



This report shows written answers and statements provided on 28 September 2018 and the information is correct at the time of publication (03:13 P.M., 28 September 2018). For the latest information on written questions and answers, ministerial corrections, and written statements, please visit: <http://www.parliament.uk/writtenanswers/>

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Notes:

Questions marked thus **[R]** indicate that a relevant interest has been declared.

Questions with identification numbers of **900000 or greater** indicate that the question was originally tabled as an oral question and has since been unstarred.

ANSWERS

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

■ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Peers

Justin Madders:

[\[170927\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how many members of the House of Lords hold (a) paid and (b) unpaid roles within (i) his Department and (ii) his Department's agencies.

George Eustice:

The Department does not hold a definitive central record of all those who hold roles, either paid or unpaid, who are members of the House of Lords.

One of the Department's Ministers is a member of the House of Lords - Lord Gardiner of Kimble; Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity.

There are 2 members of the House of Lords who are appointed as non-executive Board members across Defra's Executive Agencies, non-Ministerial Departments and executive Non Departmental Public Bodies.

EXITING THE EUROPEAN UNION

■ Innovation and Science

Paul Blomfield:

[\[171405\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, with reference to the document, Framework for the UK-EU Partnership: Science, research and innovation, published in May 2018, what progress (a) he and (b) officials of his Department have made on a Science and Innovation Pact with the EU.

Chris Heaton-Harris:

Both the UK and the EU have been clear about the benefits of international collaboration on science and innovation and it is our intention to continue this cooperation with the EU. The government's ambition for this is reflected in the document published in May 2018, which was presented to our EU counterparts during a technical session. The document can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/710268/SCIENCE_-_FINAL.pdf.

The White Paper sets out proposals for a cooperative accord on science and innovation, which will provide for UK participation in EU research funding programmes, enable continued cooperation through joint participation in networks, infrastructure, policies and agencies which are to the UK's and the EU's joint benefit, and establish channels for regular dialogue between regulators, researchers and experts. We are working at pace to conclude this agreement.

■ Research: EU Grants and Loans

Paul Blomfield:

[\[171404\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, whether the framework for the future relationship with the European Union within the Withdrawal Agreement is planned to include details on the future association to the Ninth EU Framework Programme.

Chris Heaton-Harris:

As talks progress on the future relationship, we are working hard and at pace to deliver the best possible agreement on the future framework, which will be to the mutual benefit of both the UK and the EU. The Government's recent White Paper set out its ambition to agree a far-reaching science and innovation accord as part of our future relationship with the EU. This includes exploring association in research and innovation programmes, including Horizon Europe.

The UK and the EU have been clear that the Withdrawal Agreement and the Future Framework form a package, and that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed - meaning that neither document can be considered final until this is true of both. With talks ongoing, we remain firmly on track to reach agreement on the Withdrawal Agreement and the Future Framework in the autumn.

HOME OFFICE

■ Drugs

Lloyd Russell-Moyle:

[\[169718\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if his Department will make an assessment of the potential merits of reclassifying (a) GHB (b) GHL as a Class A substance.

Victoria Atkins:

GHB and GBL are controlled as class C drugs under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. As with all controlled drugs we will continue to monitor their impact and the potential merits of reclassification.

■ Fraud

Layla Moran:

[\[168181\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of reports made to Action Fraud have been reviewed by (a) a computer system and (b) a member of staff in each of the last three years for which figures are available.

Mr Ben Wallace:

No reports are dismissed by a computer system. All reports submitted to Action Fraud are processed through an automated triage system that is designed to ensure that resources are targeted at those cases that have the most viable lines of enquiry.

An automated process is required due to the large number of cases received (approximately 42,000 per month) to provide an efficient and effective response.

Crime reports to Action Fraud are assessed and triaged through the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) data analytics system which identifies links between seemingly unconnected fraud and cyber crime incidents from all over the country. Having received a report, the first phase of the crime assessment is automated using a computer based algorithm which scores the report's suitability to be investigated against a number of criteria. This triaging ensures a consistent national approach to the assessment of fraud and cyber crime reports and effective targeting of resources. Some of these criteria include the victim's vulnerability, whether the identity of the offender is known, if there is evidence available to support this (e.g. a confirmed bank account money has been paid to), or the volume of reports made about a specific offender. Reports with the highest viability scoring are then referred for further action by a crime reviewer. The crime reviewers will then undertake further work to identify whether there are sufficient lines of enquiry for the matter to be disseminated to law enforcement. Where opportunities for further action are identified, these crimes are referred to a local police force or other partner agency.

During the financial year 2017/2018 there were a total 294,984 reports. Of these reports 113,488 were both system and crime reviewer assessed, the remainder (181,496) were assessed solely by the automated system.

During the financial year 2016/2017 there were a total 280,706 reports. Of these reports 128,564 were both system and crime reviewer assessed, the remainder (152,142) were assessed solely by the automated system.

During the financial year 2015/2016 there were a total 234,201 reports. Of these reports 117,179 were both system and crime reviewer assessed, the remainder (117,022) were assessed solely by the automated system.

■ Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority

Paul Blomfield:

[\[170885\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many external intelligence reports received by the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority from non-governmental organisations were (a) received and (b) acted upon in (i) 2015-16, (ii) 2016-17 and (iii) 2017-18.

Victoria Atkins:

Information is not collected by the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority in the form requested. All intelligence reports received are reviewed by GLAA. The next step after review of an intelligence report is dependent upon the content of the report. Some intelligence reports are sufficient to trigger investigative or inspection activity – these reports are described as “actionable”. Other intelligence reports may add to an existing intelligence picture and may contribute to future action. Some intelligence reports duplicate information previously received.

The table sets out the total number of intelligence reports received by the GLAA in the years 2015-16 to 2017-18 and the number of such reports that were actionable:

A) YEAR	B) INTELLIGENCE REPORTS RECEIVED	C) NUMBER OF REPORTS AT B) THAT WERE ACTIONABLE
2015-16	4,240	928
2016-17	2,847	630
2017-18	3,987	908

■ Home Office: Brexit

Tom Brake:

[\[168928\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the cost to the public purse has been of his Department hiring additional staff to cover issues related to the UK leaving the EU.

Victoria Atkins:

By its nature, EU exit work is complex and cross-cutting, involving multiple directorates and teams within in the Department. Given the interactions between EU exit work and the Department's other priorities, it would not be possible to give an accurate figure on how many new staff in the Home Office have responsibilities relating to exiting the EU.

Therefore, it would be at disproportionate effort to provide the cost for the recruitment of new members of staff relating to EU exit.

Tom Brake:

[\[168943\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many staff in his Department have been transferred to the (a) Department for Exiting the European Union and (b) Department for International Trade as a result of the UK leaving the EU.

Victoria Atkins:

The location of members of staff on loan to another government department is not recorded centrally and therefore to determine how many members of Home Office staff are on loan to (a) Department for Exiting the European Union and (b) Department for International Trade can only be provided a disproportionate cost.

■ Home Office: EU Law

Philip Davies:

[\[172486\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 18 April 2018 to Question 136551, on EU Law, what the nine regulations mentioned in this answer are.

Caroline Nokes:

The Answer of 18 April to Question 136551 indicated that 5 regulations had been laid with a further 4 regulations intended in 2018. To date, 8 of the 9 regulations have been laid. These 8 regulations introduced by the Home Office as a result of EU legislation since 23 June 2016 are:

- The Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2016
- The Immigration (European Economic Area) (Amendment) Regulations 2017
- The Policing and Crime Act 2017 (Commencement No 1 and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2017
- The Transfer for Determination of an Application for International Protection (Detention) (Significant Risk of Absconding Criteria) Regulations 2017
- The Criminal Justice (European Investigation Order) Regulations 2017 – implementing

Directive 2014/41/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014

- The Passenger Name Record and Miscellaneous Amendments Regulations 2018 / Immigration and Police (Passenger, Crew and Service Information) (Amendment) Order 2018
- Immigration (European Economic Area) (Amendment) Regulations 2018
- Data Retention and Acquisition Regulations 2018 implementing Directive 2002/58/EC and related EU law on privacy and data protection.

In addition, the Home Office currently intends to lay a further 3 regulations:

- Council Framework Decision 2009/905/JHA of 30 November 2009
- EU Directive on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims (2011)
- Regulation (EU) 2016/1191 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2016

■ Home Office: Sick Leave**Justin Madders:**[\[173644\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the number of days of sick leave taken by staff in his Department for mental health reasons in each year since 2010.

Victoria Atkins:

The number of working days lost due to the sickness absence reason of Mental Health issues between 2011-12 and 2016-17 in the Home Office is set out in the table enclosed.

In the Home Office we are committed to breaking down barriers and reducing stigma for those staff living with mental health conditions. We aim to equip managers to

recognise and address stress in the workplace, and encourage employees to talk to their managers about mental health issues so that they can access help and support at the earliest stage.

Attachments:

1. Table - Sickness Absence Mental Health Issues [Copy of PQ 173644 Table 1 FINAL.xls]

■ **Home Office: Written Questions**

Mr David Lammy:

[\[143636\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when he plans to answer Questions 136372, 136373, 136374 and 136376 tabled on 18 April 2018 by the hon. Member for Tottenham.

Caroline Nokes:

The response for UIN 136372 was answered on the 15th August 2018.

The responses for UIN 136373, 136374 and 136376 were answered on the 6th September 2018.

Mr David Lammy:

[\[149581\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when he plans to respond to Question 136374, tabled on 17 April 2017 by the hon. Member for Tottenham; and if he will make a statement.

Caroline Nokes:

The response for UIN 136374 was answered on the 6th September 2018.

Liz Saville Roberts:

[\[165669\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to Question 161582 asked by the hon. Member for Dwyfor Meirionnydd on 6 July 2018, when he plans to provide a substantive response to that Question.

Mr Nick Hurd:

The response to UIN 161582 was given on the 29th August 2018.

Mr Virendra Sharma:

[\[167975\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when he plans to respond to Question 155249, on Immigration: Windrush Generation, tabled on 19 June 2018 by the hon. Member for Ealing, Southall.

Caroline Nokes:

The response for UIN 155249 was given on 11th September 2018.

■ **Immigrants: Caribbean**

Stephen Doughty:

[\[137181\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many inquiries about issues relating to the immigration status of members of the Windrush generation have been

received by her Department (a) on the Windrush helpline and (b) from people in Wales in 2018.

Caroline Nokes:

On 16 April, The Home Office established a Taskforce to ensure that members of the Windrush generation were able to evidence their right to be in the UK.

Individuals considered as possible Windrush are referred for a call back from an experienced caseworker. To the end of August, 6,564 individuals have been referred for a call back.

Callers are not required to provide a correspondence address when calling the helpline and information relating to the geographic location of callers is not available.

■ **Immigration**

Stephen Doughty:

[\[140740\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been wrongfully (a) detained, (b) deported, (c) denied British citizenship and (d) denied a passport on application in each of the last six years.

Caroline Nokes:

Information on the number of people wrongfully deported and detained is set out in Sir Philip Rutnam's letters to the Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP, dated 14 May 2018 and 25 June 2018 that are deposited in the House Library.

Information on individuals wrongfully denied a passport and British citizenship in the last 6 years is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

■ **Immigration: Windrush Generation**

Afzal Khan:

[\[165708\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 10 May 2018 to Question 136120 on UK Visas and Immigration: Management, how many individuals are assigned to the dedicated taskforce; how many of the 50 senior caseworkers will be in new positions; and what the timeframe is for the conclusion of his Department's review.

Caroline Nokes:

The dedicated Taskforce consists of approximately 150 staff can be flexibly deployed as the need arises.

Of the network of 50 senior caseworkers, 22 are new positions within the Chief Casework Unit. The remainder of the unit is made up of existing senior caseworkers embedded within business areas, to support colleagues in making complex case decisions.

The terms of reference and methodology for the lessons learned review were published on 19 July. The terms, which have been approved by the review's

independent adviser Wendy Williams, also state that the intention is for the report to be published by 31 March 2019.

■ Passports: Caribbean

Toby Perkins:

[906876]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what representations his Department received before 2018 on the eligibility for UK passports of Caribbean-born UK residents.

Caroline Nokes:

It has always been open to Caribbean-born UK residents to apply for documentation confirming their right to reside here, and for a British passport once they became naturalised as British Citizens. The vast majority of the Windrush generation already held documentation confirming their status here, but those who have not are those the Windrush Taskforce are helping now.

■ Refugees: Families

Angus Brendan MacNeil:

[172476]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) decisions on, and (b) grants of, applications for refugee family reunion were made at (i) Istanbul Clearance, (ii) Amman Clearance, (iii) Pretoria Clearance and (iv) Sheffield Decision Making Centre in 2017.

Angus Brendan MacNeil:

[172477]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, from which countries are applications for refugee family reunion designated to be decided by the Sheffield Decision Making Centre.

Angus Brendan MacNeil:

[172478]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's report, A re-inspection of the family reunion process, focusing on applications received at the Amman Entry Clearance Decision Making Centre, published on 5 September 2018, for what reason the proportion of refugee family reunion applications being decided at the Sheffield Decision Making Centre has increased.

Caroline Nokes:

Statistics on refugee family reunion can be found in Home Office Asylum tables volume 5, table as_21_q –

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/734178/asylum5-jun-2018-tables.ods

Information can also be found in the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration report: A re-inspection of the family reunion process, focusing on applications received at the Amman Entry Clearance Decision Making Centre:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/737724/Final_Artwork_Reinspection_Family_Reunion_Amman.pdf

UK Visas and Immigration are currently in the process of consolidating Family Reunion applications so that decision making is carried out by one specialist team based in the UK.

■ Slavery

Mr Barry Sheerman: **[169008]**

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many victims of modern slavery are resident in the UK.

Victoria Atkins:

Assessing the true scale of modern slavery in the UK is problematic given the hidden nature of the crime. Current Home Office estimates place the number of victims of modern slavery between 10,000-13,000 in the UK.

The most recent assessment of the nature and scale of modern slavery is the 2017 annual report, which quotes this figure. A link to the 2017 report can be found https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/652366/2017_uk_annual_report_on_modern_slavery.pdf

JUSTICE

■ Berwyn Prison

Liz Saville Roberts: **[171707]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, on what dates (a) he and (b) Ministers of his Department have visited HMP Berwyn since February 2017.

Rory Stewart:

The Secretary of State for Justice (a) and Ministers in the department (b) have not visited HMP Berwyn since February 2017. The Minister of State intends to visit before the end of the year.

■ Prisons: Design

Liz Saville Roberts: **[171710]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether his Department has plans to implement the recommendations of the Report of the Zahid Mubarek inquiry, published in June 2006, in the design of new prisons.

Rory Stewart:

We have undertaken a comprehensive review of the evidence on prison design and consulted widely to ensure the design of new prisons is safe, secure and decent. The design of the new prisons are predominantly single cell and we will ensure that prison operators undertake the appropriate security and safety procedures including cell sharing risk assessment.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

■ **Single People: Discrimination**

Dr David Drew:

[\[172406\]](#)

To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what steps she has taken to ensure that single people are not discriminated against in relation to those who are married or in civil partnerships.

Victoria Atkins:

Although being single is not a protected characteristic (unlike, for example, race or sex) in the Equality Act 2010, single people can particularly benefit from other protections in that legislation - for example, provisions which allow shops and attractions to charge older or younger people less than working-age adults. These concessions, for example cheaper haircuts for pensioners or discounted entry to events and museums for students and pensioners, are likely to be of particular benefit to single people, who are strongly represented in these groups.