French, German and Spanish.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency: Boats

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many vessels by (1) size, and (2) type, are operated by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. [HL2133]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency operates one tug, the IVEOLI BLACK, which is 70 metres in length at 2,283 gross tonnage. In addition, they have two training vessels, the MCA HUNTER at 14 metres and the MCA HAWK at 9.75 metres.

Marriage: Churches

Asked by Baroness Rawlings

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether clergy are no longer permitted to register marriages conducted in their churches; if so, why not; and what consultations they undertook with the Church of England prior to the introduction of the electronic register for marriages. [HL2099]

Lord Greenhalgh: As a result of changes implemented under The Civil Partnerships, Marriages and Deaths (Registration etc.) Act 2019 all marriages in England and Wales are registered in an electronic register by a registrar for the district in which the marriage took place rather than in hard copy registers.

The Church of England were fully involved in the development of this policy, including direct engagement with Home Office Ministers. The Church of England has been supportive of the move to an electronic system of registration, including the move to include Mothers on Marriage Certificates as part of this.

Mayors: Urban Areas

Asked by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth

To ask Her Majesty's Government what mayoral deals in urban areas are currently being discussed. [HL2197]

Lord Greenhalgh: The Government remains committed to levelling up through further devolution deals. We are continuing discussions with the North East and Hull and East Yorkshire to create new Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCA), and all areas in England are invited to apply to form an MCA if there is local support.

Medical Records: Data Protection

Asked by Lord Scriven

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the delay to the start of the General Practice Data for

Planning and Research programme, by what date must patients let their GPs know they wish to opt out. [HL1025]

Lord Bethell: We confirmed on 19 July that data extraction will not now begin until a number of tests have been met. These include creating the technical means to allow general practitioner data that has previously been uploaded to be deleted when someone registers a type 1 opt-out. Patients will have the ability to opt-in or opt-out and that the dataset will always reflect their current preference.

Asked by Lord Strasburger

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the NHS Digital project to collect General Practice data for planning and research in England, whether they plan to place documents relating to the (1) transparency, (2) accountability, and (3) risks of the project in the Library of the House; and if so, when. [HL1088]

Lord Bethell: We have no plans to do so. NHS Digital has published a transparency notice and privacy notice for the programme, which is available in an online only format.

The Data Provision Notice for the data collection outlines that NHS Digital have responsibility and accountability for the dissemination of data as the Data Controller under the United Kingdom General Data Protection Regulations. Following the deferral of the implementation of the programme for further engagement with stakeholders, the Data Provision Notice has been withdrawn to reflect these discussions.

The Data Protection Impact Assessment for the data collection which details the privacy related risks and mitigations will also be published online following its final assurance processes.

Asked by Lord Strasburger

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to NHS Digital's General Practice Data for Planning and Research data collection, who was consulted about the deferral of this project; and which civil liberties organisations have been consulted about the project as a whole. [HL898]

Lord Bethell: NHS Digital has engaged with a range of organisations over recent years when devising the General Practice Data for Planning and Research programme and when taking the decision to pause its implementation. This has included the British Medical Association, the Royal College of General Practitioners, the National Data Guardian, Healthwatch England, Use My Data, the civil liberties organisation MedConfidential and research organisations.

Medical Records: Databases

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish the 2016 NHS Digital report on the Care.Data programme. [HL756]

Lord Bethell: We will publish the report on the Care.Data program in the Autumn.

Medical Records: Data Protection

Asked by Lord Strasburger

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to NHS Digital's General Practice Data for Planning and Research data collection, what plans they have (1) to write individually to every affected patient fully explaining the proposed data acquisition and its benefits and risks, (2) to include an easily understandable summary of the Data Processing Impact Assessment in any such letter, and (3) to provide both paper and digital methods for patients to easily opt out if they so choose. [HL897]

Lord Bethell: Privacy information can be communicated to patients through a range of different techniques. We have written a letter to all general practitioner (GP) practices in England who are best placed to inform patients about the data they routinely share. A copy of the letter is attached.

We are not ruling out writing to patients but there are concerns that this may not be the most effective way to communicate on this topic. Discussions are ongoing concerning writing to patients, but initially NHS Digital have been asked to work closely with the GP profession to ensure practices are supported in informing patients, whilst acknowledging the need to protect GP practices from additional burden

Patients can register a National Data Opt Out via post, phone or email, or register a Type 1 Opt Out by contacting their GP and we are looking at ways to make this process easier for patients and GPs.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

General Practice Data for Planning and Research [General Practice Data for Planning and Research - 19 July 2021 FINAL.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-06-08/HL897>

Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Independent Review

Asked by Baroness Cumberlege

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the report by the Independent Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Review First do No Harm, published on 8 July 2020, what negotiations have taken place between the Department of Health and Social Care and Her Majesty's Treasury about redress for those who

have suffered harm from (1) Primodos, (2) sodium valproate, and (3) pelvic mesh. [HL2261]

Lord Bethell: The Department engaged with HM Treasury on redress prior to cross-Government approval of the response to the Independent Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Review.

Members and Peers: Equality

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to introduce measures so that MPs and Peers are (1) covered by, and (2) liable to, regulations made under the Equality Act 2010. [HL2018]

Lord True: The Government does not have plans to change the Act's coverage as it relates to Parliamentarians. The constitutional position is affirmed by Parliament in Schedule 3 of the Act.

The conduct of Parliamentarians is a matter for each House. Codes of conduct set out the standards of behaviour expected of Members of Parliament in all aspects of their public life. Both Houses are advised by the Commissioners for Standards in each House.

Where MPs and peers recruit or employ staff, these aspects are covered by the Equality Act 2010, including the duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled people.

Mental Health Services: Young People

Asked by Lord Beecham

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the Department for Health did not respond to a request from The Observer for a comment on the rise in demand for youth mental health services. [HL2141]

Lord Bethell: The Department responded to the Observer on 17 July.

Metropolitan Police: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Oates

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Metropolitan Police Officers were self-isolating on the day of the Wembley Euro 2020 final due to (1) a positive COVID-19 test, or (2) having been instructed to do so by the NHS Covid App. [HL2176]

Lord Greenhalgh: The Home Office has worked closely with the NPCC throughout the pandemic to monitor the impact of covid on police forces and to ensure they have the tools and capacity to continue to respond and keep the public safe. However, the Home Office does not centrally hold the specific data requested. The Metropolitan Police Service may hold this data.

Metropolitan Police: Misconduct

Asked by Lord Lexden

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reply by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 8 July (HL Deb, col 1429), what plans they have, if any, to establish an independent investigation of alleged misconduct during Operation Midland, including that of the Independent Office for Police Conduct. [HL1907]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Following the receipt of responses by the Metropolitan Police Service and Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) to the Home Secretary's letter of 16 March, the Government is considering whether further steps are necessary to address concerns raised about Operation Midland, and the subsequent IOPC investigation.

Microprocessors: Manufacturing Industries

Asked by Lord Kilclooney

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to encourage more manufacturing of electronic chips in the UK. [HL2306]

Lord Callanan: The semiconductor industry is strategically important with its technology used by many UK industries. We are engaging with businesses as well as key international partners to ensure we continue to have a trustworthy and reliable supply.

The Government is committed to growing the UK manufacturing supply chain, including microelectronics, especially in those areas where there will be significant growth potential, such as Electric Vehicles. The Government continues to encourage appropriate inward investment and trade agreements to allow us to access global expertise and technologies.

Migrant Workers: EU Nationals

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with UK businesses regarding the need for more EU nationals to be permitted to work in the UK; and what steps they are taking as a result. [HL1923]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office regularly engages with other Government Departments and stakeholders on departmental business.

Employers should focus on investing in our domestic workforce and, in the first instance, raise general recruitment issues with the Department for Work and Pensions, rather than the Home Office. This is especially relevant at a time when many face the need to look for new employment as a result of the economic impact of the pandemic.

Our Points Based System does not judge people based on whether they hold an EU or Non-EU passport, but

based on the requirements of the system, including skills and salary thresholds, being met.

Modelling by the independent Migration Advisory Committee suggests these thresholds strike a reasonable balance between controlling immigration and business access to labour.

Migrants: Detainees

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to reduce unlawful immigration detention; and what common factors they have identified in the erroneous decisions taken to detain. [HL2314]

Lord Greenhalgh: Reducing instances of when the Courts find that we have unlawfully detained an individual is a priority. As part of our response to the Home Affairs Committee immigration detention report, the Home Office has begun a programme of work focused on litigation outcomes to ensure that best practice is shared, that lessons are learned, and that we reduce instances of unlawful detention.

All detention decisions are made on a case-by-case basis, taking into account all available evidence as well as any safeguarding concerns. Once detention has been authorised, it must be kept under close review to ensure that it continues to be justified; cases are not only reviewed at regular intervals but also whenever new evidence comes to light in respect of removability, vulnerability and risk factors.

Home Office staff working in the detention system are given training and support to ensure detention decisions are lawful and appropriate. Additionally, there are a number of safeguards underpinning detention decisions, including a Detention Gatekeeper who reviews the suitability of individuals for detention and Case Progression Panels, which provide additional assurance and challenge in decisions to maintain detention.

Mike Veale

Asked by Lord Lexden

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reply by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 8 July (HL Deb, col 1429), when the inquiry by the Independent Office for Police Conduct into the alleged misconduct by former Chief Constable Mr Mike Veale will be concluded; and when it will publish its report. [HL1906]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Independent Office for Police Conduct's investigation into the alleged misconduct by former Chief Constable Mike Veale was completed in February this year and their report has been shared with the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Cleveland. It is now for the PCC to take forward any actions arising – after which the investigation report will be published.

Ministers: Email

Asked by Lord Scriven

To ask Her Majesty's Government what powers they have under Freedom of Information legislation to check, in the process of responding to an FOI request, a minister's private email address to see whether they have used it for government business. [HL1567]

Lord True: The Government's position on the operation of Freedom of Information legislation in respect of private email accounts is set out in the 'Guidance to departments on use of private emails,' published in 2013 as outlined below:

'The Freedom of Information Act and searches for information

9. The FOI Act allows people to request information; it does not give the requestor any power to dictate where the department should search for that information. It is for the department to consider where the information might be and to take reasonable steps to find it. As set out above, it is expected that Government business should be recorded on government record systems. It will generally be reasonable to search only within those systems when a request has been received.

10. Departmental searches in response to requests for information are the responsibility of individual departments. The FOI Act itself provides no express legal authority for departments to search another person's private emails or other records for the purpose of responding to a request made under that Act. In exceptional circumstances, it may be necessary to ascertain whether there is Government information in an individual's possession that is not accessible to Government. This should be done by approaching the individual in question and the department should be entitled to rely on that person's answer. There would be no requirement on the department to inform the requestor that the question had been asked, or (if Government information had been privately stored) where any information was found though, as now, if the Information Commissioner's office is involved, departments may be asked to explain the nature and extent of the searches conducted in order to reply to a request'.

Ministers: Training

Asked by Lord Norton of Louth

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) Cabinet ministers and (2) other ministers have undertaken professional development programmes to prepare for their roles in government in the current Parliament. [HL2234]

Lord True: Information on professional development programmes taken by individual Ministers is not held centrally by the Government.

Ministers are able to access advice on specific subjects, including professional development programmes, such as the short modular training programme on major project delivery, designed by the Infrastructure Projects Authority and University of Oxford Saïd Business School.

The declaration on government reform published in June states a commitment to ensuring Ministers receive training in how to assess evidence, monitor delivery, and work effectively with Civil Service colleagues. This work is underway.

Ministry of Defence: Disclosure of Information

Asked by Lord Coaker

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether all of the secret documents that were left at a bus stop in Kent on 27 June have been recovered. [HL2201]

Asked by Lord Coaker

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any (1) non-secret, or (2) strategy, documents are missing from the Ministry of Defence documents found at a bus stop in Kent on 27 June. [HL2202]

Baroness Goldie: As stated in the Written Statement HLWS 186 which was released to the House on Friday 16 July 2021, the Department will be making no further comment on the nature of the loss.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

The loss of secret documents update [HLWS186.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-07-20/HL2201>

Mobile Phones: Security

Asked by Baroness Uddin

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to reports of spyware targeting mobile phones sold by NSO Group, what assessment they have made of the security of the mobile phones of (1) Government Ministers, (2) Members of Parliament, and (3) journalists; and what steps they will take to (a) identify any security risks, and (b) hold those responsible to account. [HL2316]

Lord True: We do not comment on security matters or individuals.

We believe the use of cyber espionage tools against civil society and political groups is unacceptable. Expert advice and support have been provided by the National Cyber Security Centre. It's essential that nation states and other cyber actors use capabilities in a way that is legal, responsible and proportionate and to ensure cyberspace remains free, open, peaceful and secure. Where a law has been broken, HMG will work with law enforcement to bring those responsible to account. The UK and its allies

are committed to ensuring key technologies are not abused and their trade is tightly controlled.

Mohammed Hassan

Asked by Baroness Janke

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Israel regarding the circumstances of the death of Mohammed Hassan in the village of Qusra in the West Bank in July; and in particular, the reports that (1) the Israeli army denied medical professionals access to Mr Hassan, and (2) Israeli authorities refused to release his body to his family. [HL1960]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Our Embassy in Tel Aviv regularly raises the importance of the Israel security force's adherence to the principles of necessity and proportionality when defending its legitimate security interest. We regularly raise the issue of the high numbers of Palestinians killed and injured by Israel Defense Forces in the West Bank and Gaza with the Israeli authorities, encouraging them to carry out transparent investigations into whether the use of live fire had been appropriate. The wounded or critically ill should be able to access the urgent medical care they need. We urge all sides to treat the dead with respect and return any bodies they are holding.

Mortgages: Private Rented Housing

Asked by Lord Carrington

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether buy-to-let mortgage holidays constitute a deferred payment which has to be repaid to lenders. [HL2003]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: Mortgage holidays have provided support for borrowers to manage their finances during a period of uncertainty. Borrowers accessing payment holidays, including buy-to-let mortgage consumers, will still need to repay the full balance of their loan, and will continue to accrue interest during the payment holiday, unless the lender has indicated otherwise. There are various options for managing this, for example, by increasing their remaining monthly payments, or by adding an extension to the term. Borrowers should talk to their lender to understand the options they offer.

Motor Vehicles: Exhaust Emissions

Asked by Baroness Rawlings

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the vehicle emissions produced by ministers travelling short distances in Range Rovers; and what plans they have to reduce such emissions by reducing the number of (1) short car journeys taken by ministers, and (2) Range Rovers used by ministers. [HL2098]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Range Rover Cars on the Government Car Service (GCS) fleet are plug in hybrid electric vehicles.

(1) Short car journeys taken by ministers will be on electric power only with zero emissions.

(2) These same Range Rover Cars were classified as Ultra Low Emission Vehicles at time of procurement in 2018.

The GCS is continually reviewing fit for purpose vehicles for Ministerial use, and with support from the Department for Transport to meet emission targets for government fleets, the GCS will be replacing cars as they become due for renewal with a continuing focus on replacement vehicles being more environmentally friendly and where possible, using fully electric alternatives.

Motor Vehicles: Zimbabwe

Asked by Lord Oates

To ask Her Majesty's Government what requirements UK companies have to conduct due diligence on the source of funds when selling goods to (1) members of, or (2) representatives of the (a) government of Zimbabwe, and (b) governments of other countries, where widespread corruption is evident. [HL2173]

Asked by Lord Oates

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will investigate the due diligence conducted by GVE London into the funds allegedly used by a Zimbabwe minister to purchase a Rolls Royce Phantom. [HL2174]

Asked by Lord Oates

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with (1) the Bank of England, and (2) the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, regarding foreign currency regulations; and whether those regulations were complied with during the reported purchase of a Rolls Royce Phantom for a minister in the government of Zimbabwe. [HL2178]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The Government has not had specific discussions with the Bank of England or Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe on this issue. The UK does not have any foreign currency controls in place.

Separately, under the Money Laundering Regulations (MLRs), regulated entities are required to conduct enhanced due diligence if a transaction or a business relationship involves a 'politically exposed person' such as a Minister from another country. The MLRs also require that regulated entities conduct enhanced due diligence on transactions and businesses relationships involving individuals established in a high risk country. The UK's High Risk Countries list is specified under the MLRs and aligns with assessments made by the Financial Action Taskforce, the global anti-money laundering standard setter.

Where financial institutions are in scope of the MLRs, they are supervised by the FCA. Where high value dealers are in scope of the MLRs, they are supervised by HMRC.

Musculoskeletal Disorders: Health Services

Asked by Baroness Merron

To ask Her Majesty's Government when all the musculoskeletal regional leads for NHS England will be (1) appointed, and (2) in post. [HL2229]

Lord Bethell: As part of the national Best MSK health programme every region in the country has been advised to recruit a musculoskeletal lead. The recruitment process is currently on-going. While there is no fixed timeline for completion, progress against this recruitment will be reviewed in September and subsequently on a quarterly basis.

Myanmar: Doctors and Students

Asked by Baroness Finlay of Llandaff

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that (1) doctors, and (2) medical students, in Myanmar have been arbitrarily detained; and what steps they are taking (a) to support any such individuals who are seeking asylum in the UK, and (b) to process any such asylum applications. [HL1955]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are deeply concerned by the appalling violence inflicted on the people of Myanmar by the Security Forces, and the arbitrary detention of civilians, including healthcare workers. With our G7 partners on 5 May, we called on the military junta to respect the safety of medical facilities and staff and to release all those arbitrarily detained.

Myanmar nationals who are currently in the UK can access the UK's strong immigration package according to their personal circumstances. Where there are compelling compassionate factors, individuals can apply for Leave Outside the Immigration Rules. While asylum claims cannot be made from abroad, all asylum claims made in the UK are considered on a case-by-case basis on their individual merits.

Myanmar: Natural Gas and Oil

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with international partners about sanctions against the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise. [HL2052]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK has been at the forefront of the international response to the coup, including through targeted sanctions on the military's economic interests. On 29 April, the UK laid new

sanctions regulations, Myanmar (Sanctions) Regulations 2021, to allow us to better target the military and its interests. Since the start of the coup we have sanctioned nine individuals and six entities for their involvement in serious human rights violations and support to the junta.

We cannot speculate on future designations, however, we are working with partners to identify a range of further targets. The UK is committed to targeted sanctions which directly impact the military without harming the wider population. This will be a key consideration in any future designations.

Nappies

*Asked by **Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether their life cycle assessment of disposable and washable absorbent hygiene products will consider the results of the YouGov survey, published on 2 July, which found that the average age for potty training has increased from 2.5 to 3.5 years old. [\[HL1978\]](#)

*Asked by **Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the rising age at which children are being fully toilet trained, and (2) the link between this rising age and the increased use of single-use pull-up nappies. [\[HL1979\]](#)

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The independent analysts carrying out the environmental assessment of disposable and reusable absorbent hygiene products have taken into consideration the recent YouGov survey to establish current ages for potty training. The sources of the information used in the study, as well as an explanation of the methodology and assumptions made, will be included in the final report which will be published later this year following peer review.

Nappies: Waste Disposal

*Asked by **Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take to reduce single-use nappy waste as far as possible by 2042, under the 25 Year Environment Plan. [\[HL1976\]](#)

*Asked by **Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take to encourage local authorities to reduce the tonnage of single-use nappies going to (1) landfill, and (2) incineration. [\[HL1977\]](#)

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: In line with the 25 Year Environment Plan, and our Resources and Waste Strategy, we are considering the best approach to minimise the environmental impact of a range of products, including nappies, taking on board the environmental and social impacts of the options available.

Potential additional policy measures include standards, consumer information and encouraging voluntary action by business. We are seeking powers, through the Environment Bill, that will enable us to, where appropriate and subject to consultation, introduce ecodesign and consumer information requirements. This could include labelling schemes that provide accurate information to consumers, to drive the market towards more sustainable products. We are also seeking powers through the Bill to enable us to put in place extended producer responsibility schemes, where required, that relate to the efficient use of resources for a wide range of products, which could include nappies.

We are also funding an environmental assessment of disposable and washable absorbent hygiene products with the primary focus on nappies. This is looking at the waste and energy impacts of washable and disposable products, disposal to landfill or incineration, and recycling options. The research will be published later this year, following peer review, and will help inform possible future action on nappies by the Government and industry, including any work with local authorities.

National Audit Office: Email

*Asked by **Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Agnew of Oulton on 12 July (HL1536), what if any access the National Audit Office has to private emails which they regard as amounting to "substantive discussions or decision generated in the course of conducting government business" but which have not been copied to a government email address. [\[HL2025\]](#)

Lord Agnew of Oulton: As set out in the answer to HL1536, material amounting to "substantive discussions or decision generated in the course of conducting government business" should be transferred to the official record and, as such, will be accessible by the NAO in the usual way. In addition, and as set out in Managing Public Money, when the NAO investigates any public sector organisation, it should get full cooperation in provision of papers.

*Asked by **Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord True on 13 July (HL1535), whether, as part of the National Audit Office (NAO) investigation into government procurement during the COVID-19 pandemic, any private emails were (1) provided directly, or (2) forwarded as part of official correspondence, to the NAO on the grounds that they contained (a) substantive discussions, or (b) decisions. [\[HL2026\]](#)

Lord True: The Government fully cooperated with the National Audit Office's investigation into Government procurement during the pandemic and provided all information requested.

The NAO report sets out the NAO's investigative approach and the evidence drawn on as part of the investigation.

National Space Council: UK Space Agency

Asked by Lord Bowness

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there is a memorandum of understanding in place between the National Space Council and the United Kingdom Space Agency; and if so, whether they will place a copy in the Library of the House. [HL2293]

Lord True: The National Space Council is a Cabinet Committee that exists to "consider issues concerning prosperity, diplomacy and national security in, through and from Space, as part of coordinating overall Government policy."

The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, whose department sponsors the UK Space Agency as an executive agency, is a standing member of the National Space Council. Membership and Terms of Reference can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-cabinet-committees-system-and-list-of-cabinet-committees>.

It is a long-established precedent that information about the discussions that have taken place in Cabinet and its Committees, and how often they have met, is not normally shared publicly.

Nationality and Borders Bill

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether a child rights impact assessment was carried out for the Nationality and Borders Bill; and if it was, whether it will be published. [HL1966]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: This Government has a strong track record of helping child asylum seekers. In the year ending March 2021, we granted protection or other leave to over 2,333 vulnerable children, and over 46,000 since 2010.

Through the Nationality and Borders Bill, we will strengthen our ability to help those who need our help, while preventing abuse of the system and the criminality associated with it.

Nature Conservation

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to amend the Environment Bill to introduce a legally binding target to halt and reverse the decline of nature. [HL1913]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: As a core part of our commitment to leave the environment in a better state than we found it, we have amended the Environment Bill to require a new, historic legally binding target for species abundance for 2030 to be set, aiming to halt the decline of nature.

Tackling the long-term decline of nature will be challenging but through this new target we are committing ourselves to that objective. A domestic 2030 species target will not only benefit our species but the actions necessary will also help to drive wider environmental improvements.

Our focus is now on the detailed work to develop a fully evidenced target. We are developing the scientific and economic evidence to underpin this target. The duty to set this target is in addition to the existing requirement to set at least one long-term legally binding biodiversity target. Interventions should not be made, or targets set, in isolation. We are taking a system-based approach to the setting of targets, as far as possible, so that we consider the targets collectively and understand their interdependencies. We will continue to work with stakeholders and independent experts to ensure policy action furthers the objective of halting a decline of species.

We will refine the 2030 species target following the agreement of global targets expected to be agreed at the Convention on Biological Diversity's COP15.

The details of the 2030 target will be set in secondary legislation, in the same manner as the other long-term targets. We expect to publish a public consultation in early 2022 on all proposed legally binding targets. This would include a rationale for the proposed targets and a summary of the evidence used to inform targets.

NHS: Contracts

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to ensure that public interest in the NHS is protected when private companies receiving NHS contracts already hold seats on Integrated Care System Boards, giving them influence on NHS decision-making. [HL1812]

Lord Bethell: Integrated care boards (ICBs) will be National Health Service bodies, bringing in representatives from a range of other bodies including NHS commissioners and providers. The Board will, as a minimum, include a Chair, Chief Executive and representatives from NHS trusts, general practice and local authorities.

Local areas will have the flexibility to determine any further representation on their board. This would be subject to local agreement and approval by NHS England.

We do not expect independent providers to have seats on the ICB.

NHS: Negligence

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will provide the information set out in figure 16 on page 55 of the NHS Resolution annual report and accounts 2020/21 in respect of clinical negligence cases only for the year 2020/21. [HL2215]

Lord Bethell: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Settlement type	Total number of clinical negligence claims	Number of claims settled with damages	Number of claims settled with No damages	Percentage of all claims settled, with damages	Percentage of all claims settled, no damages
No proceedings	8,941	4,568	4,373	37.94%	36.32%
Proceedings	3,066	2,478	588	20.58%	4.88%
Trial	34	10	24	0.08%	0.2%

Nigeria: Christianity

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 24 May (HL3), what assessment they have made of reports of the killing of eight Christians in an attack on a church in Ungwan Gaida, Kaduna State, Nigeria on 19 May; and what recent discussions they have had with the government of Nigeria about the protection of religious sites. [HL1991]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We condemn all attacks on places of worship including the reported attack in Ungwan Gaida, Kaduna State. We regularly raise concerns about attacks and broader insecurity with the Nigerian Government, including during the Minister for Africa's visit to Nigeria in April.

Nigeria: Human Rights

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have provided (1) financial support, or (2) capacity building training, to state governments in Nigeria to help them better manage (a) resources, and (b) conflict, as recommended in the report by the APPG for International Freedom of Religion or Belief Nigeria: Unfolding Genocide on 15 June; and what (i) support, or (ii) guidance, they have given to civil society organisations in Nigeria to monitor and document all

cases of human rights violations against the civilian population, as recommended in that report. [HL1992]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We provide capacity building support, training and technical assistance to state governments across Nigeria to help them manage resources more transparently and to be more responsive to citizen needs. We work with civil society on human rights and we will continue to make clear to the Nigerian authorities at the highest levels the importance of protecting human rights for all.

Nigeria: Religious Freedom

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the report by the APPG for International Freedom of Religion or Belief Nigeria: Unfolding Genocide, published on 15 June 2020, (1) whether they have made any representations to the government of Nigeria requesting a full investigation of cases of military complicity in violence and human rights abuses; and (2) whether they provide training in religious literacy and freedom of religion or belief to UK officials working in Nigeria. [HL2051]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We continue to call on the Nigerian Government to investigate allegations of human rights violations and hold those responsible to account, most recently during the Minister for Africa's visit to Nigeria in April. FCDO staff come from a range of backgrounds and religious identities, and all are encouraged to develop further understanding of religion and its role within society, supported by training from the FCDO's International Academy.

Nnamdi Kanu

Asked by Baroness Cox

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Nigeria about the alleged extraordinary rendition of Nnamdi Kanu, leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra movement; and what steps they are taking, if any, to ensure he is (1) protected from torture, and (2) released. [HL1886]

Asked by Baroness Cox

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of how and where Nnamdi Kanu, leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra movement, was arrested. [HL1887]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are seeking clarification from the Nigerian government about the circumstances of the arrest and detention of Nnamdi Kanu. The UK has requested consular access to Mr Kanu from the Nigerian government, and we stand ready to provide consular assistance.

North Korea: Crimes against Humanity

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on the international rule of law and the authority of the United Nations of the non-implementation of the recommendation of the 2014 UN Commission of Inquiry to refer evidence of crimes against humanity in North Korea to the UN Security Council for investigation by the International Criminal Court. [HL2187]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK remains extremely concerned by the appalling human rights situation in North Korea, as we made clear alongside G7 leaders on 13 June and G7 Foreign and Development Ministers on 5 May. The international community has a responsibility to respond to human rights violations in North Korea. The UK continues to press for annual debate in the UN Security Council on DPRK human rights issues. We welcome and support the annual Human Rights Council and UNGA Third Committee resolutions on human rights in North Korea which stress the importance of following up recommendations from the UN Commission of Inquiry Report on Human Rights in the DPRK, and provide the basis for further work on a credible framework for accountability for human rights violations in the country.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the determination of the 2014 UN Commission of Inquiry into North Korea that crimes against humanity were committed by the government of that country, and (2) the reasons why the report was not laid before the UN Security Council; and whether they will take steps to encourage the report to be laid before the Security Council. [HL2188]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: It is for competent courts to decide whether specific crimes have occurred and who is responsible for having carried them out. The UK continues to press for annual debate in the UN Security Council on DPRK human rights issues. We welcome and support the annual Human Rights Council and UNGA Third Committee resolutions on human rights in North Korea, which stress the importance of following up recommendations from the UN Commission of Inquiry Report on Human Rights in the DPRK, and provide the basis for further work on a credible framework for accountability for human rights violations in the country.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the 2014 UN Commission of Inquiry into North Korea, what steps they have taken following the passage of Resolution 69/188 by the UN General Assembly to refer the situation in that country to the International Criminal Court. [HL2189]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK remains deeply concerned by the appalling human rights situation in North Korea and is fully committed to the principle that there must be no impunity for the most serious international crimes. Since Resolution 69/188 was adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2014, the UK has continued to maintain a high level of engagement at the UN on the situation, continuing to press for annual debate on North Korean human rights issues in the UN Security Council, and working to secure a robust resolution on human rights in the DPRK at the annual Human Rights Council. North Korea is not a party to the Rome Statute and is unlikely to accept the International Criminal Court (ICC) jurisdiction ad hoc; therefore referral to the ICC would have to be through a UNSC resolution. We judge that there would not be the required support among the members of the Security Council for such a resolution.

North Korea: Human Rights

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to respond to the findings and recommendations of the report of the All Party Parliamentary Group on North Korea Inquiry into Human Rights Violations in North Korea 2014–2020, published on 20 July. [HL2186]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK government notes the report of the All Party Parliamentary Group on North Korea Inquiry into Human Rights Violations in North Korea from 2014–2020, published on Tuesday 20 July. The UK remains extremely concerned by the human rights situation in North Korea, as G7 leaders made clear on 13 June, and G7 Foreign Ministers also stated on 5 May. We will review the Report's findings and recommendations and consider how the UK government can continue to address the appalling human rights situation in the country.

Nuclear Power Stations: Construction

Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether their baseline assumption of 160 years for the lifetime of a new nuclear power station, as set out in the Environment Agency guidance on sea level rise, is measured from the expected date of completion of the power station. [HL2221]

Lord Callanan: The effects of climate change, including sea level rise, are considered and adapted to throughout the lifetime of nuclear power stations from design and construction, through operation and on to decommissioning.

The UK's robust regulatory framework is designed to accommodate changes in science and expert guidance, whilst ensuring appropriate assessment of the specific operating lifetime of individual stations.

Whilst the National Policy Statement sets out the siting framework and criteria (including flood and coastal erosion risks), all stations will require planning permission and environmental permits from the Environment Agency and safety licensing from the Office for Nuclear Regulation (the ONR) throughout their lifetime. This will require strong evidence from licence holders to demonstrate that the effects of climate change have been thoroughly evaluated and can be managed over the lifetime of stations.

The Environment Agency and the ONR would not allow a site to be built or to operate if they judged that it was not safe to do so.

Nuclear Weapons

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to part 3.1 of the policy paper Global Britain in a Competitive Age, the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy, published on 16 March, what "doctrinal threats" they believe would warrant a nuclear response. [[HL1918](#)]

Baroness Goldie: I can assure the Rt. Rev Prelate the Lord Bishop that the UK would consider using nuclear weapons only in the most extreme circumstances of self-defence, including the defence of our NATO Allies. While our resolve and capability to do so if necessary is beyond doubt, to avoid simplifying the calculations of potential adversaries, we will remain deliberately ambiguous about precisely when, how and at what scale we would contemplate the use of our nuclear weapons.

Office for Health Promotion

*Asked by **Lord Moynihan***

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to complete the interview process for the post to lead the Office for Health Promotion. [[HL2319](#)]

Lord Bethell: We expect to complete recruitment for senior posts in the Office for Health Promotion by this autumn.

*Asked by **Lord Moynihan***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they intend to ensure the cross-departmental coordination necessary for the functioning of the Office for Health Promotion; and whether this will involve regular ministerial meetings with all interested departments. [[HL2320](#)]

Lord Bethell: Alongside the creation of the Office for Health Promotion, we will establish a new ministerial board on prevention to co-ordinate cross-Government action to improve accountability on the wider determinants of health.

*Asked by **Lord Moynihan***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they expect to appoint external advisors to the Office for Health Promotion. [[HL2321](#)]

Lord Bethell: We expect that the Office for Health Promotion (OHP) will draw on external expertise and advice from a range of sources. We will present more detail on our plans, ambitions and governance arrangements for the OHP in due course.

*Asked by **Lord Moynihan***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Office for Health Promotion will be their lead organisation for the promotion of physical activity. [[HL2322](#)]

Lord Bethell: The Office for Health Promotion (OHP) will work with teams across the Department, the health system and wider partners to support action on physical activity. We will present more detail on our plans and ambitions for the OHP in due course.

OneWeb

*Asked by **Lord Bowness***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to their acquisition of a share of OneWeb on 3 July 2020, what loss was made by OneWeb at the time of purchase; how many directors are on the board of OneWeb; how many of those board members they have appointed; who they have appointed to the board of OneWeb; and whether they have a veto in relation to OneWeb's (1) company policy, or (2) disposal of shares. [[HL2252](#)]

Lord Callanan: OneWeb has now raised \$2.4bn of equity commitments from investors and while the most recent funding rounds are going through standard regulatory approval processes, we expect the company to begin generating revenues and profit in the coming years following the introduction of commercial services.

There are currently eight directors on the board, of which the Government holds three seats. These roles are currently filled by Hugo Robson (BEIS), Tom Cooper (UK Government Investments), and Rob Woodward (Chair of the Met Office). The board will expand in the coming months as recent investments receive regulatory clearance and independent directors are appointed.

The Government benefits from a number of board and shareholder reserved matters including some specific Government-reserved matters related to, among other things, the future sale of the company, future access to OneWeb technology and veto rights on the grounds of national security.

OneWeb: Satellites

*Asked by **Lord Bowness***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to their acquisition of a share of OneWeb on 3 July 2020, how many satellites OneWeb have launched since that date;

where were those satellites manufactured; what launch vehicles were used; and from where they were launched. [HL2253]

Lord Callanan: Since the Government's investment, OneWeb has launched 180 satellites, bringing the total number of satellites launched to 254.

OneWeb satellites are currently manufactured in Florida, USA. The payload (the active component), for the satellites is manufactured in the UK.

OneWeb currently utilises heavy launch via their ArianeSpace contract executed through the Soyuz launcher at Vostochny in Russia.

Asked by Lord Bowness

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans OneWeb has to manufacture satellites in the UK; when they expect any such manufacture to begin; what specific applications of OneWeb satellites they expect to benefit the UK; when they expect the development of second generation OneWeb satellites to be completed; and whether they expect the second generation OneWeb satellites to be suitable for Positioning Navigation and Timing programmes. [HL2254]

Lord Callanan: Details of satellite production and manufacturing are a commercial matter for the company. However, the Government would of course welcome R&D and manufacturing activity in the UK as part of efforts to grow the UK space sector.

The Space Based PNT programme is continuing to evaluate options for future PNT resilience in the UK.

Osteoporosis: Nurses

Asked by Baroness Merron

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Osteoporosis Nurse Specialists are currently in post in each of the NHS England regions. [HL2231]

Lord Bethell: The Department does not hold the data requested.

Out-patients: Databases

Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to introduce comprehensive diagnostic and outcome data collection on outpatient appointments within the NHS. [HL2291]

Lord Bethell: Detailed information is collected and published on diagnostic and outpatient appointments. These data sets include Hospital Episode Statistics, Diagnostic Waiting Times and Activity, and Diagnostic Imaging Dataset.

We are working to improve the range of data we collect on diagnostic activity to support the delivery of the Sir Mike Richards Review, Diagnostics: Recovery and Renewal.

We are also working to improve outcome data collection for outpatient appointments, and from April 2022, a new facility will be available in outpatient data collection, which will report on the 'latest Clinically Appropriate Date' by which the patient should next be seen or reviewed.

Overseas Students: Hong Kong

Asked by Lord Goodlad

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will give students from Hong Kong domestic fee status at universities in England. [HL1889]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: To qualify for home fee status in England, a person must have settled status or a recognised connection to the UK. This includes people who are covered by the EU Withdrawal Agreement, who have long residence in this country, or who have been granted international protection by the Home Office. There are also requirements associated with ordinary residence in the UK. Subject to meeting the normal eligibility requirements, people with Hong Kong British National (Overseas) status will be able to qualify for home fees once they have acquired settled status in the UK.

Pakistan: Education

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Leeds

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of Pakistan's Single National Curriculum and the impact that it will have on the education of religious minorities in Pakistan. [HL2224]

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Leeds

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Pakistan to ensure that that country's Single National Curriculum does not discriminate against individuals on the grounds of their religion or belief. [HL2225]

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Leeds

To ask Her Majesty's Government what financial support they are providing the government of Pakistan to promote inclusivity and non-discrimination in its education system; and whether, in light of the Single National Curriculum, they will reconsider this support. [HL2226]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: I recognise the concerns raised by minority groups in Pakistan that the introduction of a single curriculum may be used to marginalise some communities. Through our representation, the UK has made clear that there is a need for an inclusive curriculum, one that encompasses the rich diversity of Pakistan's communities and traditions. We are engaging with the Provincial and Federal Governments to ensure that the new curriculum promotes diversity and inclusion. Through our diplomatic network in Pakistan we have also

engaged with young people to discuss the promotion of tolerance and inclusiveness. I will continue to scrutinise UK-funded education programmes in Pakistan to ensure they promote inclusive education.

During my recent visit to Pakistan, I discussed the need for inclusive and tolerant education when I met with the Minister for Human Rights, Shireen Mazari on 23 June, and with the Governor of Punjab, Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar, on 22 June. I also met with minority communities during the visit to understand better their concerns, including on education, at an interfaith roundtable and discussions with influential religious leaders.

Palestinians: Education

*Asked by **Baroness Sheehan***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they intend to take to protect the education of Palestinian children in areas occupied and controlled by Israel. [HL1920]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Access to a quality education for all, especially girls, remains a key priority for the UK Government. It is essential to have a strong and thriving Palestinian education system to provide opportunities for the next generation. UK education funding to the Palestinian Authority has contributed to the salaries of carefully vetted teachers and education workers. Our continued support to UNRWA (the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) will also help provide basic education to over 533,000 children a year (half of whom are girls).

Palestinians: Females

*Asked by **Baroness Sheehan***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the treatment of Palestinian girls under Israeli interrogation and imprisonment. [HL1921]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We repeatedly call on Israel to abide by its obligations under international law and have a regular dialogue with Israel on legal issues relating to the occupation, including the treatment of Palestinian children. The UK continues to engage with the Israeli Government on human rights issues in the context of the occupation and continue to stress the importance of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population, in particular the need to protect children.

Patients: Older People

*Asked by **Baroness Hodgson of Abinger***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether patients over 75, or their relatives, should be able to communicate directly with their named doctor if they wish to. [HL2121]

*Asked by **Baroness Hodgson of Abinger***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether a named doctor for a patient over 75 should see that patient, if requested by the patient or their close relatives, if they are very unwell. [HL2122]

Lord Bethell: Every patient, including those over 75 years old, can request to see a specific general practitioner (GP), including their named accountable GP. Under the terms of the 2015/16 National Health Service General Medical Services Contract practices must endeavour to comply with all reasonable requests made by patients to see a particular practitioner and authorised family members have the same rights.

Pensioners: Pre-payment

*Asked by **Lord Young of Cookham***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reply by Baroness Penn on 19 July (HL Deb col 4), how many retired pensioners have been issued with pre-payment cards. [HL2248]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The Department of Work and Pensions does not offer pre-paid cards. The main method of paying customers is into a standard bank, building society or credit union account. However, there are exceptions in limited circumstances.

The Department currently provides two Payment Exception Services which allow customers access to their payments. These are Her Majesty's Government Payment Exception Service (HMG PES) and the Post Office Card account.

The Payment Exception Service is aimed at those customers who are unbanked and are either unable to open or use a bank account. It is designed for access to cash only. The contract expires 30 September 2021, but a similar procured new Payment Exception Service will replace HMG PES.

The Post Office Card Account is a basic deposit service for benefits and pensions, delivered by Post Office Limited on behalf of the Department. This service is due to end and customers will either convert to a standard bank, building society or credit union account. Those customers who are unable to open or use an account will be migrated to the new Payment Exception Service on a staged basis from August 2021.

Pets: Theft

*Asked by **Lord Goodlad***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to introduce legislation to make pet theft a specific criminal offence. [HL2150]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The Government fully understands the deep distress caused by the theft of a much-loved pet and recognises that the theft of a sentient creature is different from an item of property, however

valuable. All reported crimes should be taken seriously, investigated and, where appropriate, taken through the courts and met with tough sentences.

The Government's Pet Theft Taskforce has been set up to recommend any necessary measures – legislative and non-legislative – to tackle this crime and consists of Government officials from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Home Office and Ministry of Justice along with operational partners. The Taskforce is considering the issue from end to end, including causes, prevention, reporting, enforcement, prosecution and sentencing, and is examining every option available to make sure perpetrators feel the full force of the law.

The taskforce is due to report its recommendations this summer.

Physical Education: Teachers

Asked by Baroness Morris of Yardley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what their Initial Teacher Training recruitment targets were for secondary physical education in each of the last five years; and what the actual recruitment level was in each of those years. [HL2034]

Asked by Baroness Morris of Yardley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of individuals employed by private providers to teach physical education in primary schools in each of the last five years; and how many of these individuals hold a qualification in physical education. [HL2035]

Asked by Baroness Morris of Yardley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of secondary school physical education classes taught by a person without a physical education qualification in each of the last five academic years. [HL2036]

Asked by Baroness Morris of Yardley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the minimum qualification or requirement for a person to teach physical education to (1) primary students, (2) secondary students, and (3) post-16 students. [HL2037]

Baroness Berridge: The table below shows the number of new postgraduate trainee teachers recruited compared to the corresponding Teacher Supply Model (TSM) target in each of the last five years for physical education (PE).

Academic Year ¹	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
TSM target	999	999	1,078	1,222	1,200
Postgraduate new entrants ²	1,087	1,103	1,242	1,281	1,615
Percentage of TSM target reached	109%	110%	115%	105%	135%

Source: Department for Education initial teacher training (ITT) Census statistical publications Footnote:

- 1) Refers to the ITT Census year.
- 2) Figures for 2020/21 are provisional and are subject to change.

Information for the number of individuals employed by private providers to teach PE in primary schools is not available as data is only collected from a sample of state-funded secondary schools with electronic timetabling.

The number and proportion of hours of PE taught by a teacher without a relevant post-A level qualification, in state funded secondary schools, in each of the last five years for which data are available, is provided in the table attached. A relevant post-A level qualification is a level 4 qualification or above in PE, sports science, sports physiology, sports psychology, or dance (including ballet).

Data for 2020 is not available because, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, schools and local authorities were not required to provide information on teacher qualifications during the November 2020 school workforce census.

Data for 2019 is published in the 'School Workforce in England' statistical publication found here: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/school-workforce-in-england/2019>.

All entrants to teaching must hold a first degree from a United Kingdom higher education institution or equivalent qualification. Legislation does not specify that teachers must have a degree in a particular subject of discipline. There is no specific qualification required for physical education.

In further education, there is no minimum qualification requirement for anyone employed to teach PE or any specific sport or activity. It is for employers to determine the best qualifications and experience required to meet the needs of their pupils. A number of organisations have developed specific qualifications that provide an individual with recognition that they can coach or teach an activity safely.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL2034/35/36/37 table attachment
[HL2034_35_36_37_table_showing_PE_teacher_qualification.xls
x]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-07-14/HL2034>

Police: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Russell of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) how many police officers are currently having to self-isolate after being COVID-19 contact traced, and (2) what is the total number of police officer working days lost due to self-isolation in 2020 and 2021. [HL2181]

Lord Greenhalgh: The Home Office does not hold the information requested centrally.

The Home Office collects and publishes information on the number of police officers on long term sick absence as at 31st March each year, by police force area, in the annual 'Police workforce' statistical bulletin, available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-workforce-england-and-wales>.

The next release of 'Police workforce' statistics will be published on 28th July 2021, and will represent the picture as at 31 March 2021.

Prisoners

Asked by Baroness Whitaker

To ask Her Majesty's Government what they estimate to be the total number of unreleased Imprisonment for Public Protection prisoners broken down by (1) gender,

and (2) ethnicity; and how many years are left on their tariff in each case. [HL2109]

Asked by Baroness Whitaker

To ask Her Majesty's Government what they estimate to be the total number of recalled Imprisonment for Public Protection prisoners broken down by (1) gender, and (2) ethnicity; and how many years are left on their tariff in each case. [HL2110]

Asked by Baroness Whitaker

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the total number of unreleased Imprisonment for Public Protection prisoners in (1) Category A, (2) Category B, (3) Category C, and (4) Category D; and how many years are left on their tariff in each case. [HL2111]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: The Government is committed to the protection of the public and the effective management of offenders. By law, prisoners serving indeterminate sentences who have completed their tariff will be released only when the independent Parole Board concludes that the risk they present to the public is capable of being safely managed in the community under probation supervision.

The following two tables show the number of unreleased prisoners serving an IPP sentence at 31 March 2021, by gender, ethnicity and the number of years to their tariff expiry, in England and Wales. The total number of IPP prisoners recorded in these two tables is 1,784.

Table 1

Gender	Number (Row Total)	Less than 1 year	1 year to less than 2 years	2 year to less than 3 years	3 year to less than 4 years	4 year to less than 5 years	5 or more years	Tariff expired	Tariff unavailable
Male	1,761	24	22	13	5	6	7	1,682	2
Female	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	0

Table 2

Ethnicity	Number (Row Total)	Less than 1 year	1 year to less than 2 years	2 year to less than 3 years	3 year to less than 4 years	4 year to less than 5 years	5 or more years	Tariff expired	Tariff unavailable
Asian or Asian British	92	3	0	2	2	1	1	83	0
Black or Black British	229	7	5	3	1	1	4	208	0
Mixed	70	0	3	0	0	0	0	67	0
Other ethnic group	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0
White	1,380	14	14	8	2	4	2	1,334	2
Unrecorded	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Not stated	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0

The following two tables show the number of recalled prisoners serving an IPP sentence at 31 March 2021, by gender and ethnicity, in England and Wales. All recalled IPP prisoners are post tariff as it is not possible to release an IPP prisoner prior to the expiry of their minimum tariff date. The total number of IPP prisoners recorded in these two tables is 1,350.

Table 3

Gender	Number
Male	1,327
Female	23

Table 4

Ethnicity	Number
Asian or Asian British	42
Black or Black British	161
Mixed	74
Other ethnic group/Not Stated	4
White	1,069

The table below shows the number of unreleased prisoners serving an IPP sentence at 31 March 2021, by security category and the number of years to their tariff expiry, in England and Wales. The total number of IPP prisoners recorded in the below table is 1,784.

Table 5

Security Category	Number (Row Total)	Less than 1 year	1 year to less than 2 years	2 year to less than 3 years	3 year to less than 4 years	4 year to less than 5 years	5 or more years	Tariff expired	Tariff unavailable
A	17	1	1	0	0	1	0	14	0
B	323	2	1	3	1	2	5	309	0
C	871	7	13	9	4	4	1	831	2
D	548	14	7	1	0	0	0	526	0
Females (open and closed)	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	0
Others	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0

A prisoner's individual needs in relation to offending behaviour and resettlement, or their individual circumstances (such as medical requirements) may result in an individual being held in a prison of a higher category than their own approved category. Prisoners will not be allocated to a prison of a lower security category than the security category assigned to them personally.

Notes for all figures:

1. These figures have been drawn from the Public Protection Unit Database and Prison-NOMIS held by Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service. As with any large scale recording systems, the figures are subject to possible errors with data migration and processing.

2. Tariff refers to the length of time between date of sentence and tariff expiry date.

Prisoners: Females

Asked by **Lord Bradley**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the (1) median, and (2) mean, length of stay in days for sentenced prisoners at each women's prison for each of the last 10 years. [HL1943]

Asked by **Lord Bradley**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the (1) median, and (2) mean, length of stay in days for

remanded prisoners at each women's prison for each of the last 10 years. [HL1944]

Asked by **Lord Bradley**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the (1) median, and (2) mean, length of stay in days for prisoners at each women's prison who have been (a) remanded pre-trial, and (b) remanded pre-sentence, for each of the last 10 years. [HL1945]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: Table 1 shows the total number of prisoner releases, and mean and median time spent in all female prisons for those released between

2011 and 2020, broken down by year and releasing prison establishment.

Table 2 shows the total number of sentenced prisoner receptions, and mean and median time spent on remand in all female prisons for those received into prison between 2011 to 2020, broken down by year and reception prison establishment.

Table 3 shows the total number of convicted unsentenced prisoner receptions and mean and median time spent on pre-trial remand in all female prisons for those received into prison between 2011 to 2020, broken down by year and reception prison establishment.

Table 4 shows the total number of sentenced prisoner receptions, and mean and median time spent on convicted unsentenced remand in all female prisons for those received into prison between 2011 to 2020, broken down by year and reception prison establishment.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Tables 1-4 [HL1943 Tables 1-4.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-07-13/HL1943>

Prisoners: Gender Recognition

Asked by Lord Cormack

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the judgment in the case of *FDJ v the Secretary of State for Justice* on 2 July, whether it is their policy to treat biologically male prisoners in possession of a Gender Recognition Certificate as women for all purposes. [HL2007]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: The Ministry of Justice and Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service policy framework 'The Care and Management of Individuals who are Transgender' sets out how decisions regarding transgender prisoners are taken.

Prisoners with a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC) are housed and managed in line with their legal gender. This is in line with the Equality Act 2010 which prohibits discrimination based on gender reassignment. If a prisoner presents risk that cannot be managed in the estate matching their legal gender, the individual is referred to a Complex Case Board, chaired by a senior prison manager. The board then decides the most appropriate location for the prisoner after thoroughly considering all relevant risks, including risk to others, risk from others and the risk of self-harm. Where a transgender woman with a GRC is placed in the women's estate, we consider any risks she may pose to other women in the estate, with use of separate accommodation where appropriate.

We are committed to treating all prisoners fairly, lawfully and decently.

Prisons: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Bradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what advice they have received about the level of vaccination required for (1) prisoners, and (2) prison officers, in order to prevent future outbreaks of COVID-19 in prisons. [HL1874]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: Public Health England advice is that we should aim for the highest possible level of vaccination coverage, and higher coverage will help limit outbreaks. Even with a fully vaccinated population, however, smaller outbreaks could occur, because the vaccine does not offer complete protection. The risk of outbreaks is also influenced by other factors including the local demographics, previous exposure, and community prevalence.

HMPPS strongly encourages all staff and prisoners to have the COVID-19 vaccine. We ask employees to let us know when they have had each dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by recording their vaccine status on our HR system. As the disclosure of their vaccine status is entirely voluntary, it means the self-declaration rates will be lower than the actual number of staff who have been vaccinated.

Asked by Lord Bradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) prisoners, and (2) prison staff, have been offered the COVID-19 vaccine to date; and how many of these have declined. [HL1875]

Asked by Lord Bradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many, and what proportion, of (1) prisoners, and (2) prison staff, have received (a) one, and (b) two, COVID-19 vaccinations to date. [HL1876]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: The population of adult prisoners in England as of 09 July 2021 is 73,642. Of those in prison on 09 July, 61,073 had been offered a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Of those offered, 42,301 have received their first dose (58% of the population), and 18,772 have been offered a first dose but have not yet received one. This may be due to the patient declining the vaccine, or it not being given due to clinical reasons. As of 09 July 2021, 21,476 adult prisoners have had two doses of the vaccine (29% of the population).

All staff can access the COVID-19 vaccine through the NHS. However, as of 09 July 2021, 169 staff declared on our HR system that they have declined the COVID-19 vaccine.

The total number of HMPPS staff who have declared that they have received their first COVID-19 vaccination, as at midday 09 July 2021 was 24,122. This is equivalent to approximately 44.4% of total staff numbers.

The total number of HMPPS Staff who have declared that they have received their second COVID-19 vaccination, as at midday 09 July 2021 was 15,104. This

is equivalent to approximately 27.8% of total staff numbers.

Now that all adults are eligible, HMPPS will be increasing efforts to encourage staff to record their vaccination status.

1. The “offered” figure is calculated on a current population-basis to provide an indicative figure for this request. Actual offers of appointments are not recorded or captured.

Prisons: Females

Asked by Lord Bradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average number of miles a woman in prison is held from her home address. [HL2000]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: As of 30 June 2021, a woman in prison was on average 47 miles from their origin address.

There are complex and wide-ranging issues involved in transferring and locating prisoners, and allocation decisions must reflect both the specific needs and circumstances of the prisoner, including their security assessment, as well as the operating environment and range of services at the receiving prison.

HMPPS is committed to ensuring, where practicable, that prisoners are accommodated as close as possible to their resettlement communities and families. Whilst this is a priority, it is not always possible due to a variety of factors including wider population pressures, or where women have specific sentence planning needs which can only be met at certain establishments.

Around 97% of prisoners have an origin location; i.e. addresses that are recorded in our central IT system. If no address is given, an offender's committal court address is used as a proxy for the area in which they are resident. This information is included in the data provided above. Those with no recorded origin are typically foreign nationals or those recently received into custody.

The numerical information provided has been drawn from administrative IT systems, which as with any large-scale recording system are subject to possible error with data entry and processing.

Private Rented Housing

Asked by Lord Carrington

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the benefits to the economy of the private rental sector. [HL2004]

Lord Greenhalgh: We have not made an assessment to quantify the contribution of the private rented sector (PRS) to the economy. We recognise that the PRS plays an important role on providing homes to over 4 million households in England. The Government is committed to delivering a package of reforms to ensure the PRS can

operate effectively and meet the needs of both tenants and landlords.

The PRS supports labour market mobility, allowing households to move easily both within and between regions, leading to a more efficient allocation of labour and skills. This is due to the relative ease with which renters can give notice and sign new tenancies, and the relative lower costs of moving, when compared to owner-occupier house sales. A key part of our future PRS reforms is to ensure the flexibility of private rental tenancies is retained, whilst balancing increased security for those tenants who need and want it, alongside driving an improvement in the quality and standards of PRS accommodation.

In addition, the Build to Rent sector continues to attract investment with analysis by Savills estimating that approximately £1.2 billion was invested into the UK's Build to Rent sector during the first quarter of 2021.

Private Rented Housing: Income Tax

Asked by Lord Carrington

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people declaring an income from letting property pay the (1) additional, (2) higher, and (3) standard, rates of income tax for the most recent period for which the data is available. [HL2005]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: In 2019/20, the numbers of individuals declaring income via Self-Assessment from letting property and falling into each of the (1) additional, (2) higher, and (3) standard income tax bands that the question refers to, rounded to the nearest thousand, are:

<i>Marginal tax rate</i>	<i>Number of individuals</i>
Additional higher rate (45%)	106,000
Higher rate (40%)	560,000
Basic rate (20%)	1,519,000

It should also be noted that:

- Taxpayers in Scotland will not pay the tax rates referred to in the question as they are subject to a separate income tax regime, and are therefore excluded from the figures above.

- Not all individuals with property income are required to declare it. For example, those with income below the £1,000 property allowance are not required to tell HMRC.

- Some individuals with property income between £1,000 to £2,500 will declare this via PAYE rather than Self-Assessment. These individuals are not included here.

- Some individuals will not fall into any of the tax bands referred to in the question as their income will be within their personal allowance.

During the pandemic, the Government has put in place a substantial financial package, backed up by billions of pounds, which is supporting renters to sustain tenancies and to afford their housing costs. The Government is supporting landlords by providing tenants with extensive

financial assistance to continue paying rent. The Government will also be bringing in a Better Deal for Renters designed to help the rental market work better for both tenants and landlords; a White Paper detailing this reform package will be brought forward in due course.

Proceeds of Crime

Asked by Lord Oates

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of Suspicious Activity Reports result in action by (1) police, or (2) other relevant authorities. [HL2175]

Lord Greenhalgh: The UKFIU does not hold figures for the proportion of Suspicious Activity Reports resulting in action by (1) police, or (2) other relevant authorities. The UKFIU received over 700,000 SARs in 2020/21 and made these reports available for police and other authorities to access, including in some instances allocating particular high-risk reports to specific partners. The cost of establishing actions resulting from each SAR would be disproportionate, noting that:

- a SAR is a report of suspicion as assessed the reporter and is not evidence of criminal conduct.
- a single SAR may be used several times by several different agencies for different purposes e.g. the information within the same SAR may inform a) HMRC about taxation b) local police about fraud or theft and c) a government department about a regulatory issue or a weakness in a financial product.
- some SARs provide new and immediate opportunities to stop crime and arrest offenders, others support existing investigations or help uncover potential criminality that could be investigated, while others provide intelligence useful at a point in the future.
- some SARs are disseminated to foreign jurisdictions.
- even if no criminal investigation is conducted, a SAR may contain information that contributes to understanding current threat trends or patterns. This helps reporters and law enforcement to plan and prevent against new crime trends.

Further information can be found in the Suspicious Activity Reports Annual Report 2020, including that last year almost £172m of assets were denied to suspected criminals as a result of SARs reporting.

Professions: Regulation

Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Grimstone of Boscobel on 15 July (HL1644), which regulators covered by the Professional Qualifications Bill do not already have the powers to enter into recognition agreements with counterparts from other countries. [HL2120]

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel: The Professional Qualifications Bill will allow the relevant national

authority to enable regulators to enter into regulator recognition agreements with their overseas counterparts. Such arrangements are led by regulators.

The existing powers available to regulators differ depending upon the relevant underpinning legislation. Some regulators may need additional powers to enter into recognition agreements, if regulators choose to do so. This will complement existing legislation. Some examples of regulators in this position include:

- The Architects Registration Board;
- The Intellectual Property Regulation Board;
- The General Dental Council; and,
- The General Osteopathic Council.

This list is not exhaustive, as not all government departments and regulators have assessed whether or not they deem that they have the powers to enter into regulator recognition agreements. We would expect engagement to be carried out with the relevant regulator before any regulations were laid to provide these additional powers.

The Government will continue to engage with regulators on the Professional Qualifications Bill, including on whether they may benefit from additional powers to enter into regulator recognition agreements.

Public Footpaths and Rights of Way

Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will be extending the time to register historic footpaths and rights of way beyond 1 January 2026 to reflect the interruption in this work due to (1) Brexit, and (2) the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL1956]

Lord Benyon: Deferring the 2026 cut-off date for registration of historic rights of way is a possibility, which would create more time for the reforms to rights of way legislation to be implemented effectively. However, we must weigh this against the desire for certainty around where rights of way exist, which implementing the cut-off date will bring. Officials will continue to keep this under review in consultation with the Stakeholder Working Group.

Public Footpaths and Rights of Way: Environment Protection

Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they take when they identify that new buildings or developments interrupt historic footpaths, bridlepaths or rights of way; and whether those steps include the creation of diversions to ensure such paths and rights of way are not lost. [HL1893]

Lord Benyon: Public rights of way are a local issue and this matter is the responsibility of local highway authorities, usually the County Council. It is for the local

authority to take the necessary action to resolve conflicts between building and the rights of way network, such as creating orders to extinguish, divert or create a new path.

The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) administers rights of way cases on behalf of Defra, including confirming orders and dealing with cases where the decision has been challenged. If an order is confirmed, then it is for the authority to decide the appropriate action to take regarding any obstruction. PINS does not have the power to make orders itself to overcome planning issues or to direct a local authority to make one.

Racial Violence: Blackburn

Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many racially motivated attacks there have been in the Whalley Range area of Blackburn in the last five years; and how many of these were against white people. [HL1975]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office publishes information on the number hate crime offences recorded by the police by monitored strand, including racial hate crime, in England and Wales at the Police Force Area level. The latest data, including figures for Lancashire, are available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2019-to-2020>.

The hate crime collection was expanded on April 2021 to include information on the ethnicity of racially motivated offences. These data will be published in due course.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Hate Crime Report 2019-20 [hate-crime-1920-hosb2920.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-07-13/HL1975>

Radiology: Recruitment

Asked by Baroness Merron

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of additional radiographers and radiologists required to deliver the increased number of diagnostic imaging scanners referred to in the National Health Service Long Term Plan. [HL2171]

Lord Bethell: Following the NHS Long Term Plan, NHS England commissioned Sir Professor Mike Richards to review diagnostic services, which was completed in October 2020. The review recommended that there should be an expansion in the imaging workforce with an additional 2,000 radiologists and 4,000 radiographers over the next five years. NHS England and NHS Improvement are planning how to implement the report's recommendations.

In 2020/2021, Health Education England's Cancer Workforce Plan committed to training 300 reporting radiographers and the NHS People Plan committed to training a further 150. Further workforce requirements will be considered as part of the upcoming Spending Review.

Railways: Bridges

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of the effectiveness of the Masonry Arch Repair and Strengthening (MARS) system as a potential alternative to the infilling of railway bridges deemed unsafe by Highways England; and whether, as part of any such assessment, they have estimated the total (1) cost, and (2) reduction in carbon emissions, of adopting this approach instead of infilling. [HL2038]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Masonry Arch Repair and Strengthening (MARS) system is one of a range of treatments which is considered for the delivery of our maintenance of the Historical Railway Estate (HRE). It is a system that is suitable for strengthening and reinforcing masonry arches. However, given the type of structures that comprise the HRE, it can only be considered for a small number of arched structures. It should be noted that MARS is just one proprietary system and other systems are used where appropriate to undertake repairs on the HRE, examples include Shankend viaduct and Queensbury Tunnel.

It was considered as a treatment at Great Musgrave. However, Highways England's assessment found that while initial costs were estimated to be lower than infilling (approximately £100,000 for MARS versus £125,000 for infilling), it would take longer to install MARS. Using the MARS system would also require much more follow up maintenance resulting in additional future costs. Those costs are estimated to be ongoing maintenance every 20 years costing approximately £15,000, major refurbishment every 60 years costing approximately £100,000, plus costs for detailed examinations every 6 years costing approximately £1,500. These additional costs do not apply for infilling, representing better value for money.

The carbon cost of the MARS system is difficult to estimate and compare. The steel used in the MARS system would have to be manufactured and transported to site, most of which usually comes from outside of the United Kingdom. The carbon costs would be far greater than sourcing fill material from a local quarry, although it is accepted that this carbon cost comparison does not take account of the fact that infilling might prevent use for cycling and walking unless an alternative route were provided.

At certain sites Highways England (HE) has partially infilled and provided an access for either active travel or heritage railways, for example three bridges in Cumbria on the Cockermouth, Keswick and Penrith branch for a

heritage railway and in North Ayrshire on Route 73 of the National Cycle Network. Infilling whilst maintaining access is approximately 50% more expensive than infilling alone and requires ongoing maintenance and inspection costs. Where HE has completed this type of work it is on structures with existing or committed active travel routes.

Railways: Cambridgeshire

Asked by Lord Bradshaw

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking, if any, to improve the single track section of railway line between Soham and Ely; and what assessment they have made of the effect on trade of that single track line. [HL2058]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The 'Soham Area Capacity Enhancement' scheme is at an early stage of development. Addressing this pinch-point will be a key enabler for growing the number of freight trains on the nationally important corridor from Felixstowe to the Midlands and North and will support the nation's capacity for growing international trade in a sustainable way.

Rape: Mobile Phones

Asked by Baroness Hamwee

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the commitment in their report The end-to-end rape review report on findings and actions, published on 18 June, that no victim will be left without a phone for more than 24 hours, whether this will be achieved by (1) providing a replacement phone, or (2) extracting the required information within that period; and, if the latter, what technology will be used to do so. [HL1890]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Our ambition is to ensure that victims receive their own phone back within 24 hours in the majority of cases. The provision of a replacement will be a safety net in cases where it is not possible to return a phone quickly to guarantee victims are not cut off from their support network.

The technology to extract data from mobile phones varies between police forces. As part of our commitments in the end-to-end rape review, we are working with forces to provide a package of new technology to allow police to examine more devices at the scene. This means a faster, safer and more sensitive service for victims.

Refugees

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to reported comments by the Assistant High Commissioner for Protection at the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees that the UK appeared to be trying to "wash its hands" of its international responsibilities for refugees. [HL2021]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The UK has a long history of supporting refugees in need of protection. Our resettlement schemes have provided safe and legal routes for tens of thousands of people to start new lives in the UK.

The UK is a global leader in resettlement and resettled more refugees from outside Europe than any EU member state every year between 2016 and 2019.

Overall, since 2015, we have resettled more than 25,000 refugees through safe and legal routes direct from regions of conflict and instability - around half of whom were children.

The UK continues to welcome refugees through the global UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), as well as through the Community Sponsorship and Mandate Resettlement Schemes. This commitment, alongside a fair and firm asylum system, will ensure we continue to offer safe and legal routes to the UK for vulnerable refugees in need of protection. Our focus will remain on helping people directly from regions of conflict and instability.

Religious Practice: Islam

Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 29 April (HL15173) and 20 July (HL1825), whether they have assessed any mosques in the UK for evidence of the promotion of violence towards non-Muslims, including the dissemination of literature which encourages such violence; and if not, why not. [HL2272]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: We assess all evidence of those that radicalise others though their support for or justification of violence, and will not tolerate those who spread divisive and harmful narratives. Any violent threat is assessed and managed by the police and security services based on the threat that it is deemed to pose.

Our work to counter radicalisation through Prevent works best when it is delivered in partnership with communities and civil society, including faith institutions.

Remote Education

Asked by The Earl of Dundee

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to support online learning initiatives at local and national level in the UK; and what plans they have to promote online learning at the Global Education Summit on 28–29 July. [HL2302]

Baroness Berridge: Technology in education has been essential for continuing to teach remotely during the COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent school and college closures. Technology also has the potential to support teacher workload reductions, flexible working, cost savings, effective teaching and improved pupil outcomes. We are building on the department's significant

investment in devices, platforms, training and digital services to develop a sustainable strategy for digital technology in education.

The department launched the first phase of the EdTech Demonstrator programme in April 2020. The Demonstrators are a network of schools and colleges which were initially funded in the 2020/21 financial year to provide peer-to-peer support on making the best use of technology to support remote teaching during the COVID-19 outbreak.

During phase one of the programme, the Demonstrator network provided bespoke support, meeting the individual training needs of over 4,000 schools and colleges, with over 11,000 more accessing live weekly webinars and tutorials.

The programme will continue into the 2021/22 financial year and will include support to schools and colleges to develop a sustainable digital strategy that supports wider school and college improvement drives. Schools and colleges can request support from the demonstrators via the programme website: <https://edtechdemo.ucst.uk/>.

From September 2021, we continue to expect schools to provide remote education for pupils whose attendance would be contrary to government guidance or legislation around COVID-19. Schools should, therefore, maintain their capabilities to deliver high quality remote education for next academic year.

A comprehensive package of support continues to be available to schools and further education institutions to help them meet our expectations for remote education, accessible at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-help-with-remote-education>.

To support the hard work of schools in delivering remote education, Oak National Academy was very quickly brought together by over 40 teachers, their schools and other education organisations. The department has made £4.84 million available for Oak National Academy both for the summer term of the academic year 2019/20, and then for the 2020/21 academic year, to provide video lessons in a broad range of subjects for Reception up to year 11. Specialist content for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities is also available. Since the start of the spring term 2021, over 98 million Oak National Academy lessons have been viewed.

The department has now committed a further £2.1 million to Oak National Academy, enabling it to operate from the start of the next academic year through to Easter 2022.

My right hon. Friend, the Minister of State for School Standards, has agreed to meet overseas education ministers attending the Global Education Partnership Summit to share policy experience and best practice in raising standards, and discuss approaches for education recovery. These meetings will provide an opportunity to highlight the department's work such as Oak National Academy, and we expect overseas ministers, particularly

from developing countries, to be interested in learning more about our approach.

Remote Working: Industrial Health and Safety

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of increased remote working on employee wellbeing; and what steps they are taking to ensure employers prevent employee burnout. [HL1924]

Lord Callanan: The Government is aware that the increase in remote working during the pandemic has raised issues relating to employee wellbeing. It is in the interest of both employers and employees to support wellbeing at work and prevent burnout.

The Government is working with the Flexible Working Taskforce – a partnership across business groups, trade unions, charities, and government departments – to provide advice and guidance to support employers who are considering adopting more remote or semi-remote (hybrid) working practices going forwards.

In the short-term, the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) – in consultation with the Flexible Working Taskforce – has produced advice on hybrid working to help employers consider whether this could be an option for their workplace and how to fairly introduce it. The advice covers the existing legal and practical issues associated with hybrid working – and includes a section on supporting and managing staff.

In the slightly longer-term, the Flexible Working Taskforce is working on developing best practice guidance for employers, which will include supporting the work-life balance of remote workers.

Rents: Arrears

Asked by Lord Carrington

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to their press release Support for renters continues with longer notice periods, published on 12 May, on what grounds they have concluded that many landlords are “highly vulnerable to rent arrears”. [HL2002]

Lord Greenhalgh: The UK Government has put in place an unprecedented package of support for renters during the pandemic, including financial measures to enable them to continue paying rent to landlords.

However, we know that 45% of landlords have just one rental property and 38% have between two to four properties. For most landlords, income from rent makes up 42% of their total gross income making them highly vulnerable when their tenants build up rent arrears.

The Government has to balance supporting tenants with landlords' ability to exercise their right to justice where needed. As national restrictions continue to ease, it is

appropriate that the emergency measures start to lift but we are doing so gradually.

Reoffenders: Females

Asked by Lord Bradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many recommendations they have implemented from the report commissioned by the Ministry of Justice *The Importance of Strengthening Female Offenders' Family and other Relationships to Prevent Reoffending and Reduce Intergenerational Crime*, published on 18 June 2019. [HL2001]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: The Government has made good progress in implementing the recommendations from Lord Farmer's 2019 report on 'The Importance of Strengthening Female Offenders' Family and other Relationships to Prevent Reoffending and Reduce Intergenerational Crime'.

So far, 17 recommendations have been completed, including increased access to family contact for women in custody through the rollout of video calling and email reply systems in all women's prisons, the installation of in-cell telephony in all closed women's prisons, improvements to Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) policy, and routine access to telephone contact for women and primary carers in court custody suites.

We are continuing to work across the MOJ, HMPPS, and wider government to take forward Lord Farmer's recommendations.

Republic of Ireland

Asked by Lord Kilclooney

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the departure of the UK from the EU, whether the country of Ireland is formally called (1) the Republic of Ireland, or (2) Ireland, in UK law. [HL2123]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: It is the UK Government's policy to refer to the country of Ireland as 'Ireland', as can be seen in the latest FCDO geographical names index (March 2021) available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/geographical-names-and-information>. The UK's departure from the EU has not changed this.

Research: Finance

Asked by Lord Jones

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much money they provided for research and development to the (1) aerospace industry, (2) steel industry, and (3) manufacturing sector overall, in (a) 2010, and (b) 2020. [HL1905]

Lord Callanan: The numbers below are taken from the Office for National Statistics survey of Business Enterprise R&D on what industry reported it received as

public funding, by product. They do not include support through R&D tax credits; nor do they completely cover all public R&D expenditure which may be directly or indirectly related to particular products. The figures below are available for 2010, and the latest numbers are for 2019 (with the next update due later this year).

The reported figures for 2010 were:

- Aerospace: £160m.
- Casting of iron and steel: less than £0.5m.
- Total manufactured goods: approximately £943m. It is difficult to be exact with this total due to suppression of data for reasons of commercial confidentiality.

The reported figures for 2019 were:

- Aerospace: £150m.
- Casting of iron and steel: less than £0.5m.
- Total manufactured goods: £1,184m.

Rivers: Pollution

Asked by Lord Chidgey

To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) how many times since 1 January 2010 (a) the Environment Agency, or (b) any other government agency, was alerted of a possible breach in licensing conditions for water abstraction or discharge in chalk rivers and streams within (i) the Itchen, and (ii) other chalk stream catchments, (2) the dates and locations of such possible breaches, (3) what tests were conducted in response, (4) what the results were of any such tests, and (5) what steps were taken as a result of any breaches to licensing conditions that were identified (a) to penalise the perpetrators, and (b) deter further breaches. [HL1948]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The information requested is not held centrally and to obtain it would incur disproportionate costs.

Sahel: Peacekeeping Operations

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the implications of the decision by the government of France to withdraw more than 2000 troops from the Sahel on the advancement of Jihadist activities in (1) Mali, (2) the wider Sahelian region, and (3) Nigeria. [HL1939]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK is in contact with our French partners on their planned changes to operations in the Sahel. We have had assurances that France will retain the critical support functions such as force protection, medical and logistical support, which allow the UK to effectively contribute to operations in the Sahel. We are building peace and stability in the Sahel, Nigeria and wider Lake Chad Basin. Our humanitarian assistance is supporting those most affected by conflict in the region.

Sand: Compton Bassett

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the proposal for a sand extraction quarry in the conservation area of Compton Bassett; and what plans they have to give local residents more powers to oppose such planning applications. [HL2156]

Lord Greenhalgh: This proposal was considered by Wiltshire Council's strategic planning committee on 14 July. Government policy is that local planning authorities should, in general, be free to carry out their duties with regard to day-to-day planning control in their areas with the minimum of interference. Our proposed planning reforms will deliver a simpler, faster, more transparent process, giving communities certainty over what development is permitted through clear land allocations in local plans.

School Leaving: Qualifications

Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children left school with no (1) GCSEs, or (2) equivalent qualifications, in each of the last three years. [HL2260]

Baroness Berridge: In 2020, 2.2% of pupils at the end of key stage 4 (age 16) in state funded schools in England had no GCSEs and equivalent passes. This is a small improvement compared with both 2019 and 2018 when the figure was 2.4%.

At age 16, the percentage of pupils without level 2 (5 good GCSEs or equivalent) was 27.3% in 2019/20, 35.7% in 2018/19, and 35% in 2017/18.

After the age of 16, pupils should stay in full-time education, be in an apprenticeship or traineeship, or spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering, while in part-time education or training. During this period they should gain further qualifications. Of those leaving at age 18 in 2019/20, 20.6% of pupils left school without level 2 (5 good GCSEs or equivalent), an improvement of 14.5% compared with the same cohort at age 16.

Schools: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord McCrea of Magherafelt and Cookstown

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to stop fake positive COVID-19 test results being used to require school pupils to self-isolate. [HL2032]

Baroness Berridge: It is important that everyone using lateral flow devices (LFD) uses them in the correct way to ensure we can control and slow the spread of COVID-19. On their return to school or college from 8 March, pupils and students were tested three times at an on-site asymptomatic testing site. This gave pupils and students

the opportunity to get used to swabbing in a supervised environment.

In line with the latest public health advice, it is important to continue regular testing and reporting in order to detect cases of COVID-19. Around one in three people with COVID-19 experience no symptoms and rapid testing with lateral flow tests helps to identify positive cases that would otherwise be missed. Antigen LFD tests have a very high specificity, possibly as high as 99.97%, which means three false positives in every 10,000 LFDs. Despite this, due to the lower prevalence, the probability of a false positive from an LFD becomes higher. We are mitigating this by asking people to confirm a positive antigen LFD test with a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test.

From Step 4 of the roadmap, nurseries, schools and colleges will not routinely be required to undertake contact tracing for children and young people. Instead, pupils and students who test positive will be subject to the normal test and trace process, which will identify close contacts. This will be limited to close contacts. Unless they test positive, children and those who are double vaccinated will not be required to isolate from 16 August, if they are identified as a close contact, and instead will be advised to take a PCR test. Further guidance will be provided shortly. Self-isolation continues for those who have tested positive for COVID-19 and for those with symptoms.

Schools: Finance

Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the average real-terms change in per-pupil funding in (1) the most deprived 20 per cent of schools, and (2) the least deprived 20 per cent, over the past five years. [HL1743]

Baroness Berridge: In the current 2021/22 financial year, the National Funding Formula (NFF) allocates 17%, equivalent to £6.4 billion, of its funding through additional needs factors, which include deprivation. A further £2.5 billion of pupil premium funding, which has a specific focus on raising the attainment of deprived pupils, is provided on top of that. The department has recently published notional NFF allocations for the 2022/23 financial year. The funding allocated through additional needs factors in the NFF will increase to £6.7 billion.

The following table shows average per pupil funding allocated through the NFF, for the most deprived 20% of schools, and the least deprived 20% of schools, in the financial years 2018/19 and 2022/23.

	NFF funding per pupil inc premises (adjusted for ACA [1]) 2018-19	NFF funding per pupil inc premises (adjusted for ACA 2022-23	% increase in real terms
Most deprived	£4,917	£5,671	3.9%
Least deprived	£3,997	£4,755	6.4%

Pay and pensions grants have been removed from this analysis, to ensure comparability between the years. The most and least deprived schools have been identified by reference to the proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals in 2022/23, and the groups of schools will not necessarily represent those who were most or least deprived in 2018/19.

In addition to NFF allocations, schools also receive funding through the pupil premium, to help them improve the attainment of their disadvantaged pupils. In the 2021/22 financial year, each primary pupil who has been eligible for free school meals at a point over the past six years attracts £1,345 Pupil Premium funding, with each “Ever 6” free school meals secondary pupil attracting £955. The equivalent rates for 2018/19 were £1,320 for primary pupils, and £935 for secondary pupils. The department will confirm schools’ pupil premium allocations for 2022/23 in spring next year.

In setting the NFF, the department has been careful to consider funding for deprivation, considering both the deprivation funding channelled through the NFF, and the funding provided through the pupil premium. It is right that schools with more pupils with additional needs, such as those indicated by measures of deprivation, low prior attainment, or English as an additional language, should receive extra funding to help ensure that schools are supported to meet the needs of all their pupils. For example, in 2021/22 a primary school pupil who is eligible for free school meals will attract a total of £2,380 for their school, through a combination of the free school meal and FSM6 factors in the NFF and the pupil premium, and a secondary pupil attracts £2,255. This is in addition to the basic per-pupil funding that all pupils attract through the NFF.

The main reasons for the relative redistribution of funding between local authorities are the introduction of minimum per pupil funding levels in 2018/19 and the funding system reflecting changes in relative deprivation over time. Some areas that have been historically particularly deprived, such as inner London, have become less deprived relative to other areas.

[1] The area cost adjustment is a multiplier that applies to both pupil-led and school-led factors and enables the core NFF funding amounts to take account of geographical variation in labour market costs.

Schools: Uniforms

Asked by **Baroness Lister of Burtsett**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Berridge on 11 June (HL 660), what assessment they have made of the report *School Uniform: Dressing Girls to Fail*, published on 5 July; and whether they took into account the finding in that report that uniforms are more expensive for girls than boys when drawing up the statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms. [HL1965]

Baroness Berridge: The department has reviewed the findings of the report ‘School Uniform: Dressing Girls to Fail’ and is engaging with stakeholders, including the authors of the report, ahead of publishing statutory guidance under the Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021. This statutory guidance will be limited in scope to the cost aspects of uniform. Schools have a duty under the Equality Act 2010 not to discriminate unlawfully due to the protected characteristics of sex and gender reassignment.

Where a school has different dress codes for male and female pupils, they will need to carefully consider their obligations under equalities legislation not to discriminate unlawfully on the grounds of any protected characteristic.

The department published guidance to help schools understand how to fulfil their duties under the Equality Act 2010, this guidance is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/equality-act-2010-advice-for-schools>. The department has also published non-statutory best practice guidance on school uniform which is clear that, “In formulating its school uniform policy, a school will need to consider its obligations not to discriminate unlawfully. For example, it is not expected that the cost of girls’ uniform is significantly more expensive than boys”. This guidance is available here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/514978/School_Uniform_Guidance.pdf.

Security Guards: Health

Asked by **Lord Sarfraz**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the private security industry about protecting the (1) mental, and (2) physical, well-being of licensed professionals in that industry; and what steps they are taking as a result. [HL2129]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government and the Security Industry Authority are aware of the significant impact the pandemic has had on both the private security sector and the night-time economy. The Government has implemented a range of measures to support businesses during the pandemic.

As required by the Private Security Industry Act 2001, the Security Industry Authority regulates the private

security sector and advises Home Office Ministers regarding its role and functions. However, all matters regarding the deployment and well-being of private security operatives sits beyond the current regulatory regime and with individual private security businesses, as their employers.

Seed Potatoes: Imports

Asked by Lord Forsyth of Drumlean

To ask Her Majesty's Government why seed potatoes cannot be imported from EU countries; and what assessment they have made of the impact of this restriction on the industry. [[HL2118](#)]

Lord Benyon: Imported seed potatoes are subject to both plant health and marketing requirements. GB plant health legislation permits seed potatoes to be imported only from the EU, Liechtenstein and Switzerland. There is no plant health reason that seed potatoes cannot be imported from the EU, provided individual consignments meet the required standards. However, GB marketing legislation requires seed potato production and certification systems of countries exporting to GB to be recognised as equivalent to those of GB. Following the end of the transition period marking the UK's departure from the EU, a 6 month temporary authorisation to market EU seed potatoes in GB was granted, to give time for industry to adapt to the new requirements. Following consultation with industry, the authorisation expired as planned on 30 June and applications to market imported seed potatoes from the EU will now be considered on a case-by-case basis. This approach recognises the fact that the UK is broadly self-sufficient in the total quantity of seed potato production, while retaining a mechanism to consider future marketing authorisations as necessary.

Defra, in collaboration with the devolved administrations, remained in communication with the potato industry prior to, throughout and following the temporary authorisation period in order to assess the impact of policy decisions. It was recognised that extension or expiration of the temporary authorisation would have different impacts on different sectors of the industry. Primary industry stakeholders such as the British Potato Trade Association (BPTA), the Fresh Potato Suppliers Association (FPSA), the Potato Processors' Association (PPA) and the National Farming Unions, who between them represent all sectors of the potato industry, all contributed to the evidence to support the final decision.

Shipping

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Agnew of Oulton on 13 July (HL1749), how many vessels by (1) size, and (2) type, are operated by UK Border Force. [[HL2132](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Border Force Maritime Command's fleet includes five cutters and six coastal patrol vessels as well as niche capability in the form of tactical watercraft (TWC) and dedicated mobile RHIB capability. Each cutter carries a jet driven RHIB capable of delivering a boarding team. The type of asset deployed will reflect the operational task and may be deployed as a standalone asset or as a combination, to allow for a broad range of tactical options, that can respond to a specific threat or event.

Border Force Vessels undertake strategic patrols, tactical surveillance and enforcement activity in support of Border Force and other government agencies providing a law enforcement capability at sea.

As a minimum a Cutter and two CPV's will be permanently deployed to the south east to the 30-mile stretch of coast covering the Dover Straits with additional vessels deployed as operationally required.

Shoreline Management Plans

Asked by Lord Walney

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to implement the recommendation of the Climate Change Committee in its 2021 Progress Report to Parliament, published on 24 June, to make Shoreline Management Plans statutory. [[HL2247](#)]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: We will formally respond to the Climate Change Committee's detailed recommendations in October.

Adapting to the current and predicted changes to our climate is vital. The UK is already leading the fight against climate change by delivering on our world-leading target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

The Environment Agency is working with coastal protection authorities on a £1 million refresh of Shoreline Management Plans. This will ensure that they are up to date, using the best evidence in their recommendations and focus attention on priority areas for investment and adaptation.

Last year, the Government published our long-term Policy Statement which sets out our ambition to create a nation more resilient to future flood and coastal erosion risk. The Policy Statement includes five policies and over 40 supporting actions which will accelerate progress to better protect and better prepare the country against flooding and coastal erosion in the face of more frequent extreme weather as a result of climate change.

This includes a commitment to review national policy for Shoreline Management Plans to ensure they are transparent, continuously review outcomes and enable local authorities to make robust decisions for their areas. As part of this we will engage with stakeholders, including the Environment Agency and Coastal Protection Areas to consider the Committee's views that Shoreline Management Plans should be made Statutory.

Small Businesses: Government Assistance

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to offer financial support to small businesses who will keep COVID-19 capacity limits in place. [HL2184]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: Throughout the pandemic, the Government has sought to protect people's jobs and livelihoods while also supporting businesses and public services across the UK.

To do this, the Government has put in place an economic package of support totalling £352 billion through the furlough and self-employed income support schemes, support for businesses through grants and loans, and business rates and VAT relief. Many of these schemes were extended at the Budget to provide continued support to businesses.

In particular, the Government has made up to £25 billion in cash grants available over the course of the pandemic, to protect businesses in England and the jobs they support. Over £2 billion of discretionary business grant funding has been provided to local authorities via the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) fund, including a £425 million top-up announced at the Budget. A significant proportion of this £2 billion is still with local authorities and available to be allocated to businesses in need of support.

Business Rates relief for retail, hospitality & leisure will continue until next April. Eligible businesses have paid no business rates for 15 months from 1 April 2020, and thanks to the 66% relief, which took effect on 1 July 2021, an estimated 90% of eligible businesses will see a 75% reduction in the business rates bill for the entire financial year.

The Recovery Loan Scheme (RLS) ensures viable businesses, including small businesses, continue to have access to Government-backed finance needed throughout 2021. The scheme will run until 31 December 2021. The scheme operates UK-wide, providing an 80% guarantee to lenders for term loans, overdrafts, and invoice and asset finance.

To continue supporting the cash flow and viability of around 150,000 businesses and to protect over 2.4 million jobs across the UK, the Government has extended the temporary reduced rate of VAT (5%) to goods and services supplied by the tourism and hospitality sectors to the end of September. To help businesses manage the transition back to the standard rate, a 12.5% rate will then apply for a further six months, until 31 March 2022.

Social Media: Children

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to introduce regulations on social media companies, including mandatory design standards, to

increase online safety for services that are used by children. [HL2246]

Baroness Barran: The draft Online Safety Bill, published in May 2021, will ensure companies design their platforms to be safer for users, and particularly for children. The new laws will apply to companies that allow users to post content online or to interact with each other, which includes social media companies. The draft bill will be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny in this session. The Joint Committee that will scrutinise the draft Bill has now been set up, and members from both Houses have now been appointed.

The strongest protections in the legislation are for children. Unless social media companies are able to prove that children are not accessing their service, they will need to conduct a child safety risk assessment and provide safety measures for child users, keeping these under regular review. As part of the risk assessment, companies will need to assess how the design and operation of the service may increase or reduce the risks identified.

The government has also published voluntary Safety by Design guidance in June 2021 that will help companies design safer online services. In addition, the Information Commissioner's Age Appropriate Design Code, which will come into force in September 2021, will set out specific protections for children's personal data that companies will need to build in when designing online services likely to be accessed by children.

Social Security Benefits

Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the report by Christians Against Poverty Shipshape or sinking ship?, published on 21 July, what plans they have to review whether social security meets (1) the basic cost of living, and (2) the Eatwell Guide. [HL2275]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: Statistics on the number and percentage of children in low income and material deprivation, including by receipt of benefit, are set out in the annual "Households Below Average Income" publication.

Universal Credit (UC) awards are formed of a Standard Allowance, paid according to age and family status, plus help with eligible housing costs, which can then be supplemented with additional elements for groups recognised as having additional needs, such as parents, disabled people and carers. The rates of benefit are not determined by individuals' living costs.

This Government firmly believes that people should be free to spend their benefit as they see fit, in light of their individual needs and preferences. Everyone's requirements vary and to attempt to base rates upon personal expenditure of individual recipients would produce an unfair and unsustainable system.

UC is a personalised system without the 'cliff edges' featured across legacy benefits, where money was lost when working more than 16, 24 and 30 hours. UC makes work pay by introducing a smoother, more transparent reduction of benefits at a consistent and predictable rate when people move into work and increase their earnings. A single taper, of 63 per cent per £1 is applied as earnings rise.

We have expanded the Holiday Activities and Food programme to all children in every local authority in England, covering Easter, Summer and Christmas in 2021. We also expanded Healthy Start payments from £3.10 to £4.25 a week from April 2021, to ensure pregnant women and children under 4 have access to basic food and vitamins.

We take the issue of food insecurity seriously, which is why we added internationally used food security questions to the Family Resources Survey in 19/20 and these questions remain in the survey for 20/21. Statistics on levels of food insecure households covering 2019/20, can be found on Gov.uk.

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reply by Baroness Scott of Bybrook on 8 June (HL Deb, col 1312), what assessment they have made of the report by Z2K #PeopleBeforeProcess, published on 25 May; and what steps they plan to take as a result. [HL2249]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The Government acknowledges the report by Z2K published in May 2021 and will consider its findings as part of our consultation on the Health & Disability Green Paper, published on 20 July. The Green Paper explores how the benefits system can better meet people's needs now and in the future by improving people's experience of our services, enabling independent living and improving employment outcomes.

The Government is committed to improving the lives of disabled people and yesterday published the National Disability Strategy. The strategy takes into account the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on disabled people and focuses on the issues that disabled people say affect them the most in all aspects of life.

Asked by Baroness Thomas of Winchester

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans the Department for Work and Pensions has to contact all disability claimants who were appealing their decisions and were persuaded to accept a lower offer, to inform them of their right to continue with their appeal. [HL2281]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: In a previous response HL2130, it was explained that all claimants who accepted the new decision and whose original appeal lapsed, were told that they had the right of appeal against the new decision. They were told this both by the Department for

Work and Pensions and the Tribunals Service. This gave them the opportunity to have the revised award further increased and backdated. Accordingly, there are no plans to contact affected claimants.

Southern Water

Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the £90m fine imposed on Southern Water by the Environment Agency for dumping raw sewage into protected seas; and what plans they have to direct the Environment Agency to hold Southern Water to stricter standards in future. [HL2047]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: On 9 July 2021, Southern was handed a record £90 million fine after pleading guilty to thousands of illegal discharges of sewage which polluted rivers and coastal waters in Kent, Hampshire and Sussex. The Environment Agency led the successful prosecution, which is the largest criminal investigation in its 25-year history.

The findings in this case were shocking and wholly unacceptable. The Government has made clear that water companies have environmental responsibilities and must realise them. They have a legal duty to avoid pollution to our rivers and other waterways. Water companies should not be letting this happen and those that do will be punished by the full force of the law.

This fine, the largest ever imposed on a water company, is absolutely appropriate and welcomed. It will rightly be paid solely from the company's operating profits, rather than customer bills.

The Government works closely with the regulators including the Environment Agency and Ofwat to support their work to monitor Southern Water's performance and to hold them to account to deliver improvements for their customers and the environment. For example, the strategic policy statement (SPS) for Ofwat published on 22nd July for consultation outlines Government's key priorities for the independent regulator. This includes continuing to work on water companies' day-to-day environmental performance, with a focus on meeting the Government's ambitions to reduce significantly the frequency and volume of sewage discharges from storm overflows. As well as this, the statement asks Ofwat to challenge water companies to strategically plan their drainage and wastewater services in order to improve resilience and reduce pollution incidents. Ofwat will also work with companies to drive down leakage and improve water efficiency for the benefit of current and future customers.

Although it has improved on last year's Environmental Performance Assessment (EPA) 1-star rating, Southern Water remains one of the worst performing companies. Southern Water has a package of undertakings to deliver following enforcement action. The package includes steps to improve investment and performance at its wastewater

treatment works and to increase transparency for customers about its environmental performance.

Minister Pow met with Southern Water's management team earlier this year to discuss their environmental performance. Emma Howard Boyd, Chair of the Environment Agency, also met with Southern Water's Chair, and the Secretary of State will be meeting with them to discuss their 2020 EPA results.

The Environment Agency regularly reviews the EPA metrics and targets to hold water companies to strict standards. They are working on introducing new metrics for water resources, storm overflows and sludge in the future.

The Government will continue to work closely with the Environment Agency and Ofwat as they regulate robustly to drive improvements in the sector.

Southern Water: Fines

Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch

To ask Her Majesty's Government into what fund the fines levied against Southern Water by (1) Ofwat on 25 June 2019, and (2) the Environment Agency on 9 July, were paid; and what consideration they have given to using this money to make reparations for the environmental damage caused by the company. [HL2161]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: On 9 July 2021, Southern Water was handed a record £90 million fine after pleading guilty to thousands of illegal discharges of sewage which polluted rivers and coastal waters in Kent, Hampshire and Sussex. This court ordered fine, the largest ever imposed on a water company, is absolutely appropriate and welcomed. It will rightly be paid solely from the company's operating profits, rather than customer bills.

In accordance with Managing Public Money (the official guidance on government handling of finance), fines and penalties income are surrendered to the Consolidated Fund. The Consolidated Fund receives the proceeds of taxation and other government receipts which fund public expenditure.

In June 2019, Ofwat imposed a penalty package on Southern Water of £126 million for spills of wastewater into the environment from its sewerage plants and for deliberately misreporting its performance. Of the £126 million Ofwat penalty package, £3 million was paid as a fine, while the remaining £123 million was to be reimbursed to customers. Southern Water customers received a £17 rebate in 2020/21 and can expect a £11 rebate in each of the following four years.

The Government is committed to improving the water environment. On 22 July, the Government and water regulators set out an ambitious programme of reform to build back greener from the pandemic through the review of the Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP). The amended WINEP will deliver greater

environmental benefits for every pound invested by companies.

From 2020 to 2025 water companies are investing £7.1 billion to protect and improve the environment. This includes the £5.2 billion invested through WINEP.

Space Technology

Asked by Lord Bowness

To ask Her Majesty's Government what department or organisation (1) is responsible for reporting on, and (2) determines the funding to be made available for, innovation in the space industry in the United Kingdom. [HL2294]

Lord Callanan: The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) oversees Government's investment in civil space programmes.

The UK Space Agency, a BEIS executive agency, is responsible for developing and delivering programmes to support innovation in the UK space industry. These include:

- Supporting the UK's participation in world-class space exploration missions through our leading role in the European Space Agency;
- Fostering the development of innovative new space-enabled products and services through the National Space Innovation Programme; and
- Enabling the UK to build new capabilities to launch small satellites into orbit through the Spaceflight Programme's investment in launch technology.

UK Research and Innovation also invests in multi-disciplinary research and development across the UK, which supports the exploitation of space technologies and pioneering scientific discovery.

The Ministry of Defence oversees Government's investment in military space innovation.

Asked by Lord Bowness

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Lord Frost on 4 March (HL Deb, col 504GC), when they expect to publish their report on the new national space strategy. [HL2295]

Lord Callanan: This Government is committed to making the UK a global science and technology superpower and a meaningful actor in space. This will be achieved through the UK's first comprehensive national space strategy that unleashes growth and innovation in the UK space sector. The strategy is progressing and will be published in due course.

Spaceflight

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they consider that space travel should be limited to scientific research, rather than space tourism. [HL2075]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: We are on the threshold of the new commercial space age, and this is a pivotal moment for the UK's spaceflight ambitions.

The UK Government has put in place the legislation needed for operators to open spaceports which allows for a range of commercial spaceflight activities, including suborbital space-tourism. However, it will be up to the operators of the spaceports what services they seek to run from them. The immediate focus for the UK Government is enabling launch and supporting the small satellite launch market. These small satellites can support improvements to public services for all.

Growing our launch capability will help create new jobs and bring economic benefits to communities and organisations right across the UK, as well as inspiring the next generation of space scientists and engineers.

Access to space is also essential for improving understanding of climate change and our efforts to tackle it. Satellite measurements of Earth's temperature, greenhouse gas emissions, atmospheric gases, sea levels, ice cover and other properties give the science community valuable data that can help us analyse and predict the impacts of climate change to enable effective strategies and decisions to be made. UK launch capability will enable the expansion and enhancement of earth observation and the gathering of environmental data, enabling a real and meaningful contribution to tackling climate change.

Spaceflight: USA

Asked by Lord Bowness

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether their agreement with the government of the United States of America regarding space launches from the UK will permit launches by US companies in competition with those based in the UK. [\[HL2292\]](#)

Lord Callanan: The Technology Safeguards Agreement (TSA) establishes the principles under which US spaceflight technology (including launch vehicles, equipment, information, spacecraft) may be licensed for export by the US authorities to the UK for use in spaceflight activities.

The TSA was negotiated to deliver maximum possible commercial benefit to the UK, permitting spaceports to utilise both US and non-US operators.

The UK has a lot to offer and a lot to gain from working with the US. With the necessary export licences in place, of which the TSA provides the security framework under which the US export approval process can be made easier and quicker, it will allow US satellite customers to launch on UK launchers therefore providing great opportunities for UK launch providers to increase their access to customers from the US.

Sports: Defibrillators

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support a defibrillator education programme at all professional sports teams. [\[HL2277\]](#)

Baroness Barran: First aid skills, including how to administer CPR, are important life skills for everyone. Recent events at UEFA EURO 2020 have demonstrated the immense value of first aid training and access to Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) for anyone involved in professional sport.

Sports have a responsibility to make the safety and welfare of players their top priority, including through access to life-saving first aid equipment and relevant training and education. It is for the relevant national governing body or professional league to determine what education programmes may be appropriate for participants and support staff in their sport.

A number of sports do provide relevant education, including football. The Minister for Sport and Tourism welcomed the Premier League's announcement in June 2021 of their new Defibrillator Fund, which will fund AEDs at thousands of football clubs and facilities across the country. Each grant recipient will be required to have at least one person successfully complete The FA Education's free online Sudden Cardiac Arrest course.

Sports: Fundraising

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to discuss with the National Lottery Community Fund ways to assist small sports clubs with fundraising events after the COVID-19 lockdowns. [\[HL2218\]](#)

Baroness Barran: HMG have worked closely with the Fundraising Regulator and the Chartered Institute of Fundraising to produce guidance to support safe and effective fundraising, in line with restrictions under each step of the COVID-19 roadmap. Current guidance is available on the Fundraising Regulator's website.

The National Lottery Community Fund is a non-departmental public body (NDPB), which means that it operates at 'arm's length' from government. As a distributor of Lottery money, rather than of government funds, it makes its individual funding decisions independently, within the framework of the policy directions set by the Secretary of State for DCMS. The government cannot, therefore, intervene in or influence the Fund's decision-making process or support individual applications for funding.

Sportsgrounds: Safety

Asked by Lord Mann

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Sports Grounds Safety Authority regarding the requirement for a form of rail seating on spectator behaviour in the next football season; and when they will report on the requirement to move to the full rail seating required for safe standing. [\[HL2125\]](#)

Asked by Lord Mann

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the basis for requiring parts of sports stands to have a form of rail seating to improve safe standing and other adjoining seats, in the same seating area, not to be included. [\[HL2126\]](#)

Baroness Barran: The Sports Grounds Safety Authority (SGSA) has already set out the technical requirements needed for seats with barriers or independent barriers in the current (6th) edition of its Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds (Green Guide). Additionally, the SGSA's current all-seater policy enforcement approach details, amongst other things, how to identify risks to spectator safety arising from persistent standing in seated areas, and potential mitigation for such risks.

It is for a football club to decide, in consultation with the relevant local authority and other partners, which parts of its ground would benefit from seats with barriers or seats with independent barriers to address the identified risks to spectator safety.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to extend the stamp duty holiday; and if they do have such plans, what assessment they have made of the impact of an extension on the benefits to local economies. [\[HL2244\]](#)

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The Government does not plan to extend the SDLT holiday.

The SDLT holiday was a temporary measure introduced in July 2020 to create immediate momentum in the property market, supporting jobs in the industry.

The £500,000 threshold was stepped down to £250,000 on 1 July 2021 and will return to the normal level of £125,000 on 1 October 2021.

State Retirement Pensions

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the level of the basic state pension paid in the UK; and what assessment they have made of how this compares with the levels of state pensions in EU member states. [\[HL2158\]](#)

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The full rate of the basic State Pension for people who reached State Pension age before 6 April 2016 is £137.60 per week. These individuals may also have some earnings-related additional State Pension, occupational or private pension income (enabled by the UK National Insurance system). For people reaching State Pension age from 6 April 2016 onwards, the full rate of the new State Pension is £179.60 per week: the amount an individual receives depends on their individual National Insurance record.

Meaningful comparisons between pension schemes in different countries are very difficult to make as there are many factors to take into account. This includes differences in; tax systems, healthcare systems, pension ages, cost of living, access to occupational pensions and the availability of other social security benefits, as well as the provision of services and goods free to pensioners or at concessionary rates.

Statutory Sick Pay: OECD Countries

Asked by Lord Beecham

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the rate of statutory sick pay in the UK of £95.85 per week is lower than the average of other countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; and when they plan they address this issue. [\[HL2286\]](#)

Baroness Stedman-Scott: Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) provides a minimum level of income for employees when they are sick or incapable of work. It is paid by employers at £96.35 per week for up to 28 weeks in any one period of entitlement. Employers are legally required to pay SSP to eligible employees who are off work sick or incapable of work, where employees meet the qualifying conditions. Some employers may also decide to pay more, and for longer, through Occupational Sick Pay.

The costs of SSP are met in full by employers. It is therefore important to strike a balance between ensuring employees receive financial support when they are sick or incapable of work with the costs to employers of providing such support.

SSP is just one part of our welfare safety net and our wider government offer to support people in times of need. Where an individual's income is reduced while off work sick and they require further financial support, they may be able to claim Universal Credit and new style Employment and Support Allowance, depending on their personal circumstances.

The government has previously consulted on reform to SSP, and as we learn to live with a new virus there is space to take a broader look at the role of SSP. The government maintains that SSP provides an important link between the employee and employer but that now is not the right time to introduce changes to the sick pay system.

STEM Subjects: Ethnic Groups

Asked by Lord Boateng

To ask Her Majesty's Government what data they collect regarding (1) the participation of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic students in STEM subjects, and (2) their access to engineering qualifications at vocational or degree level. [HL1997]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: The Education and Skills Funding Agency collects information from further education providers via the Individualised Learner Record (ILR). The ILR specification for the 2019/20 academic year is published here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ilr-specification-validation-rules-and-appendices-2019-to-2020>.

The attached table contains the number of STEM enrolments for both adult (19+) education and training, and apprenticeships at all ages by people from ethnic minorities in the 2019/20 full academic year, and the 2020/21 provisional academic year. Please note that these counts are of learning aims [1]. If someone were to enrol on more than one learning aim in a given academic year they would be counted twice.

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) collects and publishes data on students enrolled in higher education in the UK. Latest statistics refer to the academic year 2019/20.

Data on student enrolments at UK higher education providers are available by subject of study and ethnicity in the academic year 2019/20 in Table 45 of HESA's Higher Education Student Data pages: <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/students/table-45>.

Further details about data collected by HESA is available at the 'Student record 2019/20' and 'Alternative Student record 2019/20' data collection pages, available here: <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/collection/c19051/a/locsd> and <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/collection/c19054>.

More data on access to higher education are published by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). These include breakdowns by subject of study and ethnicity, available in the End of Cycle Data Resources pages: <https://www.ucas.com/data-and-analysis/undergraduate-statistics-and-reports/ucas-undergraduate-sector-level-end-cycle-data-resources-2020>.

[1] A learning aim constitutes the package of learning being funded and delivered separately, such as an apprenticeship standard, an individual qualification, a module or a short non-qualification bearing course.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL1997_table [HL1997_table_STEM_enrolments.xls]

The material can be viewed online at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-07-14/HL1997>

STEM Subjects: Training

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to improve access to STEM training and resources for both (1) employed, and (2) unemployed individuals. [HL2243]

Baroness Berridge: The noble Lord is aware that this government recognises the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) and Technical Education. Our many existing reforms aimed at boosting technical education include the introduction of employer-led standards in apprenticeships; launching T levels; growing the higher-level technical qualifications market; establishing Institutes of Technology across the country; and focusing Skills Bootcamps and Free Courses for Jobs on sectors that are key to the economy such as engineering, construction and digital. We also support those who do not have the required level of maths qualifications through the requirement for 16-18 year olds to continue to study maths as part of their programmes, an entitlement for adults and embedding maths in apprenticeships and traineeships.

Syria: Diplomatic Relations

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of some (1) European, and (2) Middle-Eastern, states seeking to re-open diplomatic relations with the government of Syria; and in particular, whether they see this as a (a) pragmatic, and (b) realistic, step. [HL2015]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK closed the British Embassy in Damascus in 2012 and has no plans to re-open it. It is up to each sovereign state to make its own decisions on its representation in Syria, but we believe the Assad regime has lost its legitimacy due to its atrocities against the Syrian people and must now engage seriously with the UN political process.

Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council: Civil Proceedings

Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they intend to take in response to the judgment on Tameside MBC v L (Unavailability of Regulated Therapeutic Placement), made in the High Court on 5 July; and whether they will publish any action plan for dealing with the matters arising from this judgment. [HL1993]

Baroness Berridge: Every child growing up in care should have a stable, secure environment where they feel supported and can thrive. The judgment in the case of Tameside MBC v L raises many concerns about the lack of available children's home provision for some of the most vulnerable children in care.

Local authorities have a statutory duty to make sure there is sufficient provision in their area to meet the needs of all children in their care. We understand that local authorities sometimes find themselves in positions where the most appropriate placement is difficult to access. This is why the government announced £24 million of investment at the Spending Review in November to start a programme of work to support local authorities maintain and expand provision in secure children's homes. We are also currently developing a new capital funding programme for open residential children's homes to aid local authorities to develop innovative approaches to reduce the number of children needing care over time, and to develop provision for children with more complex needs or children on remand.

The government launched a bold, broad and independently-led review, to take a comprehensive look at what is needed to make a real difference to the needs, experiences and outcomes of the children supported by children's social care. The Care Review, led by Josh MacAlister, has now reached its first major milestone with the publication of its Case for Change, published on 17 June. The Case for Change recognises many of the issues raised in the judgment in this case. We eagerly await the review's final report and recommendations, which will follow further consultation, analysis and public engagement. At that stage we will consider the review's recommendations and any cost implications.

Taxation: Northern Ireland

Asked by Baroness Hoey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the amount of tax that will be paid to the EU by consumers and businesses in Northern Ireland in the current fiscal year through (1) customs duties, (2) Value Added Tax, and (3) other instruments. [HL2303]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: All customs duty and VAT paid on goods entering Northern Ireland remains UK revenue and is not passed on to the EU.

Consumers in Northern Ireland may be charged VAT in an EU country if they buy goods directly from a small business there. Similarly, consumers in the EU will pay VAT in Northern Ireland (which is due to HMRC) if they purchase from a small Northern Ireland business.

Teachers: Training

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the Education Policy Institute The cost of high-quality professional development for teachers in England, published on 15 July; and what steps are they taking to improve the quality of existing CPD training that teachers participate in. [HL2183]

Baroness Berridge: The department would like to thank the Education Policy Institute for the report 'The cost of high-quality professional development for teachers in England'. Supporting our teachers with the highest quality training and professional development is the best way in which we can improve pupil outcomes, with evidence showing that expert teaching can have a disproportionately strong impact on those from disadvantaged backgrounds or those who have fallen behind. That is why the government has made the training, support and professional development we provide for our teachers central to our levelling up agenda and a key part of our plan to deal with the disruption that the COVID-19 outbreak has caused to schools.

To this effect, the government is creating a world-class teacher development system, building from initial teacher training (ITT), through to early career support, specialisation and onto school leadership. At each phase, teachers will have access to high-quality training and professional development underpinned by the best available evidence. This will create a golden thread of support that teachers can draw on at every stage of their careers.

As part of the department's plans to boost education recovery, the package of measures we announced on 2 June included an investment of £253 million to expand our reforms to teacher development to give 500,000 school teachers the opportunity to access world-leading training appropriate for whatever point they are at in their career. This funding includes £184 million for a reformed suite of National Professional Qualifications which will provide training and support for teachers and school leaders at all levels, from those who want to develop expertise in high quality teaching practice, such as behaviour management, to those leading multiple schools across trusts.

From September 2021, the government is also funding an entitlement for all early career teachers in England to access high quality professional development and support through the Early Career Framework (ECF) reforms. Under the reforms, new teachers will benefit from a longer induction period of two years, replacing the previous one-year induction processes. This means they will have more time to access structured support and to develop their expertise and confidence. The funding available will give every school who wants it access to a Department for Education funded training provider who will design and deliver a comprehensive programme of face-to-face and online training as part of the new statutory induction for early career teachers. The ECF reforms will be backed by over £130 million a year in funding when fully rolled out.

The reforms the department is making to the professional development teachers can access, which also includes the introduction of the ITT Core Content Framework, will root teacher development in the same consistent evidence-based understanding of what works. This will create a thread of high-quality support, training,

and development through the entirety of a teacher's career.

Telecommunications Cables: Seas and Oceans

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether subsea cable repair ships should be classified as warships. [HL1932]

Baroness Goldie: For a subsea cable repair ship to be classed as a warship, it would need to meet the definition of a warship under Article 29 of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Goldie on 13 July (HL1582), whether the Multi Role Ocean Surveillance Ship will be used as a subsea cable repair ship; and, if so, whether any such ships will be in the 30-year cross-government shipbuilding pipeline to be published later this year. [HL2134]

Baroness Goldie: The Multi Role Ocean Surveillance Ship will primarily undertake survey work and will also enable us to better protect our undersea cables and energy supplies. It will form part of the 30-year cross-government shipbuilding pipeline which will be published in the National Shipbuilding Strategy Refresh later this year.

Telecoms Supply Chain Diversification Advisory Council: Fujitsu

Asked by Baroness Merron

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the chair of their Telecoms Supply Chain Diversification Advisory Council has any current financial interests or holdings with Fujitsu. [HL2309]

Baroness Barran: The chair of the Telecoms Supply Chain Diversification Advisory Council has declared any relevant financial interests in line with the usual appointment process. There are no current financial interests to declare.

Terrorism: Northern Ireland

Asked by Lord Dodds of Duncairn

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the statement by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on 14 July (HC Deb, cols 389–91) on prosecutions relating to the Troubles in Northern Ireland, what assessment they have made of the implications of their proposals for (1) Operation Kenova, and (2) any referrals for prosecution to the Public Prosecution Service arising from its investigations. [HL2117]

Viscount Younger of Leckie: The Government recognises the positive achievements of Operation Kenova in terms of building relationships with victims and survivors, and helping them to understand the circumstances around what happened to their loved ones.

However, it is clear that with the passage of time, the chances of successful prosecution from even the most robust of investigations is vanishingly small.

That is why, as outlined in the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland's oral statement of 14 July and in the command paper published afterwards, the Government wants to move away from a focus on criminal justice outcomes - which is delivering for nobody - and instead focus on effective information recovery and reconciliation measures.

The Government's proposals are intended to inform ongoing intensive engagement with the Irish Government, Northern Ireland parties and other stakeholders with an interest in this issue. All elements of these proposals - including their practical application - are subject to ongoing consideration and discussion.

Tigray: Armed Conflict

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the reported military cooperation between the governments of Russia and Ethiopia; and in particular, the impact of any such military cooperation on the situation in Tigray. [HL1937]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK has consistently urged for an end to the conflict in Tigray. There can be no military solution. We continue to urge all parties to the conflict to protect civilians and respect international humanitarian law. We would not normally comment on defence cooperation between two sovereign states.

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Ethiopia about the alleged use of starvation as a weapon of war in Tigray. [HL2159]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Government is deeply concerned about the grave humanitarian situation in Ethiopia and combatants, including Eritrean armed forces, denying access to humanitarian agencies. Over 350,000 people are assessed to be in famine-like conditions - more than anywhere else in the world. The UK's Special Envoy for Famine Prevention and Humanitarian Affairs, Nick Dyer visited Tigray in May and concluded that region-wide famine in Tigray is now likely if conflict intensifies and impediments to the delivery of humanitarian aid continue.

The UK has consistently called for protection of civilians and unfettered humanitarian access, including in our joint statements with the G7 and directly with Prime Minister Abiy. The Minister for Africa raised this with the Minister of Peace in her visit to the UK in July. The UK

Ambassador to Ethiopia has also raised our concerns on multiple occasions to the Government. We continue to push for those responsible for atrocities to be held to account including at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) where I set out on 2 July our concerns at the continued lack of progress in delivering humanitarian access to Tigray.

Tradeshaw Access Programme

Asked by Lord Foster of Bath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the return on investment for exporting businesses created by the Tradeshaw Access Funding Programme, prior to its cancellation. [HL2206]

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel: We have not carried out economic analysis of the impact of the Tradeshaw Access Programme (TAP) as a standalone service. However, we know that the businesses we support in attending trade shows view it very highly, which suggests a positive return on their investment. When surveyed, 89% of businesses stated they were satisfied with their experience of TAP (DIT Export Client Quality Survey, published July 2020).

Asked by Lord Foster of Bath

To ask Her Majesty's Government when a replacement scheme for the Tradeshaw Access Programme will be announced. [HL2207]

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel: HM Government will announce further details on plans for a revised trade show support programme when discussions with HM Treasury are concluded.

The £38m Internationalisation Fund, launched last year, provides matching grants for export support including attendance at trade shows.

Transport: Carbon Emissions

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to deliver for each mode of transport their commitment to Net Zero Carbon outlined in their Transport Decarbonisation Plan, published on 14 July. [HL2193]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Transport Decarbonisation Plan – “Decarbonising transport: a better, greener Britain” sets out the Government’s commitments and a series of actions and timings, to achieve net zero emissions across all modes of transport by 2050. We will continue to work with stakeholders across the sector, devolved administrations, local authorities and other regions as we implement the plan.

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the current percentage of carbon dioxide emissions attributed to (1) road, (2) rail, (3) air, and (4) shipping, including any UK share on international routes. [HL2290]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The most recent confirmed greenhouse gas statistics, for transport in 2019, attribute 66% of emissions to road transport, 1% to rail, 23% to domestic and international aviation, and 8% to domestic and international shipping.

Travel: Coronavirus

Asked by Baroness Featherstone

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether UK residents who have received the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine produced in India will be prevented from using the digital COVID-19 passport to travel to Europe without tests and quarantine; and what steps they plan to take to help anyone so affected. [HL2010]

Lord Bethell: All University of Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccines administered in the United Kingdom are the same product and appear on the NHS COVID Pass as ‘Vaxzevria’. The European Medicines Agency has authorised Vaxzevria and it is recognised by the European Union for the purpose of travel.

Asked by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to facilitate international travel, based on secure records of COVID-19 vaccination history. [HL2195]

Lord Bethell: We are working with international partners to ensure a safe return to international travel, utilising mutual recognition and verification of COVID certification solutions. To facilitate international travel, we are supporting United Kingdom (UK) residents to demonstrate their vaccination status using the ‘NHS COVID PASS’ which can be used for their outbound travel. Since 19 July, passengers arriving from amber countries (except France) who have been fully vaccinated through the UK vaccination programme do not have to quarantine when entering England or take a polymerase chain reaction test on or after day 8 post arrival. From 2 August passengers who are fully vaccinated in many European countries with vaccines authorised by the European Medicines Agency or Swissmedic and can show an EU Digital COVID Certificate, or who have been fully vaccinated in the United States of America (US) with vaccines authorised by the Food and Drug Administration and can show a CDC card and proof of US residency, will be able to travel to England from amber list countries (except France) without having to quarantine or take a day 8 test on arrival.

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on UK citizens who wish to travel overseas of any new (1) travel, (2) entry, and (3) quarantine, limitations introduced as a result of the relaxing of COVID-19 restrictions on 19 July. [HL2270]

Lord Bethell: There has been no assessment carried out of the impact on UK citizens who wish to travel overseas, as no new travel, entry, or quarantine limitations have been introduced as a result of the relaxing of COVID-19 restrictions on 19 July.

Travel: Quarantine

Asked by Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they made of the prevalence of the Beta variant of COVID-19 in (1) mainland France, and (2) French overseas territories, when deciding to require British citizens to quarantine when returning to the UK from France. [HL2232]

Lord Bethell: The Joint Biosecurity Centre (JBC) produces risk assessments of countries and territories. This risk is based on factors such as the level of community transmission of variants of concern or variant under investigation, levels of testing, genomic sequencing and reporting. The JBC assessed that France is a high-risk COVID-19 destination due to the circulation of variants of concern, most notably the beta variant, which is the variant that presents the greatest risk for vaccine escape. As of 19 July, GISAID data shows there have been to date 2,959 cases of beta in France (5.2% of all cases uploaded) compared to 1,052 cases of beta in the United Kingdom (0.2% of all cases uploaded), 44 cases in Greece (0.5% of all cases uploaded) and 621 cases in Spain (1.4% of all cases uploaded), from the start of the pandemic. GISAID is a live repository and the number of sequences attributed to a specific lineage, country or region may be revised upwards or downwards as new lineages are identified and countries update and amend their data. The quarantine rules and testing for travellers into the United Kingdom from France will significantly decrease the risk of importing beta cases, which could then grow rapidly into community clusters or outbreaks.

Asked by Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they made an assessment of the effects on the travel industry of their decision to require British citizens to quarantine when returning to the UK from France; and if so, what were the conclusions of that assessment. [HL2233]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Government has always been clear that we will not hesitate to act immediately should the data show that countries risk ratings have changed. The decision on France was taken following the persistent presence of cases in France of the Beta variant, which was first identified in South Africa.

The Government recognises the challenging circumstances businesses in the travel industry face as a result of Covid-19, which is why we have provided an unprecedented package of support to protect jobs and businesses totalling over £350 billion. This includes support through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme,

support for businesses through grants and loans, business rates and VAT relief. We continue to take a flexible approach and keep all impacts and policies under review.

Turkey: Immigration Controls

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the EU's proposal to fund border controls at Turkey's eastern border; and in particular, whether this would lead to victims of persecution being turned back. [HL2012]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are aware of discussions between our close partners, Turkey and the EU, on the funding of border controls at Turkey's eastern border. We would expect any new border controls to comply with international law with respect to the protection of refugees.

UK Internal Trade: Northern Ireland

Asked by Lord Rogan

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the (1) shortage of HGV drivers, and the (2) agreement to the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland, on the delivery of goods from Great Britain to Northern Ireland. [HL1980]

Lord Frost: No assessment has been made specifically of any effects of the lorry driver shortage on the delivery of goods from Great Britain to Northern Ireland, though the Government agrees with industry assessments that there is a significant acute shortage of lorry drivers on top of a longer-term structural shortage. That is why on 20 July, the Department for Transport, the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs jointly announced a suite of measures to support the industry in addressing the driver shortage. These measures will be focused on increasing the recruitment, retention and throughput of domestic drivers. More information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-package-of-measures-to-support-road-haulage-industry>.

On 21 July, the Government published a Command Paper (Northern Ireland Protocol: the way forward, CP502) outlining how the Northern Ireland Protocol is not working in its current form or delivering on its objectives. We are seeking to negotiate significant changes to the Northern Ireland Protocol to achieve a new balance that puts the UK-EU relationship on a stable footing. This must involve goods flowing much more freely into Northern Ireland from Great Britain.

Asked by Lord Rogan

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had, if any, with (1) Amazon, and (2) other suppliers, about the fall in volume of goods being

delivered from Great Britain to Northern Ireland since the agreement of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland in December 2020. [\[HL2100\]](#)

Lord Callanan: The Government has been speaking with businesses regularly regarding shipment of goods to Northern Ireland (NI), including parcel operators and online marketplaces. We have working groups with business where they are updated on the latest guidance and have the opportunity to seek further clarity on operational related issues. Assistance is also available from the Trader Support Service, which guides businesses trading with NI through all import processes at no additional cost.

Furthermore, the Brexit Business Taskforce has held regular meetings between my noble Friend the Minister of State at the Cabinet Office (the Rt. Hon. Lord Frost), other Ministers, and key business sectors.

HMRC held constructive engagement with the postal and parcel industry in the run up to the 31 December 2020 announcement of temporary arrangements for express operators to continue moving the majority of goods with minimal requirements. This engagement will continue for the duration of the temporary arrangements.

Asked by Lord Moylan

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effects of the EU's proposed Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism on trade and commerce in Northern Ireland in the light of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland; and what consultations they have been offered by the EU on this matter. [\[HL2128\]](#)

Lord Frost: The Government has noted the EU's announcement on the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism. In line with the provisions in Article 13(4) of the Protocol, as an act that falls within the scope of the Protocol, but which neither amends nor replaces a Union act listed in the Annexes to this Protocol, it is a matter for the Joint Committee to determine whether it should apply in Northern Ireland. The EU has informed the UK of its proposal, as required by the Protocol, and we will carefully consider its impact on Northern Ireland and the UK's internal market, ahead of future discussions in the Joint Committee.

Asked by The Earl of Clancarty

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they are having with the EU to negotiate an exemption from ATA Carnets and CITES certification for temporary (1) import, and (2) export, between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. [\[HL2200\]](#)

Lord Agnew of Oulton: HMG published a Command Paper on 21 July setting out a proposed way forward on the Northern Ireland Protocol. This seeks to ensure that businesses and consumers can have normal access to goods from the rest of the UK and sets out a possible approach whereby movements that are purely between GB and NI do not require customs processes.

The Government is not having any discussions with the EU to negotiate an exemption from CITES certification or ATA Carnets for temporary import or export between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. CITES certification is required so as to continue to uphold the UK's obligations under international agreements. ATA Carnets are not a requirement, they are an optional facilitation which allows goods to be imported temporarily without import duty being paid, and a single document to be used for multiple countries' customs controls. The UK and approximately 80 countries around the world (including all EU member states) accept ATA Carnets and are signatories to the Customs Convention on the ATA Carnet and the Istanbul Convention on Temporary Admission which govern the use of Carnets.

UK Trade with EU

Asked by Baroness Quin

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they hold on the number of UK companies who have set up (1) companies, and (2) distribution hubs, in the EU since 1 January; and the number of jobs that have been created in the EU as a result. [\[HL2236\]](#)

Lord Callanan: Companies House does not hold any information on how many companies have set up (1) companies and (2) distribution hubs, in the EU since 1 January, and the number of jobs that have been created in the EU as a result.

Unemployment

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to make it easier for unemployed individuals to access clear labour market information on local green job opportunities. [\[HL2044\]](#)

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The green recovery presents a significant opportunity for UK workers to benefit from increased employment opportunities in green sectors.

The Department for Work and Pensions stands ready to support people into green jobs as the sector grows through work coach interventions and targeted provision. We have recently recruited an additional 13,500 Work Coaches into our Jobcentres. The support they provide with skills and retraining advice for individuals is informed by knowledge of local employment opportunities and growing sectors, including green job opportunities. Our local leaders also engage directly with local employers, who are encouraged to deliver information sessions directly to work coaches and customers.

The Department's Find A Job service also offers on line access to jobs advertised both nationally and locally, which again includes green/renewable jobs.

Veterans UK

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to bring the delivery of veterans' aftercare within the remit of Veterans UK. [HL2264]

Baroness Goldie: The Ministry of Defence's review into the Ulster Defence Regiment and Royal Irish (Home Service) Aftercare Service has begun and is currently considering whether the remit of the Service should be widened to cover all HM Forces veterans living in Northern Ireland with Service-related injuries and conditions.

The review will consider all services currently provided to veterans in Northern Ireland via the Aftercare Service, alongside ongoing wider Government veterans' programmes and initiatives. This presents a real opportunity to improve co-ordination of services to offer all veterans residing in Northern Ireland long-term stability for inclusive, coherent, and consistent support.

The review is ongoing, and no firm conclusions have yet been drawn on the future structure of veterans' service delivery in Northern Ireland. The review is due to report in the spring of 2022.

Veterans: Northern Ireland

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many UK veterans are currently resident in Northern Ireland; and how that number is identified. [HL2266]

Lord True: The UK Government has no current means to identify UK veterans who are resident in Northern Ireland. Due to the sensitivities of the legacy of Northern Ireland's past, many who served and now reside there do not feel safe disclosing their veteran status, and the question was not included in the 2021 Census in Northern Ireland as it was in England and Wales.

The Office for Veterans' Affairs is working with the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency on alternative solutions.

Vietnam: Coronavirus

Asked by The Earl of Sandwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many COVID-19 vaccines the UK has supplied to Vietnam; and what assessment they have made of (1) how they are being distributed, and (2) which age groups are receiving them. [HL2312]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK has provided £548m support to the COVAX Advanced Market Commitment (AMC), supporting up to 92 developing economies to access vaccines. This includes Vietnam,

which has received 2,493,600 AstraZeneca doses through COVAX to date. The UK has also donated £1 million to ASEAN's Comprehensive Recovery Fund, which will be used to procure vaccine donations for ASEAN member states.

On 28 July the Foreign Secretary announced a donation of Covid-19 vaccines to Vietnam as part of the first tranche of the 100 million vaccines the Prime Minister pledged the UK would share within the next year at last month's G7 in Cornwall. We are working to deliver these vaccines as quickly as possible.

Vietnam's national vaccination programme is currently focused on priority groups, including medical workers, those over 65 years of age and those with chronic diseases.

Asked by The Earl of Sandwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what arrangements they have made with the government of Vietnam to provide for British nationals over 65 years of age in that country to receive COVID-19 injections. [HL2313]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Government of Vietnam has confirmed that British nationals resident in Vietnam will be offered COVID-19 vaccines as part of the national vaccination programme. The programme is currently focused on priority groups, including those over 65 years of age and those with chronic diseases. Information on how British nationals aged over 18 can register for the programme is available on the FCDO's Vietnam Travel Advice pages on gov.uk.

Visas: Arts

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to conclude a bespoke visa waiver agreement with the EU for the creative sector. [HL1961]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: UK citizens going to the EU for short stays and EU, EEA and Swiss citizens visiting the UK are already visa free. Musicians and performers can already undertake short-term touring without visas and permits in at least 18 Member States.

EU visa waiver agreements are also subject to the provisions of Article 6 (3) of REGULATION (EU) 2018/1806 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL which sets out an individual Member State may still decide to require a visa for short stays for people carrying out a paid activity during their stay.

The EU's draft text for the Trade and Cooperation Agreement included a visa waiver agreement, which would have prohibited the parties from introducing visa requirement on visitors from the other party unless those visitors were carrying out a paid activity (i.e. service supply or performance) during their stay. In the event they were carrying out a paid activity individual Member States could apply a visa requirement to this category of service suppliers. The ability of the UK to apply visas would have been restricted only to reciprocating by

applying a visa requirement to the same category supplier for the individual member state.

The EU's proposal would also have prevented the UK from introducing or maintaining visit visas on any future EU Member State, not just on existing ones. In effect handing to the European Union the ability to make a country a non-visa national for travel to the UK without the consent or approval of the UK.

The Government is now focusing on bilateral engagement with Member States to encourage them to more closely align with the UK's generous regime.

Visas: EU Countries

Asked by Lord Bowness

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 7 July 2021 (HL1337) regarding the duration of visa-free travel in the EU, and further to the Prime Minister's statement to the House of Commons Liaison Committee on 7 July (Question 125) regarding visa-free travel for touring artists and musicians that they are working to "sort it out", (1) who is working on visa waiver or extension, (2) to which minister they report, and (3) with which member states of the EU they are negotiating. [HL1999]

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to negotiate (1) visa-free travel, and (2) Europe-wide work permits, for musicians and crew. [HL2046]

Baroness Barran: This government recognises the importance of our world leading creative and cultural industries. That is why the UK took an ambitious approach during negotiations with the EU that would have ensured that touring musicians, performers and their support staff did not need work-permits to perform in the EU. Regrettably, our proposals were rejected by the EU, but our door remains open if the EU wants to reconsider its position.

A bespoke visa waiver agreement with the EU would require the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) to be renegotiated. The TCA is the basis of our trading relations with the EU, and this is not going to be renegotiated. Furthermore, the Commission would be likely to argue that any EU-wide visa waiver agreement can only be part of a wider package with a binding non-discrimination clause and a reciprocal visa waiver agreement covering all current and future Member States. This was what the Commission proposed in the negotiations and would be incompatible with our manifesto commitment to retain control of our borders.

Our focus is now on engaging with Member States, who are principally responsible for deciding the rules governing what work UK visitors can undertake in the EU. We have spoken to every Member State, involving British Embassies and DCMS ministers. We have established that musicians and performers do not require

visas or work permits for short-term tours in at least 19 out of 27 Member States, including France and Germany.

We are now working closely with individual Member States that do require visas or permits for short-term 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. These countries are Spain, Portugal, Greece, Croatia, Malta, Bulgaria, and Romania. We are also still confirming the details of requirements with Cyprus.

Water Companies: Environment Protection

Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have held with the Environment Agency following the publication of its report Water and sewerage companies in England: environmental performance report for 2020 on 13 July, in particular regarding its decision to grant the highest environmental performance rating to five water companies, despite the overall failure of the industry to reduce by 50 per cent the number of incidents in which significant amounts of raw sewage are released into the environment compared to 2012. [HL2050]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The assessment of environmental performance of water and sewerage companies in England is a made by the Environment Agency as the environmental regulator using a methodology that is published and has been consulted on with Defra and other organisations including eNGOs.

The environmental performance of a water company and the rating achieved is based on their performance against six metrics: total pollution incidents, serious pollution incidents, self-reporting of pollution incidents, discharge permit compliance, delivery of their environmental programme and their security of supply index for water resource. It is not based on the performance against any one metric such as serious pollution incidents.

Although the sector did not achieve an overall 50% reduction in serious pollution incidents compared to the number in 2012, the number of serious pollution incidents declined for the second year in a row and were at the lowest number ever at 44 in 2020. Three of the five water companies with the highest performance rating in 2020 (Northumbrian Water, Severn Trent and United Utilities) achieved more than a 50% reduction over the 2012 to 2020 period. However, the sector as a whole needs to accelerate to zero serious incidents and ramp up work to support the Government's goal to ensure clean and plentiful water, as the report highlights.

There is more work to be done and over the last year the EA has made sure all companies develop and publish a pollution incident reduction plan for them to better understand their risks and implement interventions to reduce incident numbers. The EA has also worked with Ofwat to better align the financial penalties that they

impose with environmental performance metrics. The EA will continue to use its influence and regulatory powers to require water companies to make timely, necessary and achievable improvements.

Water Companies: Pollution

Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to end the practice of water companies being permitted to self-report pollution incidents. [HL2048]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: It is a requirement on water companies to self-report pollution incidents and there are no plans to remove this important requirement.

Pollution incidents occur as a result of a system failure and require a reactive response. The quicker the response, the better the outcome for the environment. If the self-reporting of pollution incidents was not required, the Environment Agency would be reliant on third parties to report when things have gone wrong. Water companies can inform the Environment Agency of problems much quicker than if reported by third parties.

High levels of self-reporting demonstrates honesty and transparency and is an indicator that companies are managing their systems effectively. Making this information available and reporting it in the Environment Agency's annual water company performance report shines a light on company performance. Removing this requirement would reduce transparency, be worse for the environment and would reduce the Environment Agency's ability to hold water companies to account.

Water Companies: Standards

Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the statement by David Black, acting Chair of Ofwat, on 13 July that there should be a "step-change in culture and commitment" by water companies "to fundamentally change the way they deliver for customers and the environment". [HL2049]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The recent Environmental Performance Assessment (EPA) report, to which David Black's comments relate, spans the last 12 months and makes for extremely disappointing reading. Even the industry-leading water companies have more work to do, especially on the use of storm overflows. Water companies have environmental responsibilities and they must realise them. They have a legal duty to avoid pollution to our rivers and other waterways.

The Government, the Environment Agency and Ofwat announced on 22 July the consultation of the review of the Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP), an ambitious programme of work that water companies are required to complete to meet their obligations from environmental legislation and UK

Government policy. Water company actions driven by this programme have the potential to greatly enhance the natural environment, ultimately helping to protect the health of rivers and waterways in England and support sustainable growth.

For 2020 to 2025 water companies are investing £7.1 billion to protect and improve the environment. This includes the £5.2 billion invested through WINEP.

The strategic policy statement (SPS) for Ofwat published for consultation on July 22 outlines the Government's key priorities for Ofwat's regulation of the water sector in England. This includes water companies' day-to-day environmental performance, with a focus on meeting the Government's ambitions to significantly reduce the frequency and volume of sewage discharges from storm overflows. As well as challenging water companies to plan strategically their drainage and wastewater services in order to improve resilience and reduce pollution incidents, the Government expects Ofwat to challenge companies to continue to drive down leakage and improve water efficiency for the benefit of current and future customers.

The Environment Bill will also address this step change, with three new measures to reduce sewage discharges from storm overflows:

The first statutory requirement will place a duty on Government to publish a plan by September 2022 to reduce sewage discharges from storm overflows and to reduce their impact. This plan will be informed by work of the Storm Overflows Taskforce and will be subject to consultation and informed by an impact assessment. The Government will consider a wide range of options, including measures proposed in the Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP's Private Member's Bill. The plan will complement existing Asset Management Plans and new statutory Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans produced by water companies.

There will be an additional statutory requirement for Government to report to Parliament on progress on implementing the plan every five years, which will align progress with existing Asset Management Plan cycles for maximum effectiveness.

The third requirement will be a duty on water companies and the Environment Agency to publish data on storm overflow operation on an annual basis so that it is available and accessible to the public.

The Environment Bill will also require a legally binding, long-term water quality target. We are currently considering water targets on reducing pollution from wastewater, as well as agriculture and abandoned metal mines. Setting targets will provide a strong mechanism to deliver long-term environmental outcomes.

Windrush Cross-government Working Group

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Durham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Windrush Cross-Government Working Group on implementing the Migrants' Commissioner role; and what progress they have made on this issue. [[HL2009](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office has tasked a sub-group of the Windrush Cross-Government Working Group (WWG) to independently advise the Home Secretary on what the Migrants' Commissioner role should look like, including who and what it should cover, and the best model for delivering it.

The Sub-group will make their recommendations for the Home Secretary's consideration prior to Wendy Williams' return to inspect the Department's progress in September.

Workplace Pensions

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much was invested by (1) the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme, (2) the NHS Pension Scheme, (3) the

Teachers' Pension Scheme, (4) the Local Government Pension Scheme, (5) the Firefighters' Pension Scheme, and (6) the Armed Forces Pension Scheme, into (a) Alibaba, (b) Tencent, (c) China Construction Bank, (d) China Petroleum & Chemical Corporation, and (e) China National Offshore Oil Corporation, between 2014 and 2020. [[HL2136](#)]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The main unfunded public service pension schemes have not invested in any of the mentioned companies.

Most Public Service Pension schemes are unfunded Defined Benefit pension schemes, with the exception of the Local Government Pension Scheme. Members' pension benefits are set out in statute and there is no fund of assets from which pension benefits are paid. Employer and employee contributions are paid to the relevant public service pension scheme, but these contributions are not invested. Instead, the public service pension scheme uses the contributions to meet the cost of pensions in payment. Where there is a difference between pensions in payment and total contributions, the difference is made up by HMT through Annually Managed Expenditure (AME).

The Local Government Pension Scheme is a funded scheme in which all the assets are owned by the administering authorities, which are responsible for the management of their investments. The data requested is not held centrally.

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