



## Daily Report

Wednesday, 3 November 2021

This report shows written answers and statements provided on 3 November 2021 and the information is correct at the time of publication (06:40 P.M., 03 November 2021). 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

### BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

#### ■ ACAS

**Stuart Anderson:**

[\[64741\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps his Department is taking to help (a) promote awareness of the services offered by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACSA) and (b) ensure ACAS is easily contactable.

**Paul Scully:**

The Department has worked closely with Acas to promote their services through awareness campaigns, including a joint campaign on social media and radio aimed at vulnerable workers and recently publicising the launch of Acas's disability hub on their website. Additionally, BEIS funds Acas to provide support and guidance on workplace matters, which any member of the public can access through its website and by contacting their helpline between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Friday.

#### ■ Biofuels: Power Stations

**Alex Sobel:**

[\[64727\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will publish the age bands of trees used to produce wood pellets for biomass power stations in (a) the UK and (b) Yorkshire and the Humber.

**Greg Hands:**

The UK only supports biomass which complies with strict sustainability criteria and generators only receive subsidies for compliant biomass.

#### ■ Biofuels: Subsidies

**Alex Sobel:**

[\[64728\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, in context of biomass fuel, what scientific advice his Department received when deciding that only 70 per cent of wood pellets would need to come from sustainable forests to qualify for renewable subsidies.

**Greg Hands:**

The Government only supports sustainable biomass and generators only receive subsidies for compliant biomass. All biomass must be legally harvested in accordance with national legislation of the sourcing country. Generators are required to demonstrate that at least 70% of all biomass must be sustainable. In developing the new Biomass Strategy, the Government will assess the UK's existing biomass sustainability standards, which are already some of the world's most stringent, to see where and how they can be improved even further.

**■ Buildings: Heating**

**Mike Amesbury:** [\[62831\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, for what reason Modern Methods of Construction are not included in the Building and Heat strategy.

**Greg Hands:**

The Heat and Buildings Strategy is focussed on emissions from energy use within buildings. Emissions from heat used for industrial processes, and emissions from construction are out of scope for the Heat and Buildings Strategy.

**■ Business: Evictions**

**Seema Malhotra:** [\[65436\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, with reference to the Government's press release on 16 June 2021 entitled Eviction protection extended for businesses most in need, what plans the Government for a binding arbitration process between commercial tenants and landlords.

**Paul Scully:**

*[Holding answer 2 November 2021]:* The Government will shortly introduce legislation to support landlords and tenants resolve disputes relating to rent owed as a result of premises having been closed or having had business restricted during the COVID-19 pandemic. The legislation will ringfence rent debt accrued during the pandemic by businesses affected by enforced closures and set out a process of binding arbitration to be undertaken between landlords and tenants. This is to be used as a last resort, after bilateral negotiations have been undertaken and only where landlords and tenants cannot otherwise come to a resolution. This will help the economy to return to normal as quickly as possible while protecting viable jobs and businesses.

**■ Carbon Emissions: Electronic Government**

**Caroline Lucas:** [\[63697\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, for what reason the document, Net Zero: principles for successful behaviour change initiatives, produced by the behavioural insights team and published alongside his Department's Net Zero Strategy was removed from the Government website.

**Greg Hands:**

This paper was uploaded in error.

**■ Carbon Emissions: Employment**

**Helen Hayes:** [\[63794\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what estimate he has made of the number of jobs that will be affected by the transition to net zero; and



what steps his Department is taking to help ensure that affected staff are (a) supported into new green jobs and (b) offered opportunities to retrain in green industries.

**Greg Hands:**

Through our Net Zero Strategy we will grow green industries and supply chains in the UK, supporting up to 440,000 jobs across net zero industries in 2030. The Strategy sets out how we are supporting skills and retraining for the green economy, including reforming the skills system; delivering green Skills Bootcamps; and working with industry to support green apprenticeships.

■ **Carbon Emissions: Finance**

**Dr Matthew Offord:**

[\[63707\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will make an assessment of the level of private finance which will be unlocked as a result of the net zero strategy.

**Greg Hands:**

The Net Zero Strategy outlines measures to transition to a green and sustainable future, helping businesses and consumers to move to clean power, supporting hundreds of thousands of well-paid jobs and leveraging up to £90 billion of private investment by 2030.

The UK is a world leading financial hub, with access to global capital pools, outstanding professional services, and a robust legal and regulatory framework. As such, the UK financial services industry is poised to enable private capital to flow into our net zero investment needs. For example, targeted public intervention via the British Business Bank (BBB), UK Export Finance and the UK Infrastructure Bank (UKIB) will pull through investment from the private sector.

■ **Coal**

**Tim Farron:**

[\[62689\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he made of the implications for his policies of the International Energy Agency's findings that coal should be kept in the ground.

**Greg Hands:**

The Government has committed to phasing out unabated coal generation in Great Britain by October 2024. Coal's share of our electricity supply has already declined significantly in recent years – from almost 40% in 2012 to less than 2% in 2020.

■ **Conditions of Employment: Re-employment**

**Neale Hanvey:**

[\[63904\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the existing statutory protections of workers in relation to the practice of fire and rehire; and if he will make a statement.

**Paul Scully:**

This Government has been consistently clear that we do not accept the inappropriate use by some employers of fire and rehire as a negotiation tactic. The valid variation of contractually binding terms and conditions usually depends upon mutual agreement between the employer and worker as parties to the contract. Should an employer seek to enforce contractual variation without agreement, there are a number of legal obligations and protections they will need to comply with, depending on the circumstances. Where a business feels that redundancies must be made, they must follow the rules which include giving a notice period and consulting staff before a final decision is reached.

■ **Energy Supply****Helen Hayes:**[\[63793\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps the Government is taking to help ensure that any future increase in electricity demand is met with energy produced in a renewable manner.

**Greg Hands:**

The Net Zero Strategy reaffirmed the UK's ambitious target to deliver 40GW of offshore wind capacity by 2030, including 1GW of floating offshore wind, alongside the expansion of other low-cost renewable technologies such as onshore wind and solar.

We have also set out the biggest ever Contracts for Difference round – the UK's main support mechanism for large-scale renewable generation – representing a major step towards the sustained growth in renewables needed over the next decade to meet the UK's decarbonisation ambitions.

■ **Energy Supply and Insulation: Enfield North****Feryal Clark:**[\[63916\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what recent steps he has taken to (a) support low-income families with energy bills, (b) deliver low-carbon energy schemes and (c) insulate homes in Enfield North constituency.

**Greg Hands:**

The energy price cap will save 15 million households up to £100 on their energy bills this winter. The Government supports low-income and fuel poor households with their energy bills through the Warm Home Discount, Winter Fuel Payments and Cold Weather Payments.

The landmark Heat and Buildings Strategy sets out how the Government will decarbonise homes across the country, making them warmer, more efficient and cheaper for families to run.

## ■ Energy Supply: Prices

**Helen Hayes:**

[\[63792\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps the Government plans to take to help ensure (a) stable and (b) affordable energy prices over future years.

**Greg Hands:**

The Government has set out a clear plan to decarbonise our power grid and will continue to build a robust domestic renewable energy sector so that the UK is not as exposed to global trends in natural gas supply and demand.

Competition is the most effective and sustainable way to keep prices low for all consumers. Throughout the transition to net zero, consumers should pay a fair, affordable price for their energy. As the net zero strategy sets out, this will be a key aim when making reforms to the energy retail market.

## ■ Fossil Fuels: Carbon Emissions

**Helen Hayes:**

[\[63791\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the contribution of fossil-fuel reliant companies to the UK's transition to net zero; and what steps he is taking to ensure that those companies contribute to the costs of managing pollution, with reference to public debt.

**Greg Hands:**

As set out in the Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy, the costs of net zero must be shared fairly between the taxpayer, industry and its customers. HM Treasury's Net Zero Review considers the potential exposure of businesses and households to the transition, and highlights factors to be taken into account when designing policy that will allocate costs over this time horizon.

The Government has already established a UK Emissions Trading Scheme (UK ETS) which demonstrates the UK's commitment to carbon pricing as an effective tool that will help fulfil our climate change objectives. The UK ETS will be the world's first net zero cap and trade market, delivering a robust carbon price signal and promoting cost-effective decarbonisation by allowing businesses to cut carbon where it is cheapest to do so.

## ■ Green Homes Grant Scheme: Enfield North

**Feryal Clark:**

[\[63914\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how many Green Homes Grant Scheme applications his Department has received from people living in Enfield North since August 2020.

**Greg Hands:**

[Official scheme statistics](#) published on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021 for the Green Homes Grant Voucher scheme describe the status of applications prior to 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021, including statistics for the Enfield North constituency.

The next statistical release is expected on 18 November 2021.

**Feryal Clark:**[\[63915\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how many Green Homes Grant Schemes his Department has approved in Enfield North constituency since August 2020.

**Greg Hands:**

[Official scheme statistics](#) published on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021 for the Green Homes Grant Voucher scheme describe the status of applications prior to 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021, including statistics for the Enfield North constituency.

The next statistical release is expected on 18 November 2021.

**■ Heat Pumps: Investment****Helen Hayes:**[\[63787\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the investment in heat pumps announced in the Heat and buildings strategy, published on 19 October 2021, for meeting the Government's aim for 600,000 installations a year by 2028.

**Greg Hands:**

As set out in the Heat and Buildings Strategy, a range of policies will be needed to ensure the heat pump market supports 600,000 installations per year by 2028.

Key measures within this package include the £450 million Boiler Upgrade Scheme, the Future Homes Standard and Future Buildings Standards which will drive low carbon heating in new buildings; a new market-based incentive for heating system manufacturers to be introduced from 2024; and consulting on measures to phase out new installations of fossil fuel heating in areas located off the gas grid from the mid-2020s. Support for heat pump installation will also be available through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and Home Upgrade Grant schemes.

The package combines targeted funding to kickstart market growth with incentives and regulations to provide long-term policy clarity for industry that will rapidly drive down costs and increase deployment in line with Government's stated ambitions.

**■ Heat Pumps: Skilled Workers****Charlotte Nichols:**[\[64747\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, with reference to the guidance of 16 February 2021, entitled Apply for free or subsidised training under

the BEIS Skills Training Competition scheme and the 700 places available at BESA Academy for online or in person training for currently qualified plumbing and heating engineers to correctly install and maintain domestic heat pumps, available from early March until 30 September 2021, how many plumbing and heating engineers signed up and completed that training.

**Paul Scully:**

Seven hundred.

## ■ Heating

**Richard Thomson:**

[\[62886\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, when he plans to publish the Buildings and Heat Strategy.

**Greg Hands:**

The Heat and Buildings Strategy was published on 19<sup>th</sup> October.

## ■ Housing: Insulation

**Peter Kyle:**

[\[66241\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps the Government is taking to help make it easier for people with homes without cavity walls to achieve an EPC rating of C or higher.

**Peter Kyle:**

[\[66242\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps the Government plans to take to help make it easier for people with homes in conservation areas to achieve an EPC rating of C or higher.

**Peter Kyle:**

[\[66243\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of the position where owners of flats in old buildings may need to install (a) gas central heating or (b) storage radiators which require sub-main cabling to meet the EPC rating of C in the most cost-effective way.

**Peter Kyle:**

[\[66244\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of the position that homes built prior to 1920, which could be double glazed, and unlikely to have cavity walls would require gas central heating to reach an EPC rating of C.

**Greg Hands:**

The Government's ambition is for as many homes as possible reach EPC Band C by 2035, where practical, cost-effective and affordable. The UK has already made good progress in improving the energy performance of its homes, with 40% of homes in

England now at Energy Performance Ratings (EPC) Band C or above, up from just 9% in 2008.

In order to support further improvements to homes, the Government is:

1. Consulting on phasing in higher minimum performance standards to ensure all homes meet EPC Band C by 2035, where cost-effective, practical and affordable. In setting standards, BEIS is taking account of where properties face practical constraints to making improvements. For example, in the Private Rented Sector minimum standard regulations, there is already a range of exemptions where necessary consent for improvements cannot be obtained from third parties, where particular measures may have a negative impact on a property, or where all recommended measures have been carried out.
2. Providing further targeted funding for improvements, focussed in particular on fuel poor and low-income households. The Government's Heat and Building Strategy announced £3.9 billion of new funding which will fund the next three years of investment through Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, the Home Upgrade Grant scheme, the Boiler Upgrade Scheme, and the Heat Networks Transformation Programme.
3. Supporting consumer action through, for example: Providing tailored advice and information to homeowners on making improvements to their properties, through our Simple Energy Advice service which has been used by over 1.5 million users to date; Ensuring work can be carried out to a good standard, by working with industry to agree appropriate technical standards (eg. PAS 2035) and consumer protections through Trustmark registration; Catalysing low-cost green home finance to help homeowners make improvements by working with lenders, and through innovation funding for new green finance products.

## ■ Hydrogen: Investment

**Helen Hayes:**

**[63789]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the sufficiency of the Government's investment in hydrogen for the UK to become a world-leader in that field.

**Greg Hands:**

The Government has set out a clear plan to decarbonise our power grid and will continue to build a robust domestic renewable energy sector so that the UK is not as exposed to global trends in natural gas supply and demand.

Competition is the most effective and sustainable way to keep prices low for all consumers. Throughout the transition to net zero, consumers should pay a fair, affordable price for their energy. As the net zero strategy sets out, this will be a key aim when making reforms to the energy retail market.

## ■ Liquefied Natural Gas: Shortages

**Emily Thornberry:**

[\[62659\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what recent assessment he has made of potential shortages of liquefied gas over winter 2021-22; and what discussions he has had with suppliers, retailers and industrial users on those potential shortages.

**Greg Hands:**

The Government remains confident that Great Britain's energy security will be maintained thanks to the diversity of our supply sources and the existing market mechanism.

The Government works closely with Ofgem, National Grid Gas and other key industry organisations to monitor gas supply and demand. LNG trade flows are determined by commercial agreements between buyers and sellers and price signals. Great Britain has one of the largest LNG import infrastructures in Europe and the GB gas market is one of the most liquid in the world, providing security through diversity of supply. National Grid's Gas Winter Outlook, which models supply and demand for upcoming winter, notes in its security of supply test that the supply margin is expected to be more than sufficient.

## ■ Mass Media: Energy Supply

**Kenny MacAskil:**

[\[65518\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the impact on the sustainability of print media businesses as a result of rising energy costs for the energy-intensive paper and print industries.

**Kenny MacAskil:**

[\[65519\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what plans he has to introduce support for the paper and print industries as result of rising energy prices to ensure the sustainability of print media businesses including magazine and specialist publishers.

**Kenny MacAskil:**

[\[65520\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the impact of rising energy costs for energy-intensive paper and print industries, and resultant costs for businesses supplied by those industries, on the sustainability of print media businesses.

**Lee Rowley:**

The Department continues to engage constructively with energy intensive industries to further understand and to assess the possibility of offering help to mitigate the impacts of high global gas prices. Our priority is to ensure that costs are managed and that supplies of energy are maintained.



**■ Migrant Workers: Large Goods Vehicle Drivers****David Simmonds:**[\[64760\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how many and what proportion of applications received for endorsement letters under the HGV fuel tanker driver concession have been issued with endorsement letters.

**Greg Hands:**

Hauliers within the fuel sector, and those companies that employ transporters of road fuels, were required to identify to BEIS non-visa nationals who were fully licenced and qualified drivers available to start immediately within the fuel haulage sector. The sector applied for nine endorsement letters from BEIS and all nine were provided.

The UK Government is working with the haulage sector to promote jobs, training and a range of other initiatives to get more people into HGV driving.

**■ Natural Gas: Energy Supply****Helen Hayes:**[\[63788\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, whether he has made an assessment of the potential (a) economic and (b) environmental effects of relying on gas as a transition source of energy.

**Greg Hands:**

The Government has published a comprehensive Net Zero Strategy, which outlines measures to transition to a green and sustainable future, helping businesses and consumers to move to clean power.

The Government is taking a range of steps to decarbonise gas and to develop alternatives to unabated gas-fired generation in the electricity system, including CCUS-enabled generation, hydrogen-fired generation, BECCS, and flexible storage, which means that gas generation will be used less frequently in the future (except in limited circumstances where it may be required to provide security of supply).

**■ Natural Gas: Prices****Helen Hayes:**[\[63795\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the volatility in gas prices on the UK's (a) energy security and (b) transition to renewable resources.

**Greg Hands:**

Higher wholesale gas prices have been seen globally in 2021 due to multiple international factors in supply and demand. The UK has highly diverse sources of gas supply and a diverse electricity mix, which ensures households, businesses, and heavy industry get the energy they need. National Grid Gas's Winter Outlook notes the supply margin has increased compared to last winter and is sufficient in all of their modelled scenarios. Similarly, National Grid Electricity System Operator's 2021



Winter Outlook Report confirms that there will be sufficient capacity available for the coming winter.

The Government has published a comprehensive Net Zero Strategy, which outlines measures to transition to a green and sustainable future, helping businesses and consumers to move to clean power, so that households and businesses will be much better protected from energy price spikes caused by volatile international fuel markets.

## ■ Nuclear Energy (Financing) Bill

**Kenny MacAskil:**

[64745]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what estimate he has made of the costs that will be incurred from projects to be supported by the Nuclear Energy (Finance) Bill.

**Greg Hands:**

Nuclear power is an important part of an affordable, low carbon electricity system which is better protected against the volatility of global gas prices.

Under the Regulated Asset Base (RAB) funding model enabled by the Nuclear Energy (Finance) Bill, consumers would pay an allowed revenue during the construction period of a new nuclear project, which would be an average of less than £1 a month on a typical dual fuel energy bill.

However, we estimate that use of the RAB model will lower the cost of capital and ultimately save consumers more than £30bn on their bills for each new large-scale station, compared with existing funding mechanisms. The Bill's impact assessment is available [here](#). Granting a RAB licence would also be contingent on a project satisfying a detailed value for money assessment.

## ■ Oil: Shetland Islands

**Claudia Webbe:**

[63922]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will make it his policy to (a) prevent the development of the Cambo oil field and (b) support oil and gas workers and communities in the transition towards renewable energy.

**Greg Hands:**

Development proposals for fields with existing licences, such as Cambo, are subject to a rigorous scrutiny process prior to consent by the independent Oil and Gas Authority, as well as an environmental impact assessment and a public consultation by the Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning.

This Government's landmark North Sea Transition Deal – the first of its kind in the world – will support oil and gas workers in the green transition.

**■ Re-employment****Neale Hanvey:** [\[63902\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, when he plans to publish expanded guidance for employers on the practice of fire and rehire; and if he will make a statement.

**Paul Scully:**

This Government has been consistently clear that we do not accept the inappropriate use by some employers of fire and rehire as a negotiation tactic.

Earlier this year we asked Acas to produce more comprehensive, clearer guidance to help all employers explore all the options before considering 'fire and rehire' and encourage good employment relations practice. Acas will publish the guidance shortly.

**Neale Hanvey:** [\[63906\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what communication his Department has had with (a) private companies and (b) public sector employers with the purpose of dissuading them from engaging in the practice of fire and rehire; and if he will make a statement.

**Paul Scully:**

The Government has made clear to all employers, including those in the private and public sector, that using threats to 'fire and rehire' as a tactic to pressure workers during negotiations is unacceptable. We have been consistent in telling employers that the use of firing and rehiring tactics in negotiations is unacceptable. I made a statement in the House in June urging employers to negotiate fairly and openly.

Earlier this year we asked Acas to produce more comprehensive, clearer guidance to help make our expectations clearer. It will set out the ways employers can explore all the options before considering 'fire and rehire' and encourage good employment relations practice.

**■ Re-employment: Coronavirus****Neale Hanvey:** [\[63899\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what estimate his Department has made of the number of (a) private companies and (b) public sector employers who have engaged in the practice of fire and rehire since the start of the covid-19 outbreak; and if he will make a statement.

**Neale Hanvey:** [\[63905\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what estimate his Department has made of the total monetary value of reductions to previously agreed terms and conditions arising from the practice of fire and rehire on (a) wages, (b) holiday pay, (c) maternity leave and (d) pensions; and if he will make a statement.

**Paul Scully:**

The Department asked Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) to conduct an evidence gathering exercise to learn more about the use of fire and rehire practices. This report was published on 8 June and is available from <https://www.acas.org.uk/fire-and-rehire-report>. In addition, the Department has also welcomed further evidence from trade unions and employers on the nature and scale of the issue.

The Government has been consistently clear that we do not accept the inappropriate use by some employers of fire and rehire as a negotiation tactic. Earlier this year we asked Acas to produce more comprehensive, clearer guidance to help all employers explore all the options before considering 'fire and rehire' and encourage good employment relations practice. Acas will publish the guidance shortly.

**■ Small Businesses: Training****Seema Malhotra:**[\[65438\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, pursuant to the Answer of July 2021 to Question 21917 on Small Businesses: Advisory Services, how many (a) women, (b) men, and (c) BAME people have completed the Small Business Leadership Programme.

**Paul Scully:**

*[Holding answer 2 November 2021]:* Evaluation on completions is ongoing and is scheduled for the end of December. Across England, 3,005 participants enrolled onto the Small Business Leadership Programme between October 2020 and June 2021: 1170 participants (39%) were women and 1771 (59%) were men. Approximately 15% of participants (456) are considered to be from a BAME background. [1] Completion data will differ as some participants may not complete the programme.

*[1]SBLP Evaluation partner analysis, 2020.*

**Seema Malhotra:**[\[65439\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, pursuant to the Answer of 2 July 2021 to Question 21917 on Small Businesses: Advisory Services, what the (a) national and (b) regional breakdown is of people who have completed the Small Business Leadership Programme.

**Paul Scully:**

*[Holding answer 2 November 2021]:* Evaluation on completions is ongoing.

[1]Completion data will differ as some participants may not complete the programme.

REGION	COUNT	%
West Midlands	511	17%
South East	427	14%
North West	421	14%

REGION	COUNT	%
East Midlands	379	13%
South West	369	12%
Yorkshire & Humber	368	12%
London	206	7%
North East	165	5%
East of England	136	5%
No response	23	1%
Total	3005	100%

[1] SBLP Evaluation partner analysis, 2021

## ■ Social Rented Housing: Carbon Emissions

**Feryal Clark:**

[\[63917\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what recent steps he has taken to provide resources to Enfield Council to help deliver low carbon heating and net zero goals as part of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund.

**Greg Hands:**

The 2020 Summer Economic Update announced the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Demonstrator project, launched in 2020, which has awarded £61 million to 18 local authorities to test innovative approaches to retrofitting at scale, covering over 2,100 social homes in England and Scotland.

The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham was awarded £9.6 million to retrofit an estimated 230 homes in London, delivering as part of a consortium, of which the London Borough of Enfield is a member. The project looks to improve the energy performance of homes by installing external wall insulation, having oil and gas heating in homes replaced with air-source heat pumps and installing solar panels.

## ■ Toilet Paper: Shortages

**Emily Thornberry:**

[\[62657\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what recent assessment he has made of potential retail shortages of household tissue and toilet paper over winter 2021-22; and what discussions he has had with suppliers and retailers on those potential shortages.

**Paul Scully:**

The Government recognises that as the global economy has rebounded from the pandemic, we have seen pressures placed on supply chains across sectors. We

have taken quick and decisive action to ease these pressures where required including establishing a Supply Chain Advisory Group and Industry Taskforce, which provides a link between business and government to identify causes of supply chain issues and pre-empt future issues. Industry attendees are drawn from a range of sectors including the British Retail Consortium. Additionally, the Department engages at both Ministerial and official level on a range of issues affecting the retail sector including the availability of goods.

## ■ Training: Finance

**Charlotte Nichols:**

[\[64748\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, with reference to the guidance of 16 February 2021, entitled Apply for free or subsidised training under the BEIS Skills Training Competition scheme, how many of the 100 funded places which were available at The Green Register's retrofit training, have been taken up.

**Greg Hands:**

As of 30th September 2021, 34 trainees have started training, of whom 23 trainees have completed the Green Register's retrofit training.

## ■ Warm Home Discount Scheme

**Vicky Foxcroft:**

[\[62783\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he is taking to ensure all claimants of the Warm Home Discount who have been forced to reapply as a result of their energy provider ceasing trading in recent months are not excluded from that support by their new provider.

**Greg Hands:**

When an energy supplier leaves the market, Ofgem appoints a Supplier of Last Resort (SoLR) to take over its customers. SoLRs are not obliged to provide the Warm Home Discount to transferred customers; however, all SoLRs have honoured this obligation in the past and we would expect that SoLRs continue to honour these obligations.

The Government recently concluded a [consultation on the future scheme](#), which included a proposal to reform the scheme. Under the proposals, the vast majority of households would receive their rebates automatically, without having to apply. This would make it easier for SoLRs to make the Warm Home Discount rebate payments to newly transferred customers. BEIS will be publishing the Government's response to the consultation in the coming months, with the reforms coming into force from the 2022/23 scheme year.

**■ Woodhouse Colliery****Tim Farron:**[\[62690\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what discussions he has had with the new Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on the proposed Whitehaven coal mine.

**Greg Hands:**

Planning is a quasi-judicial process, and solely a matter for my Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. Ministers in BEIS have had no discussions with him on the proposed mine at Whitehaven.

**CABINET OFFICE****■ Protective Clothing: Complaints****Gareth Thomas:**[\[64528\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many complaints his Department has received from companies complaining that they were unable to get the attention of officials with respect to the supply personal protective equipment from February 2020 to August 2020; and if he will make a statement.

**Michael Ellis:**

We rapidly processed over 24,000 offers of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from over 15,000 suppliers who approached the National PPE Sourcing team via the online portals the Government established in March 2020. The webform ensured that offers of support were recorded effectively and taken forward as necessary.

Offers were triaged and those which could potentially deliver significant quantities of high-quality PPE quickly were prioritised. All offers then went into exactly the same Technical Assurance, Closing (i.e. contract negotiation) and Procurement (i.e. contract award) process, managed by officials. This process led to the award of 339 contracts by the Department of Health and Social Care. A high number of offers were rejected at different stages of being taken through this process for different reasons.

**COP26****■ Mining: Chile****Owen Thompson:**[\[57175\]](#)

To ask the President of COP26, if he will raise in discussions with the President of Chile, during the COP26 visit, the potential environmental effect of the President's financial involvement in the Dominga mining project.

**Michael Ellis:**

The UK and Chile regularly discuss environmental issues. The UK has been pressing all leaders through a programme of regular engagement and events to commit to

ambitious climate action to limit the rise in global temperatures to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

## DEFENCE

### ■ Armed Forces: Females

**Stuart Anderson:**

[\[63879\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what initiatives he has introduced to support the recruitment and retention of women in the armed forces.

**Leo Docherty:**

The Ministry of Defence aims to significantly improve the recruitment and retention of women in the Armed Force; our ambition is to achieve 30% inflow of women by 2030. To realise this goal, the single Services have taken a range of steps to improve the experience of women in the Armed Forces, as we continue to do for all serving personnel. This includes all roles being open to women, targeted programmes to increase the recruitment of women, introducing flexible service, flexible and parental leave, the provision of sanitary boxes, and reviewing women specific combat requirements. We are committed to building on these improvements to give women greater confidence that a career in the Armed Forces is a fantastic opportunity and will not be limited by outdated or regressive policy.

### ■ Armed Forces: Housing

**John Healey:**

[\[65370\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to Answer of 25 October 2021 to Question 56123 on Ministry of Defence: Buildings, how many armed forces personnel and their families are living in buildings with flammable cladding on the exterior of the structure that serve as forces accommodation.

**Jeremy Quin:**

No Service Families live in high rise buildings (6 floors or over) that have been confirmed as having an external wall system that contains combustible components.

The number of armed forces personnel who are accommodated in those Single Living Accommodation (SLA) buildings which have been confirmed as having an external wall system containing combustible components are shown in the following table. This information has been provided by the individual Front Line Commands.

NUMBER OF BUILDINGS	LOCATION	NUMBER OF ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL (AS OF 29/10/2021)
22	HMNB Clyde	2440
1	Hyde Park Barracks	206
1	Royal Centre for Defence Medicine, Birmingham	180
2	HMS Nelson	200
1	HMS Drake	370

All of the above buildings are 6 floors or above.

MOD has also identified a further 728 low rise buildings that may potentially have an external walling system that contains combustible materials. The list of buildings in scope is being verified, specialist consultants contracted to provide additional support and an industry partner is being commissioned to progress investigative works.

#### ■ Armoured Fighting Vehicles

**Mr Kevan Jones:**

[\[66170\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many (a) CR2, (b) Bulldog IFV, (c) Warrior IFV and (d) AS90 are declared operational or combat ready.

**Jeremy Quin:**

I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the Armed Forces.

**Mr Kevan Jones:**

[\[66173\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many track km were (a) forecast and (b) recorded against the (i) CR2, (ii) Warrior, (iii) AS90, (iv) Bulldog, (v) Ajax and (vi) FV432 for (A) 2017, (B) 2018, (C) 2019 and (D) 2020.

**Jeremy Quin:**

Details of the forecast and actual Tracked Mileage Recorded for the years requested are given below.

FINANCIAL YEAR	FINANCIAL YEAR 2017/18		FINANCIAL YEAR 2018/19		FINANCIAL YEAR 2019/20		FINANCIAL YEAR 2020/21	
Platform (Kms)	Forecast	Actuals	Forecast	Actuals	Forecast	Actuals	Forecast	Actuals
CR2	90,934	83,662	93,385	73,714	89,850	98,719	97,000	58,892
WR	304,634	336,987	313,724	237,548	318,273	293,439	300,000	266,880



FINANCIAL YEAR	FINANCIAL YEAR 2017/18		FINANCIAL YEAR 2018/19		FINANCIAL YEAR 2019/20		FINANCIAL YEAR 2020/21	
AS90	27,500	20,155	27,575	25,981	27,501	25,924	27,501	32,223
Bulldog	245,504	341,986	249,704	237,609	260,000	270,564	260,000	112,095
AJAX	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,679	N/A	1,144	N/A	5,778
FV432	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

#### Notes

1. CR2 - Gun & Command only
2. Financial years run 01 April – 31 March
3. The Forecast is a total forecast and includes more than just the Army forecast for training activity. It captures other activity including, trials and experimentation and other Front Line Command forecasts.
4. COVID-19 had a significant impact on the way that the Army trained, this is reflected in some of the Actuals details in FY 20/21.

### ■ Ministry of Defence: Buildings

**John Healey:**

[\[65368\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to Answer of 25 October 2021 to Question 56123 on Ministry of Defence: Buildings, how many of the 27 high rise buildings on the defence estate are currently undergoing work to remove the flammable cladding from the building exterior.

**Jeremy Quin:**

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on Monday 1 November 2021 to Question 64543.

#### Attachments:

1. Ministry of Defence: Buildings [UIN 64543.docx]

**John Healey:**

[\[65371\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to Answer of 25 October 2021 to Question 56123 on Ministry of Defence: Buildings, what estimate he has made of when work will begin on removing the flammable cladding from the 27 high rise buildings on the defence estate that currently have combustible cladding on the exterior of the structure; and what the timeframe is for that work to be completed.

**Jeremy Quin:**

MOD has identified 27 high rise buildings (defined as being 6 floors or over) that have an external walling system that contains combustible components.

Investigative works are ongoing and remediation plans established for all buildings. Only one building is fully clad and removal of partial cladding may or may not be appropriate. Remediation plans already being enacted in respect of MHCLG guidance include internal works to improve fire compartmentation.

The first building to complete remediation will be at HMS Nelson and will have replacement cladding, internal compartmentation and new fire doors with work scheduled to finish by March 2022.

When remediation of the remaining buildings will complete is subject to ongoing work.

Defence Fire and Rescue (DFR) have provided advice on how to operate the buildings to enable them to be safe to occupy. DFR, the Defence Fire Safety Regulator (DFSR) and Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) have agreed that occupation of the buildings can continue while the appropriate measures are implemented subject to maintaining and adhering to the conditions within the buildings Fire Risk Assessments. Fire Risk Assessments for these buildings are reassessed every year.

#### ■ Ministry of Defence: Training

**John Healey:**

[\[62577\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the Answer of 22 October 2021 to Question 58730 on Ministry of Defence: Training, what the 81,306 civil servants in his Department that have received their refresher training for information security is as a proportion of total number of his Department's civil servants required to undergo the training.

**Leo Docherty:**

It is taking time to collate the information needed to respond to the hon. Member's question, I will write to him when it is available.

#### ■ NATO: Climate Change

**John Healey:**

[\[64536\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, with reference to page 23 of his Department's Climate Change and Sustainability Strategic Approach, published on 30 March 2021, what discussions he has had with his counterparts in NATO in the last 12 months on further cooperation on adapting to and mitigating against the effects of climate change.

**James Heappey:**

The UK believes that NATO should aim to be the leading international organisation in understanding, mitigating against and adapting to the impacts of climate change on security. This year the UK and its NATO Allies agreed on a NATO Agenda on Climate Change and Security and accompanying Action Plan, which have concrete actions to tackle the implications of climate change on Alliance security. That plan has regularly been the subject of discussion between NATO Defence Ministers over the last 12 months, and I am delighted that NATO Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg, attended COP26 in Glasgow at the invitation of the Prime Minister.

As part of the forward looking NATO 2030 initiative, agreed by Alliance Leaders in June, the UK and its NATO Allies have agreed to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from military activities and installations without impairing personnel safety, operational effectiveness and our deterrence and defence posture. These NATO initiatives reflect UK defence ambitions as set out in the Climate Change and Sustainability Strategic Approach, released in March this year.

## ■ Sahel: Climate Change and Terrorism

**John Healey:**

[64538]

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment he has made of the impact of climate change on trends in the level of violent extremism and terrorism in the Sahel.

**James Heappey:**

The Department's publication, 'Global Strategic Trends' published at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/global-strategic-trends> addresses security threats arising from climatic change in the Sahel, including those from extremism and terrorism. We keep under review such threats to the UK and its allies. It is ever more important that we use COP 26 as the opportunity to secure meaningful commitments from nations to address the causes of climate change.

## EDUCATION

## ■ Apprentices: Employment Schemes

**Dr Matthew Offord:**

[62709]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if he will maintain the current uplift in the apprenticeship incentive payment until September 2022.

**Alex Burghart:**

The Spending Review has delivered the first increase to employer-led apprenticeships funding since the 2019/20 financial year, with funding for apprenticeships in England growing to £2.7 billion by the 2024/25 financial year.

On 4 October 2021, my right hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced a £500 million expansion of the Plan for Jobs. This included a further extension of the apprenticeship incentive payment to support employers of all sizes to offer apprenticeships.

Employers will be able to claim a £3,000 payment for any apprentice that has an employment start date between 1 October 2021 and 31 January 2022. They will be able to claim for their payment from January 2022. The extended payment makes it a great time for employers to offer new apprenticeship opportunities and take advantage of existing flexibilities to train apprentices in a way that suits their needs.

We do not plan to further extend the incentives beyond 31 January 2022 but will continue to support employers with the cost of apprenticeship training. The government will pay 95% of apprentice training costs for employers who do not pay

the apprenticeship levy, alongside offering the newly improved apprenticeship levy transfers system to help smaller employers fund their apprenticeship training.

## ■ Children: Disability

**Mary Kelly Foy:**

**[59053]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to the finding of Scope and the Disabled Children's Partnership's report entitled The Gap Widens, published in October 2021, that there is a £573 million funding gap in disabled children's social care, what estimate his Department has made of the funding gap in disabled children's social care.

**Will Quince:**

I refer the hon. Member for City of Durham, to the answer I gave on 20 October 2021 to Question [56976](#).

## ■ Condition Improvement Fund: Harlow

**Robert Halfon:**

**[62698]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how much capital investment has been made into schools in Harlow through the Condition Improvement Fund in each year since 2010.

**Mr Robin Walker:**

Schools and those responsible for school buildings receive condition funding through different routes depending on their size and type. Local authorities, larger multi-academy trusts and large voluntary aided school bodies, such as dioceses, receive a School Condition Allocation (SCA) to invest in priorities across the schools for which they are responsible. Smaller or stand-alone academy trusts, other voluntary aided schools and sixth-form colleges can bid to the Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) which launched its first annual round for the 2015-16 financial year. Schools are either eligible to apply for CIF or receive condition funding through the SCA made to their responsible body, and all schools are also allocated devolved formula capital (DFC) to spend on small projects that meet their own priorities. An overview of school capital funding is available on GOV.uk along with published lists of SCA and DFC allocations at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/school-capital-funding>.

Eligible schools in Harlow have been granted the following funding through CIF:

APPLICATION ROUND	CIF FUNDING PROVIDED TO HARLOW SCHOOLS
2015-16	£2,897,605
2016-17	£2,368,748
2017-18	£2,787,638
2018-19	£2,199,129

APPLICATION ROUND	CIF FUNDING PROVIDED TO HARLOW SCHOOLS
2019-20	£3,765,627
2020-21	£2,328,752
2021-22	£6,588,755

The department publishes final funding amounts on individual projects once all projects in an annual round have completed. Funding for projects in the CIF rounds for financial years 2015-16 and 2016-17 are available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/condition-improvement-fund-2015-to-2016-outcome>.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/condition-improvement-fund-2016-to-2017-outcome>.

Funding figures for following rounds will be published in due course.

## ■ Education: Disadvantaged

**Stephen Timms:**

**[64521]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what comparative assessment he has made of the educational disadvantage caused by covid-19 school closures to (a) those eligible for the pupil premium and (b) other pupils; and if he will make a statement.

**Mr Robin Walker:**

Understanding the impact of the COVID-19 disruption on the attainment and progress of all pupils is a key research priority for the government. The department has commissioned an independent research and assessment agency to provide a baseline assessment of catch-up needs for pupils in schools in England and monitor progress over the course of the 2020/21 academic year. This research is based on assessments that schools are already using and adds no additional burden on teachers. Initial findings from the research were published on gov.uk:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupils-progress-in-the-2020-to-2021-academic-year-interim-report>. The department is currently exploring options to assess progress over the course of the current academic year.

The latest evidence suggests that, in Summer 2021, primary pupils were on average around 1 month behind in reading and around 3 months behind in maths compared to where we would expect them to be in a 'normal year'. Secondary pupils were behind in reading by around 2 months.

Once adjusted for historic differences in pupil progress, pupils who are currently eligible for free school meals or had been within the last six years, were on average around half a month further behind in primary reading and maths, and 1.7 months further behind in secondary reading compared to their more advantaged peers in Summer 2021. Education loss estimates for pupils who are being looked after by a

local authority, or who have left care, are not available due to data limitations. However, education loss estimates of children in need, some of whom are also eligible for pupil premium, show that they were on average 1.2 months behind in primary reading and 3.3 months behind in secondary reading.

This government is committed to ensuring children and young people can make up for education lost during the COVID-19 outbreak, especially those most in need. The department has announced funding of almost £5 billion since June 2020 to support education recovery for children and young people in schools, 16-19 colleges and early years. This will have a material impact in closing gaps that have emerged.

The department's recovery programmes have been designed to allow early years, school and college leaders the flexibility to support those pupils most in need, including the most disadvantaged - with many programmes specifically targeted at disadvantaged pupils.

#### ■ Further Education: Coronavirus

**Mr Barry Sheerman:**

[\[62596\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps he is taking to ensure that children who have been absent from school as a result of illness from covid-19 are not penalised in applications to further education institutions that have a fixed attendance requirement for enrolment.

**Alex Burghart:**

We recognise that extended restrictions on attendance at school and colleges have had an impact on children and young people's learning, but decisions about admissions by further education (FE) institutions are a matter for providers themselves and are not specified by the government.

The department does, however, expect FE providers to be mindful of the impact of COVID-19 when considering any entry requirements for young people entering FE.

#### ■ Pupils: Per Capita Costs

**Robert Halfon:**

[\[62699\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what the per pupil funding is in Harlow compared to 2018-19.

**Mr Robin Walker:**

This year, 2021-22, schools in Harlow are attracting £5,153 per pupil (including additional pay and pensions funding) through the schools national funding formula (NFF). Next year, 2022-23, this NFF funding will increase to £5,291 per pupil. In 2018-19, schools in Harlow attracted £4,513 per pupil.

The 2021-22 and 2022-23 figures cannot be directly compared to the 2018-19 figures due to the introduction of the teacher's pay and pension grant that was rolled into the NFF in 2021-22. The figures for 2021-22 and 2022-23 include this additional funding.

In the recent Spending Review, a further increase in the Core Schools Budget, nationally, of £1.6 billion in 2022-23 was announced. This increase is not included in the figures above; we will be announcing its distribution shortly.

These figures are based on notional school-level NFF allocations. Constituency figures based on actual school-level Dedicated Schools Grant allocations are available here: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/constituency-data-schools-funding/>.

**Robert Halfon:**

**[62700]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how much the pupil premium is set to rise over the next 12 months in Harlow.

**Mr Robin Walker:**

The department will confirm pupil premium allocations for the 2022-23 financial year in March 2022. This will provide the public with information on the specific amounts that regions, local authorities and schools are receiving through the pupil premium for 2022-23.

The Department publishes information on pupil premium allocations and the number of pupils eligible annually. The most recent publicly available figures can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium-allocations-and-conditions-of-grant-2021-to-2022>.

**Peter Kyle:**

**[64685]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment his Department has made of the differential impact of increases to per pupil funding, as announced on 27 October 2021, between the (a) most deprived and (b) least deprived fifth of schools.

**Mr Robin Walker:**

The Autumn 2021 Spending Review delivers an additional £4.7 billion for the core schools budget by financial year 2024-25, compared to previous plans. That includes an additional £1.6 billion for schools and high needs in financial year 2022-23, on top of the funding we have previously announced. The department will confirm in due course how this additional funding for financial year 2022-23, and for the two subsequent years, will be allocated for schools and high needs.

In summer 2021 the department announced that, next year, funding through the schools national funding formula (NFF) is increasing by 3.2% overall, and by 2.8% per pupil, compared to financial year 2021-22. The NFF continues to distribute this fairly, based on the needs of schools and their pupil cohorts. The NFF is levelling up school funding by increasing core factors of the formula (such as the basic per-pupil funding rate, and deprivation factors) by 3%, while also ensuring that every school is allocated at least 2% more pupil-led per pupil funding. As part of that increase, the amount allocated towards deprivation in the financial year 2022-23 NFF is increasing by £225 million, or 6.7%, compared to financial year 2021-22.

The NFF targets funding to schools which have the greatest numbers of pupils with additional needs. In the 2022-23 financial year, the NFF is providing a total of £6.7



billion (17%) targeted at schools with higher numbers of pupils with additional needs, including deprivation. In addition, the department is allocating £2.5 billion in financial year 2021-22 through the pupil premium, to support schools to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils. Allocations for the pupil premium in 2022-23 will be made in March 2022.

This funding is in addition to the three major interventions we have made to support education recovery in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, and the 2021 Spending Review provided an additional £1 billion for a Recovery Premium over the academic years of 2022/23 and 2023/24. Both the Recovery Premium and the National Tutoring Programme (which we have committed £1.2 billion since June 2020, including £579 million paid directly to schools to employ new or existing school staff as tutors), are directing funding based pupil premium eligibility figures, to ensure appropriate funding reaches schools facing the greatest challenges.

## ■ Remote Education

**Daisy Cooper:** [62860]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of reviewing and updating the list of digital platforms that are included in his Department's Get help with remote education guidance to include (a) UK companies and (b) challengers to the largest technology companies.

**Daisy Cooper:** [62861]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of reviewing and updating the list of digital platforms that are included in his Department's Get help with remote education guidance to reflect the Government's new ambition to create a pro-competition regime for digital markets.

**Mr Robin Walker:**

Beyond the need to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak, the department believes that it is up to educational establishments to decide what technology they need to meet their requirements in relation to their educational contexts and circumstances, and do not actively back or mandate individual products.

More information about digital education platforms can be found here: <https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/digital-platforms/>.

## ■ Schools: Broadband

**Peter Kyle:** [62786]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to his Department's press release of 14 October 2021, 1,000 schools connected to top-of-the-class full fibre broadband, how many schools will not have access to full-fibre gigabit broadband by 2025.



**Mr Robin Walker:**

According to data from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), 3,835 schools are in postcodes that do not have access to full fibre or are currently not in areas of proposed commercial build within the next 5 years.

The government remains committed to investing £5 billion to bring gigabit coverage to the hardest to reach areas and will continue to work with suppliers to accelerate this investment, taking account of industry capacity to bid for, and deliver, contracts to build in uncommercial areas alongside their commercial plans. GigaHubs is one of the programmes DCMS is using to deliver the government ambition of gigabit capabilities across the UK by 2030. As part of the wider Project Gigabit, GigaHubs will use up to £110 million to connect public buildings such as rural schools, doctors' surgeries and libraries to gigabit broadband. This will help GPs provide remote video consultations and allow whole classes of school children to be online, at once, with no interruptions. Around 2,000 schools are in scope of the Gigabit Hubs programme and so will have access to gigabit capable connectivity by 2025.

These figures do not account for schools that already have access to fibre through a private leased line arrangement to enable gigabit capable connectivity. These figures are also open to flux as commercial build plans evolve over time.

**Schools: Coronavirus****Munira Wilson:**[\[63897\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what data his Department is collecting from schools to (a) monitor and (b) assess covid-19 catch-up activity.

**Mr Robin Walker:**

The department is collecting a range of data from schools to monitor and assess COVID-19 catch-up activity. We have commissioned Renaissance Learning, and their subcontractor the Education Policy Institute, to collect data from a sample of schools to provide a baseline assessment of education lost and catch-up needs for pupils in schools in England, and to monitor progress over the course of the academic year 2020/21 and Autumn term 2021. We are also seeking commercial agreements for further academic years.

The department has a contract with Ipsos MORI, in consortium with Sheffield Hallam University and the Centre for Education and Youth, to undertake a mixed-methods study design (including gathering data through surveys of school leaders, interviews, and case studies) to examine how schools are tackling the issue of lost learning. Results from the study will be used to understand how the catch-up premium funds have been spent and how best to support schools to tackle learning loss.

We are also collecting data from schools on specific education recovery programmes. For example, the department receives data on schools' take-up of the National Tutoring Programme (NTP), using this data to track progress against delivery, and has commissioned independent evaluators to use this data to understand the

effectiveness of the NTP. Ofsted are also conducting thematic reviews into tutoring and teacher quality. Their findings will be informed by their interviews with schools.

The department is mindful of the burden that data collections can put on schools and has robust processes in place to ensure the value of collecting the data outweighs the potential additional burdens.

## ■ Schools: Energy

**Rachael Maskell:**

[\[62768\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer of 18 October 2021 to Question 53964 on Schools: Energy, what assessment he has made of the impact of the rise in energy costs on schools.

**Mr Robin Walker:**

The department recognises that schools may be facing pressures this winter, including where energy prices have increased. School funding remains one of the department's key priorities, which is why the 2021 Spending Review secured an additional £4.7 billion in the core school budget by the 2024-25 financial year compared to previous plans. The settlement includes a further £1.6 billion in the 2022-23 financial year, which is over 2021-22 levels, on top of the £2.4 billion increase already announced as part of the 2019 spending round. This additional funding will help the school sector respond to the pressures we know they are facing, for example on energy costs and national insurance contributions from April 2022.

The department will make announcements on the breakdown of the 2023-24 and 2024-25 core school budget in due course, as well as the distribution of the additional £1.6 billion of funding confirmed for 2022-23.

Schools will have the flexibility to make their own decisions on how to prioritise their spending to invest in a range of resources that will best support their staff and pupils.

Schools continue to be able to access existing support for financial issues, including a wide range of school resource management tools, and, in serious circumstances, additional funding or advances from local authorities for maintained schools, or the Education and Skills Funding Agency for academy trusts.

## ■ Schools: Finance

**Peter Kyle:**

[\[64686\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to page 96 of the Autumn Budget and Spending Review 2021, how much of the £4.7 billion increase to school funding he plans to allocate to public sector compensation for employer costs of the Health and Social Care Levy.

**Mr Robin Walker:**

As announced at the 2021 Spending Review, we are continuing to deliver year on year, real terms per pupil increases to school funding, investing a further £4.7 billion in the core school budget by financial year 2024-25 compared to previous plans.

Overall, this is equivalent to a cash increase of £1,500 per pupil by financial year 2024-25 compared to financial year 2019-20.

The settlement includes a further £1.6 billion in financial year 2022-23, over financial year 2021-22 levels, on top of the £2.4 billion increase already announced as part of the 2019 spending round. This additional funding will help the school sector respond to the pressures we know they are facing, and includes £0.3 billion of funding for the public sector compensation for employer costs of the Health and Social Care Levy in each year of the Spending Review. We will make announcements on how the additional £1.6 billion of funding for financial year 2022-23 will be distributed in due course.

## ■ Schools: Mental Health Services

**Caroline Lucas:**

**[58363]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if he will take steps to help ensure that every child in full time education has access through their place of education to an appropriately-qualified and professionally registered counsellor with experience of working with young people; and if he will make a statement.

**Will Quince:**

Schools and colleges have an important role to play in supporting the resilience and mental health of their pupils and students. The department recognises that counselling, by well-qualified practitioners, can play a particularly effective role as part of a whole school or college approach to supporting mental health and wellbeing, guidance for which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-children-and-young-peoples-emotional-health-and-wellbeing>.

Many schools and colleges already provide their pupils access to counselling support, and we have set out a strong expectation in guidance that, over time, all schools should make counselling services available to their pupils. However, the provision of access to counselling in schools and colleges is not mandatory. It is up to schools and colleges to decide what level of counselling to provide, working with other organisations including local authorities and the NHS who may fund counselling locally. It is also important there is freedom for each school or college to decide what support to offer to children and young people and staff based on their particular needs and drawing on an evidence base of effective practice. This support can come from a number of sources, including counselling.

The department has published a blueprint for school counselling services, focusing on supporting the provision of counselling in schools with practical, evidence-based advice, informed by schools and counselling experts, on how to deliver high-quality school-based counselling. It sets out that counselling works best within a whole school or college approach to mental health and wellbeing, which considers issues such as promoting wellbeing, raising awareness of, and reducing stigma around, mental health issues and providing an effective pastoral system. It also offers

information on how to ensure that vulnerable children, including those with special educational needs and disabilities, looked after children, and those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, who have a higher prevalence of mental illness, can access counselling provision, details of which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counselling-in-schools>.

## ■ Special Educational Needs

**Olivia Blake:**

**[65539]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps he is taking to ensure that transfer of information from school to college is as effective as the transfer of information from school to school, for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

**Will Quince:**

The department is taking numerous steps to ensure the effective transfer of information for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) between school and college.

The SEND Code of Practice is clear that “SEND support should include planning and preparation for the transitions between phases of education and preparation for adult life. The school should share information with the school, college or other setting the child or young person is moving to. Schools should agree with parents and pupils the information to be shared as part of this planning process”.

Local authorities have a statutory responsibility to review the education, health and care (EHC) plans that they maintain at least every 12 months. Reviews must focus on the progress of the young person towards achieving the outcomes specified in the EHC plan and must consider whether the outcomes remain appropriate. The results of these reviews are shared with schools and colleges to ensure a continued progression of support.

The department currently funds the Whole School SEND Consortium and the Education and Training Foundation to deliver activities which equip education leaders and the school and further education workforce to effectively support children and young people with SEND. These activities include supporting the smooth transition from the school learning environment to further education and to prepare young people for adulthood through high quality provision.

One of the commitments in the National Disability Strategy is to create an ‘Access to Work Adjustments Passport’ to support disabled people with their transition into employment, including disabled students leaving education. Officials from the department are currently supporting officials from the Department for Work and Pensions on piloting this passport.

## ■ Students: Finance

**Emma Hardy:**

**[62822]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer of 22 October 2021 to Question 57294, on Students: Finance, what data he holds on the number of

applicants who began studies outside the UK before becoming refugees and have subsequently only been granted funding by the Student Loans Company for the years of their course that are deemed to be uncompleted; and whether he has plans to enable funding to be made available to those applicants for full courses at higher education institutions in the UK.

**Michelle Donelan:**

The department is not able to answer the requirements in this request around the number of applicants who began studies outside the UK before becoming refugees. The Student Loans Company asks students "Have you started an undergraduate course of Higher Education in any country since leaving school?" on the application form but does not log which country the applicant studied in so cannot confirm if the studies were started outside the UK.

Generally, fee support on full-time courses is available for the duration of the course plus one extra year if needed. If a student has previous full-time higher education (HE) study at a publicly funded provider, whether within the UK or overseas, those years will normally be deducted from the number of years of fee support available for a subsequent full-time course. These rules exist to enable us to target resources more effectively at students who have not had a chance to experience HE. The rules do not apply to maintenance support.

In addition to the standard entitlement, if a student did not complete their most recent previous course because of compelling personal reasons, an additional year of fee support may be granted in respect of the first year that the student takes of a new course. This applies equally to persons who have been granted international protection by the Home Office such as refugees and, from 1 August 2022 those relocated to the UK under the Afghan relocation and assistance policy, who will be eligible for immediate student support without needing to demonstrate three years ordinary residence in the UK and Islands before the start of the course.

There are no current plans to changes this system.

**Damien Moore:**

**[63869]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department it taking to help ensure that family members of migrant workers are aware that they qualify for full student finance support.

**Michelle Donelan:**

From the 2021/22 academic year, migrant workers from the European Economic Area and their family members who are covered by the Withdrawal Agreements, and meet the ordinary residence requirement, can access tuition fee loans, loans for living costs and targeted grants. This arrangement is set out in the department's guidance which was published in August:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1009789/EU\\_Exit\\_Student\\_Finance\\_Policy\\_-\\_Aug\\_21.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1009789/EU_Exit_Student_Finance_Policy_-_Aug_21.pdf). The information is also contained in the following Student Finance England publication:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/student-finance-how-youre-assessed-and-paid>.

## ■ T-levels

**Mr Barry Sheerman:**

**[62591]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what discussions he has had with experts in curriculum development and pedagogy in designing T-Level qualifications; and what experience the panels designing T-Levels have in working with 14 to 19-year-old learners at further education colleges.

**Alex Burghart:**

T Levels have been designed to give young people the knowledge, skills and behaviours they need to progress directly to skilled employment or further technical study. The learning needs of 16-19 year olds and the skills needs of employers have played a central role at every stage of T Level development.

T Levels are based on the same standards as apprenticeships and the outline content was designed by panels of experts in collaboration with the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (the Institute). The T Level panels consist of employers, industry experts and education providers, including some further education colleges. A list of panel members for each T Level can be accessed on gov.uk: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/t-level-panels-membership>.

In developing the outline content, T Level panels received support and advice from education experts who have significant experience and expertise in curriculum and assessment design and in pedagogy.

A single awarding organisation is contracted by the Institute to develop the technical qualification for each T Level on the basis of the outline content. Awarding organisations are required to evidence engagement with a range of education providers and employers throughout the development process.

T Level technical qualifications are quality assured by the Institute and Ofqual. Both organisations work together to ensure that T Levels are high quality and continue to meet the needs of learners and employers.

**Mr Barry Sheerman:**

**[62592]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what discussions he has had with the National Education Union in the development of T-Level qualifications.

**Alex Burghart:**

Collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders has been central to the development of T Levels and contributed to their successful launch in September last year.

Employers and other experts have designed the content of the qualifications, and we consulted extensively on the design, implementation and funding arrangements for T Levels, to which we received responses from the National Education Union. We have also engaged relevant stakeholders, including the National Union of Students, on an ongoing basis through advisory groups.



We have had no recent discussions with the National Education Union about T Levels and would welcome their input should they wish to meet.

**Mr Barry Sheerman:**

[\[62593\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what funding and investment he plans to make available to ensure the success of proposed T-Level qualifications.

**Alex Burghart:**

We have an extensive programme of support in place for T Levels, which will be backed by £500 million per year in revenue funding once fully rolled out. We have already invested over £165 million in capacity building funding to ensure providers can work with employers to deliver Industry Placements. An Employer Incentive Scheme has also been introduced, where employers can receive a £1,000 payment for hosting a T Level industry placement.

To ensure that T Level students benefit from high quality facilities and cutting-edge equipment, we have made £268 million capital funding available for T Levels starting in 2020, 2021 and 2022. Every teacher offering T Levels has been able to take advantage of the T Level Professional Development offer, for which we have committed over £15 million in the 2021-22 financial year.

**Mr Barry Sheerman:**

[\[62594\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what current academic qualifications will lose funding following the proposed introduction of T-Level qualifications.

**Alex Burghart:**

We will continue to fund high quality qualifications that can be taken alongside, or as alternatives to, T Levels and A levels, where there is a clear need for skills and knowledge that T Levels and A levels cannot provide.

We have not pre-judged which subject areas will be funded in future, but our plans for reform published in July listed a number of areas where we see a clear role for academic qualifications to sit alongside A levels. These include performing and creative arts, sport and STEM subjects.

Funding approval criteria for academic qualifications to be approved for delivery from 2024 and beyond will be published in 2022.

**Mr Barry Sheerman:**

[\[62595\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment he has made of the potential short-term effect on students' educational prospects of replacing current applied general qualifications with T-Level qualifications; and what steps he plans to take to ensure that students across the country can continue to access a wide variety of educational pathways following the proposed rollout of T-Levels.

**Alex Burghart:**

Plans for the reform of level 3 qualifications were published in July. Students will continue to access a wide variety of high-quality level 3 pathways in future. They will continue to be able to study applied general qualifications (AGQs) as part of mixed

programmes alongside A levels, where they meet new quality standards. Students will also be able to study AGQs as their full programme of study where there is no T Level and are in areas less well served by A levels.

There will be a range of technical qualifications that will be offered alongside T Levels. The first will be qualifications supporting entry to occupations where there is no T Level. The second will be 'specialist' qualifications that develop more specialist skills and knowledge than could be acquired through a T Level alone.

The accompanying impact assessment did not distinguish between short and long term impacts of change but set out our expectation that the educational impact of the reforms will be positive for most students. This is because students will have access to higher quality qualifications in future, including new T Levels. This will put them in a stronger position to progress onto further study or skilled employment.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### ■ Agriculture: Carbon Emissions

**Olivia Blake:** [\[65541\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what the projected emissions are for Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use over the period of the 4th, 5th and 6th carbon budget periods.

**Jo Churchill:**

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Ludlow on 18 October 2021, PQ UIN 56291.

Note: NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution) is the midpoint of CB5.

### ■ Air Pollution

**Ruth Jones:** [\[61211\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the impact of unclean air on the health and well-being of children.

**Jo Churchill:**

Air pollution poses the biggest environmental threat to public health and children are particularly vulnerable to its effects. I and my Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs work closely with our counterparts in other Departments on issues related to air pollution, including on understanding and reducing the harms it causes.

The Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP) provides independent advice to Government departments and agencies on how air pollution impacts on health, including the health of children ( [published reports](#) ). Defra continues to work across Government, including with DHSC and the new UK Health Security Agency, to understand the relationship between air quality and health.



The improvement of air quality and reduction in associated health harms remains a top priority for the Government. The Government is therefore taking a range of actions to tackle air pollution, including through the landmark Environment Bill and by implementing the Clean Air Strategy.

Defra's Air Quality Grant Programme provides funding to local authorities, for projects in local communities to tackle air pollution and reduce emissions affecting schools, businesses and residents. This year we have awarded over £5 million, of which over £1 million has been awarded to projects specifically targeted at making improvements for children. Next year £9 million of funding will be awarded, of which at least £1 million will be dedicated to projects to improve public awareness in local communities about the risks of air pollution. Particular focus will be given to projects that deliver measures that focus on vulnerable groups, including children.

## ■ Carbon Emissions

**Olivia Blake:**

[\[65540\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what emissions reductions his Department's existing and proposed policies deliver in the 4th, 5th and 6th carbon budget periods.

**Jo Churchill:**

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Plymouth, Sutton and Devonport on 18 October 2021, PQ UIN 57322.

Note: NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution) is the midpoint of CB5.

## ■ Cider

**Dr Rupa Huq:**

[\[63813\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of raising the minimum juice content for cider.

**Victoria Prentis:**

The UK has a history of cidermaking dating back thousands of years. This proud tradition has given rise to a wide variety of cidermaking traditions throughout the UK, ranging from small, artisanal producers to large scale global businesses. The UK Government recognises the importance of cider and cidermakers to British farmers, publicans, and consumers alike. The present requirement under the Alcoholic Liquor Duties Act 1979 that 35% of the finished product be made up by apple juice was last revised in 2010, following consultation with cidermakers. Defra believes that this strikes a suitable balance, facilitating the various ancient traditions found on these islands while still allowing for innovation in the sector and large-scale production of popular styles. Neither consumers nor cider makers have been asking for a change in the rules. As a result, the Government has not made any more recent assessment of the merits of raising the minimum juice content for cider and has no plans to amend this provision in the 1979 Act.

**■ Dangerous Dogs**

**Mr Barry Sheerman:** [\[62597\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what discussions he has had with the (a) Home Secretary and (b) Secretary of State for Justice on any plans to review and update the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

**Jo Churchill:**

The Government is concerned about any dog that is not under control and that poses a threat to public safety, and we are determined to crack down on irresponsible dog ownership. Therefore, Defra commissioned Middlesex University to examine measures to reduce dog attacks and promote responsible ownership of all breeds of dogs and produce a report of their findings. Defra is giving careful consideration to the report and its recommendations, and will engage with the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice as necessary. The report will be published later this year.

**Mr Barry Sheerman:** [\[62598\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what plans the Government has to make dog on dog attacks a criminal offence.

**Mr Barry Sheerman:** [\[62599\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether the Government plans to bring forward legislative proposals to penalise dangerous dog owners in the event that their animals cause harm to other pets.

**Mr Barry Sheerman:** [\[62603\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of amending the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 to make dog on dog attacks a criminal offence.

**Jo Churchill:**

The Government takes the issue of dog attacks extremely seriously and is determined to crack down on irresponsible dog ownership.

Under section 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, it is an offence to allow a dog to be dangerously out of control in any place. The law does not specifically exclude an attack by a dog on another animal from the offence of allowing a dog to be dangerously out of control. In March 2018, the Government wrote to all police forces and local authorities about the range of powers and measures available in relation to dangerous dogs, specifically reminding all parties that it applied to attacks on animals as well as people

Additionally, Section 2 of the Dogs Act 1871 also allows for a complaint to be made to a magistrates' court by any individual or authority that a dog is "dangerous and not kept under proper control". The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 includes specific measures to enable the police and local authorities to tackle irresponsible dog ownership before a dog attack occurs. The main tool to tackle irresponsible dog ownership is the Community Protection Notice (CPN). These

notices can be issued by local authority officers or the police on dog owners, or anyone temporarily in charge of the dog at the time, whose dogs are behaving in an unruly way. To breach a CPN is a criminal offence and could lead to a significant penalty. To that end we are encouraging police forces across the country to use these tools.

Defra has also commissioned research in collaboration with Middlesex University into ways to reduce dog attacks and promote responsible ownership among dog owners. The research considers different approaches and the effectiveness of current dog control measures. Defra is giving careful consideration to the report and its recommendations. The report will be published later this year.

■ **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Carbon Emissions**

**Olivia Blake:**

[\[65543\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether his Department has set an emissions reductions plan.

**Jo Churchill:**

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Ludlow on 18 October 2021, PQ UIN 56296.

■ **Export Health Certificates**

**Virginia Crosbie:**

[\[65537\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he has taken to (a) secure Part 1 listed status for the purposes of EU Pet Travel Regulations and (b) incentivise the veterinary profession to (i) minimise the cost of Animal Health Certificates and (ii) take the necessary qualifications to issue those certificates.

**Jo Churchill:**

We are seeking agreement from the European Commission on awarding Great Britain 'Part 1' listed status and recognition of the UK's tapeworm-free status. Achieving these would alleviate the most onerous pet travel rules for all travellers and we see no valid animal health reason for these to not be granted. We have one of the most rigorous pet checking regimes in Europe to protect our biosecurity and have submitted a detailed technical case setting this out and are continuing to engage with the EU on a workable solution.

Animal Health Certificates (AHCs) fees are set by veterinary practices and are a private matter between individual practices and their clients and neither the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, the UK regulator of the veterinary profession, nor Defra intervenes in the level of fees that are charged.

We are engaging with the British Veterinary Association to address concerns on veterinary capacity to complete and issue AHCs. We are working to ensure that the process of issuing pet travel documentation is as efficient as possible.

The AHC format is mandated by the EU, but the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) has taken steps to help Official Veterinarians (OVs) complete them including the development of a model certificate and accompanying printable guidance. APHA has publicised the availability of the required training course on completing AHCs and has made it easily available on-line which can be accessed by all qualified OVs at any time.

## ■ Fireworks: Animal Welfare

**Peter Gibson:**

**[62853]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what recent assessment his Department has made of the impact of fireworks on (a) domestic pets and (b) livestock.

**Jo Churchill:**

Defra understands concerns about the distress fireworks can cause to domestic pets and livestock. Our assessment is that noisy fireworks have the capacity to cause distress to pets, livestock and wildlife. This is one of the reasons that there is a noise level limit of 120 decibels on fireworks for home use.

It is an offence under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to cause an animal any unnecessary suffering and this includes through the misuse of fireworks. The Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Act came into force on 29 June 2021 and has increased the maximum penalty for cruelty to animals to five years' imprisonment and/or an unlimited fine.

The Government also publishes a statutory Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs, which applies to all owners/keepers of dogs and which encourages dog owners/keepers to avoid exercising dogs in extreme weather or during times when fireworks could be let off. Further advice about pets and fireworks can be found on the Blue Cross website, here: <https://www.bluecross.org.uk/pet-advice/fireworks-and-pets>

Fireworks should not be set off near livestock or close to buildings that house livestock, or near to horses in fields. Anyone planning a firework display in rural areas should warn neighbouring farmers.

Fireworks used for professionally organised displays, classified as F4, are available for sale only to people who have undertaken an accredited course of training in pyrotechnics and who hold relevant professional insurance. It is up to local councils to decide whether or not to put on public displays.

We would encourage livestock owners who are concerned about planned firework displays to contact the organisers to see if any compromises can be made, such as using less noisy fireworks.

## ■ Fishing Vessels: Marine Environment

**Peter Aldous:**

**[56303]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how many fishing vessels have been fly shooting in UK waters in the (a) southern North Sea and (b) English Channel in 2021; and of those vessels, how many (i) are foreign registered and (ii) have been able to demonstrate previous a track record of using this equipment in the same areas.

**Victoria Prentis:**

In 2021 there were nine UK vessels fishing with fly seining equipment in the southern North Sea and the English Channel in the International Council for Exploration of the Sea (ICES) areas 7d and 7e (these area codes refer to ICES Rectangles which are a sub-division of the sea surface area each approximately 30 nautical miles by 30 nautical miles in size; ICES Rectangle is the highest resolution of spatial landings data available for all UK fishing vessels). European vessels with fly seining equipment are listed on the public European Commission fleet register. Under the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, licensing arrangements in the Territorial waters between the UK and the EU were based on vessels that were active in the respective zones during the reference period. This track record arrangement is not gear specific.

## ■ Food

**Alison Thewliss:**

**[58422]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he is taking to ensure that consideration of the food and nutrition needs of infants and young children, and associated challenges facing young families, is included in the forthcoming White Paper on the National Food Strategy.

**Victoria Prentis:**

The forthcoming Government Food Strategy is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create a food system that feeds our nation today and protects it for tomorrow. It will build upon work already underway in the Agriculture Act, Fisheries Act, and Environment Bill as well as docking into wider Government priorities, such as the obesity strategy.

The Government is wholly committed to supporting people on lower incomes, for example through increasing the living wage and spending over £111 billion on welfare support for people of working age in 2021/22.

It is also supporting the health and nutrition of young families through initiatives like the School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme and this year's increase to The Healthy Start voucher value. The School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme provides a free piece of fruit or vegetable to every child in Key Stage 1 at state-funded primary schools on every school day, while the Healthy Start vouchers encourage a healthy diet for pregnant women, babies and young children from low-income households, and increased in value from £3.10 to £4.25 from April 2021.

Defra will continue to work closely with all other relevant Departments across Whitehall to develop a plan to ensure the food system is sustainable and affordable, supporting people and families to live healthy lives, and incorporate within our Food Strategy

■ **Food: Industry**

**Deidre Brock:**

**[57078]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he is taking to tackle the long-term shortage of labour in the food and drink sector.

**Victoria Prentis:**

Defra is working closely with industry to help our world-leading farmers and food and drink 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 six months to work in the edible horticulture sector.

In December 2020, a Defra-led review into automation in horticulture was also announced alongside the extension of the Seasonal Workers Pilot. The review will report on ways to increase automation in the horticulture sector and meet the Government's aim of reducing the need for migrant seasonal labour.

There are a number of initiatives across Government to bring these technologies to market as fast as possible, including Transforming Food Production, Defra's Farming Innovation Programme and Farming Investment Fund as well as other public funding initiatives.

The Farming Innovation Programme opened for applications on 20 October 2021 and will support the sector to develop new technologies, systems and processes to deliver enhanced productivity and support wider net zero goals.

On 1 January 2021 the Government introduced the new points-based immigration system, under which EU and non-EU citizens are treated equally. The Skilled Worker route is open to all nationals who wish to come to the UK for the purpose of working in a skilled job they have been offered.

Alongside this, food and drink businesses will also be able to recruit those who come to the UK through our youth mobility schemes, dependents of skilled workers, plus those who arrive through other routes, such as our humanitarian protection ones, who have free access to the UK labour market.

In 2021 and beyond, the food and drink industry continues to be able to rely on EU nationals living in the UK with settled or pre-settled status. Over 5.3 million EU citizens and their families have been granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme and EU nationals who have settled status can continue to travel to the UK to do seasonal work in the food and drink sector.

Defra is also working closely with the Home Office to ensure there is a long-term strategy for the food and farming workforce beyond 2021.

For the longer term, the Government is encouraging all sectors to make employment more attractive to UK domestic workers through offering training, careers options, wage increases and to invest in increased automation technology.

To support these efforts, Defra is working with industry and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to raise awareness of career opportunities within the food and drink sectors among UK workers. All food and drink businesses are encouraged to advertise roles through DWP's Find A Job website, where they can upload and manage their vacancies. DWP does not charge for this service and it is available across the United Kingdom.

Defra welcomes the Ministry of Justice's work on the Release On Temporary Licence (ROTL) scheme for work across a number of sectors, including the food and drink sector. The scheme aims to help prisoners gain useful skills and work experience as they approach their release.

The Government is continuing to work extensively to understand employers' needs through regular engagement with industry and encourage them to invest in the best home-grown talent through Government-backed schemes such as apprenticeships and T Levels.

## ■ Food: Prices

**Geraint Davies:**

**[56410]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, with reference to the Food and Drink Federation's report entitled Eating into household budgets: the Government's recipe for food price inflation, published on 20 July 2021, what assessment his Department has made of the analysis in that report on the cost of government regulation for families and the cost of food over the next three years.

**Victoria Prentis:**

No analysis has been made of the Food and Drink Federation's report. All Government regulations are subject to an impact assessment that compares the costs and benefits of the change proposed. This allows the Government to take a balanced view on the benefit of implementing that regulation for the overall good of society.

The Government is wholly committed to supporting people on lower incomes and consistently supporting the lowest-paid families including through increasing the living wage and by spending over £111 billion on welfare support for people of working age in 2021/22.

Regulation does not necessarily translate into price rises for consumers including families. Defra modelling shows that consumer food prices depend on a range of factors including agri-food import prices, domestic agricultural prices, domestic labour



& manufacturing costs and Sterling exchange rates. Defra monitors food prices on a monthly and annual basis using the ONS Consumer Price Index with Housing costs.

Later this year the Government will publish the UK Food Security Report which will bring together reported and publicly available data on food security, including at a household level. As part of the forthcoming Government Food Strategy, Defra is working closely with other relevant departments across Whitehall to set out a plan to ensure the food system is sustainable and affordable, supporting people and families to live healthy lives, while protecting animal health and welfare.

## ■ **Forests: Access**

**Caroline Lucas:**

[\[63699\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will make it his policy that his Department's Woodland Access Implementation Plan extends the Right to Roam to woodlands.

**Rebecca Pow:**

Through the England Trees Action Plan, we committed to ensuring the provision of safe and appropriate public access as a feature of as many woodlands as possible and to work with landowners and woodland users to develop and implement a plan to improve the quantity, quality and permanency of public access to new and existing woodlands.

We do not currently plan to mandate new woodlands have public access or introduce a right to roam across all woodlands. We do plan to explore various other options from updating Forestry Commission guidance through to plans to encourage improvements to the quality and permanency of access using existing legislative means (i.e. the Public Rights of Way network). This will include how we might support greater access for all abilities and higher rights. We will also explore options to support landowners to consider access through our current voluntary grant offers, amending them to be more attractive for offering permanent access and making more areas eligible for support.

We are currently in the process of working with stakeholders to develop this Implementation Plan, identifying the policy, guidance, and behavioural changes needed to improve access to new and existing woodlands, which will feed into the development of the final plan.

## ■ **Ivory Act 2018**

**Sarah Champion:**

[\[62734\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, when he plans to publish the results of the consultation on expanding the range of species covered by the Ivory Act 2018.

**Rebecca Pow:**

The consultation on extending the Ivory Act 2018 to other species ran from 17 July 2021 to 11 September 2021. We are currently analysing the responses to this



consultation. We will publish a summary of responses and the Government response in due course.

## ■ **Per- and Polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances**

**Dr Rupa Huq:**

[\[64690\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he is taking to reduce the amount of PFAS chemicals impacting (a) environmental and (b) human health.

**Jo Churchill:**

Defra and the Environment Agency are working with other regulators, including the UK Health Security Agency, to improve understanding of the chemical risks posed by per-fluorinated chemicals (PFAS) and respond appropriately.

Defra and the Environment Agency have initiated a coordinated programme of work to help us assess levels of PFAS occurring in the environment, their sources and potential risks to inform future policy and regulatory approaches. The scope of the programme includes international engagement to understand approaches being taken across the world; collecting environmental data in England; developing new analytical methods; working with industry to assess risks of PFAS produced in the UK; identifying current and legacy uses and mapping potential sources; river catchment investigations; water company investigations to understand sources to sewer and wastewater treatment options.

As part of the UK REACH Work Programme for 2021-22, the Environment Agency and HSE, at Defra's request, are investigating the risk posed by PFAS through a Regulatory Management Options Analysis (RMOA) which will consider how best to manage any identified risks.

## ■ **Pets: Tagging**

**Julian Sturdy:**

[\[62714\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to make checking pet microchip databases as efficient as possible.

**Jo Churchill:**

We are carrying out a post-implementation review of the Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations that came into effect in 2016, which will consider whether improvements can be made to the current regime, including the operation of the databases.

We will come forward with proposals shortly. A public consultation on the 2016 Regulations will take place following this.

This is a devolved matter and these developments relate to the situation applying in England.

**Julian Sturdy:**

**[62715]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment his Department has made of the potential merits of establishing a single pet microchip database.

**Jo Churchill:**

Database operators are commercial enterprises which offer a range of services and provide choice for pet owners. We are confident that improvements can be made to the current regime.

We are exploring the possibility of creating a single point of access to compliant databases for authorised users, such as vets, police and local authorities.

We will come forward with our proposals shortly.

This is a devolved matter and these developments relate to the situation applying in England.

**Julian Sturdy:**

**[62716]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how much the Government has spent on campaigns to encourage the microchipping of pets in each of the last three years.

**Jo Churchill:**

The Government is committed to microchipping pets. There has not been Government spending on specific campaigns to encourage microchipping of cats and dogs in the last three years. However, the Government promotes microchipping in the statutory codes of practice for the welfare of cats, dogs and horses. In addition, the Government's Petfished campaign, which encourages responsible pet acquisition, advises people to ask whether a cat or dog is microchipped before buying.

The Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations came into effect in 2016 and we launched a public consultation on compulsory cat and dog microchipping and scanning in England in December 2020 which highlighted the importance of cat and dog microchipping.

The Equine Identification (England) Regulations 2018 require that all equines in England (except those semi-wild ponies permanently resident in certain designated areas) must be microchipped from 1 October 2020. Government comms campaigns were launched in July and September 2020 to remind those in England with horses born before 1 July 2009 (which were provided with a grace period in the interim) of the legal requirement to have them microchipped by 1 October 2020. Details of the cost of these campaigns is not however available.

This is a devolved matter and this response relates to the situation applying in England.

## ■ Rivers: Safety

**Rachael Maskell:** [\[62769\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what recent steps he has taken to improve the safety of rivers.

**Rachael Maskell:** [\[62770\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will take further steps to ensure that services to improve river safety are adequately supported and funded to meet risk and demand.

**Rebecca Pow:**

The Environment Agency encourages safe and responsible recreation on inland and coastal water and is responsible for safety on waterside assets it owns, operates or occupies (such as locks, weirs and bridges). It undertakes a comprehensive programme of public safety risk assessments of those assets and regularly inspects them to ensure that the provided risk control measures are well maintained. The Environment Agency has published advice on how to stay safe while visiting waterways: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-safe-around-water](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-safe-around-water). It is also a member of the [National Water Safety Forum](#).

Water safety is a vital life skill, which is why it is a mandatory part of the curriculum for Physical Education at primary school. The Department for Education recognises that children have missed out on opportunities to learn to swim due to COVID-19 restrictions and is working closely with Swim England and other swimming and water safety organisations to support pupils returning safely to swimming and promoting water safety education.

The Fire National Resilience Assurance Team (NRAT) in Merseyside is funded by the Home Office. NRAT maintains and supports the Defra-funded Flood Rescue National Asset Register. The Flood Rescue National Asset Register comprises of specialist flood rescue teams from both Fire and Rescue Services and the voluntary sector. These teams are available to be deployed across the country to aid rescue efforts during a flood incident. The National Fire Chiefs Council is also a member of the National Water Safety Forum, and Fire and Rescue Services continues to support in raising public awareness in water safety.

## ■ Sewage: Rivers

**Luke Pollard:** [\[62840\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, when he expects water companies to end the routine discharge of raw sewage into English rivers.

**Rebecca Pow:**

Eliminating harm from storm overflows is a Government priority, but we know that it will involve significant change and take time to achieve. The age of our Victorian sewerage system means a complete elimination of discharges from storm overflows would be extremely challenging and require full separation of pipes across the

country, alongside other additional infrastructure. Initial assessments suggest this would cost over £150 billion according to the Storm Overflows Evidence Project, commissioned by the Storm Overflows Taskforce. The full research report will be published shortly.

However, this does not mean that things cannot improve significantly. We are continuing to work with the industry to make sure that storm overflows are properly controlled and to reduce the harm caused by their discharges. This Government has been clear that the current failure of water companies to reduce adequately sewage discharges is unacceptable.

Between 2020 and 2025 water companies will invest £7.1 billion to protect and improve the environment. This includes the £5.2 billion invested through the Water Industry National Environment Programme. Of this, £3.1 billion will be invested in storm overflow improvements.

However, we have made it crystal clear to water companies that they must take further action to significantly reduce sewage discharges from storm overflows as a priority. Our draft Strategic Policy Statement to Ofwat sets out for the first time that we expect water companies to take the steps required to "significantly reduce.... storm overflows." We have also announced that we will put that instruction on a statutory footing with a new duty on water companies to progressively reduce the impact of sewage discharges.

Our Environment Bill also includes the following new duties directly on water companies to:

- publish statutory Drainage and Sewerage Management Plans, for the first time, setting out how they will reduce overflows, as well as detailing other improvements, and provides the power for government to direct companies if these plans are inadequate;
- monitor water quality up and downstream of areas potentially affected by discharges;
- publish data on storm overflow operation on an annual basis;
- publish near real time information - within one hour- on the operation of storm overflows.

We will not hesitate to use our powers to hold companies to account. Earlier this year Southern Water was handed a record-breaking £90 million fine, and Thames Water was fined £4 million and £2.3 million for separate incidents.

New amendments have been tabled that place duties on the Government to publish a plan by September 2022 to reduce sewage discharges from storm overflows and reduce their impact. There is also a duty to report to Parliament on progress on implementing the plan. We will also produce a report outlining further evidence regarding elimination of Storm Overflows by September 2022. We expect this to drive action to tackle this issue in a shorter timeframe.

Truly reducing harm from storm overflows will require a collaborative approach between many actors. To this end, in August 2020 I established the Storm Overflows Taskforce to bring together key stakeholders from the water industry, regulators, and environmental NGOs, with a long-term goal to eliminate harm from storm overflows. The Taskforce has already taken steps to improve monitoring and transparency and has commissioned research to gather evidence on the costs, benefits and feasibility of different options.

**Luke Pollard:**

[62841]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what guidance he has issued to Ofwat on accelerating the ending of routine discharge of raw sewage into English rivers by water companies.

**Rebecca Pow:**

Earlier this year the Government consulted on a set of strategic priorities for Ofwat, the independent economic regulator for the water industry. The draft strategic policy statement (SPS) sets out the direction from the Government that water companies must take steps to "significantly reduce sewage discharges from storm overflows". This is the first time any government has set out this expectation for water companies to prioritise their reliance on storm overflows to discharge sewage. The SPS strongly influences investment decisions and is one of the Government's key tools in driving action from water companies. The Government expects to publish the final SPS in early 2022.

Government has also announced that it will put the direction set out in the SPS on a statutory footing with a new duty on water companies to progressively reduce impacts of sewage discharges.

## ■ Waste Disposal

**Shabana Mahmood:**

[62695]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what recent estimate his Department has made of the number of rogue operators within the waste collection sector.

**Jo Churchill:**

The department does not produce estimates of the numbers of rogue operators in the waste collection sector. The Environment Agency recently published a survey of waste crime which provides useful information

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-waste-crime-survey-report-2021-findings-and-analysis>)

## ■ Waste Disposal: Crime

**Shabana Mahmood:**

[62693]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the Environmental Protection Act 1990

in relation to the regulatory powers afforded to local councils to enforce waste crimes and remove rubbish.

**Shabana Mahmood:**

[\[62694\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the regulatory powers afforded to local councils to clear dumped rubbish and waste on shared land that has no defined legal ownership or occupation and is not public land.

**Jo Churchill:**

Waste crime damages the environment and blights communities. The Government is committed to tackling this criminal activity and has significantly bolstered local authority enforcement powers in recent years as a result. Councils now have powers to issue fixed penalty notices for fly-tipping and stronger powers to seize and destroy vehicles involved in waste crime. Waste collection authorities can require the occupier or owner of land to remove any illegally deposited controlled waste or to take steps to eliminate the effects of the waste.

We will go further - including measures in the Environment Bill to combat waste crime through better access to evidence and improved powers of entry. Our new electronic waste tracking measures and our planned reform to waste carriers, brokers and dealers licensing will make it harder than ever for waste criminals to escape responsibility for their actions.

Defra has made no further assessment of the effectiveness of the powers afforded to local authorities in this respect.

Local authorities are responsible for keeping land in their control clear of waste. Crown authorities and others have similar responsibilities while landowners are responsible for the land they own. HM Land Registry publish ownership information on most registered land.

## ■ Waste: Carbon Emissions

**Olivia Blake:**

[\[65542\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what the projected emissions are from waste over the period of the 4th, 5th and 6th budget periods.

**Jo Churchill:**

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Plymouth, Sutton and Devonport on 18 October 2021, PQ UIN 57324.

Note: NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution) is the midpoint of CB5.

**FOREIGN, COMMONWEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE****■ Afghanistan: Females****Sir George Howarth:**[\[63656\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps she is taking to help women from religious minorities who are persecuted in Afghanistan by the Taliban and have their freedoms severely curtailed due to fear of kidnapping, forced conversion and forced marriage.

**James Cleverly:**

We are committed to prioritising women and girls in the Government's response to the situation in Afghanistan and remain concerned about their safety. We are consulting Afghan women's organisations to understand how best to support their needs, in safety and with dignity. On 21 October, Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon, Minister of State for South Asia, UN and the Commonwealth, attended the annual Women, Peace and Security Open Debate at the UN Security Council and met prominent Afghan women to discuss how the UK can best support women and girls.

**■ Afghanistan: Humanitarian Situation****Lisa Nandy:**[\[66191\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps the Government is taking to tackle the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan.

**James Cleverly:**

We are using every diplomatic and humanitarian lever at our disposal to address the crisis, including doubling our aid to Afghanistan and the region. On 31 October, the Prime Minister announced that £50 million of our total £286 million commitment will be allocated to UN agencies and the International Committee of the Red Cross. This will provide life-saving humanitarian support to two and a half million Afghans.

**■ Anoosheh Ashoori****Lisa Nandy:**[\[65426\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 6 September 2021 to Question 36626 on Anoosheh Ashoori, what progress his Department has made on its review of detained UK dual national Anoosheh Ashoori's application for diplomatic protection; and when his Department plans to (a) complete and (b) announce a decision on that review.

**James Cleverly:**

We have received Mr Ashoori's application for diplomatic protection. The Foreign Secretary is considering the matter carefully. We remain committed to securing Mr Ashoori's immediate and permanent release. We have been supporting Mr Ashoori's family since we became aware of his detention. The Foreign Secretary has remained in contact with the family to reinforce the UK's efforts to bring him home. She last spoke with them on 19 September.



**■ China: Olympic Games**

**Lisa Nandy:** [\[66188\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what plans the Government has for the (a) political and (b) diplomatic representation of the UK at the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics.

**Amanda Milling:**

As the Government has previously made clear, no decisions have yet been made about Government attendance at the Beijing Olympics in 2022.

**■ Coronavirus: Vaccination**

**Mr Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi:** [\[63847\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether his Department has provided support for the (a) staffing of vaccine centres abroad and (b) training of those staff in the context of the supply of vaccines to developing countries.

**Wendy Morton:**

The UK has deployed over 130 emergency medical experts from the UK Emergency Medical Team (UK EMT) to over 17 countries throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. These teams have provided training and capacity building on COVID-19 infection, prevention, and control to national health workers alongside providing clinical care to COVID-19 patients as required.

UK support for delivering vaccinations has been channelled through our investments in multilateral partners. The UK is one of the largest donors to the COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC). Our £548 million commitment will support the COVAX AMC to deliver up to 1.8 billion vaccine doses for up to 92 low and middle-income countries. The COVAX Facility is a multilateral mechanism that pools resources to accelerate the development, manufacture, and delivery of COVID-19 vaccines. COVAX and its Alliance partners work closely with governments to ensure robust and transparent distribution and reporting plans are in place to ensure priority groups are reached.

**Lisa Nandy:** [\[66190\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent steps her Department has taken to support low-income countries to (a) receive and (b) safely administer covid-19 vaccines pledged by the UK.

**Wendy Morton:**

The UK is committed to equitable and global vaccine access, and is working with international partners to increase global supply and end the acute phase of the pandemic. This is why the UK has committed to sharing 100 million doses with countries in need by mid-2022. To date, 10.6 million doses have been delivered bilaterally, and a further 10 million doses have been accepted by COVAX to be delivered in the coming weeks. This is on top of the UK's £548 million support for



COVAX's Advance Market Commitment, which will aim to supply up to 1.8 billion doses for up to 92 low and middle-income countries by early 2022. COVID-19 vaccines donated through COVAX are administered by Gavi and their Alliance partners, who work with governments to ensure robust and transparent distribution and reporting plans are in place to ensure priority groups are reached. For UK bilateral donations, we have sought assurances from recipients that they have the capacity to roll out doses in line with National Deployment and Vaccination Plans.

**Preet Kaur Gill:**

[\[66247\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to the £43,379,999 for the sharing of 100 million doses of covid-19 vaccines with countries in need, published in her Department's Development Tracker, whether that funding will be in addition to the 0.5 per cent ODA budget.

**Wendy Morton:**

The cost of COVID-19 vaccine donations for 2021 has been additional to the Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget set out at the 2020 Spending Review (SR20) for 2021-22, but is expected to remain within 0.5% of Gross National Income (GNI) given the growth in GNI forecasts since SR20.

Departmental ODA budgets are increasing significantly over the Spending Review period due to forecast growth in GNI. SR21 fully covers the cost of vaccine donations to meet the Prime Minister's commitment on donating 100 million surplus doses by June 2022 as part of the G7 dose-sharing commitments to drive an intensified effort to vaccinate the world by 2022.

## ■ Developing Countries: Education

**Preet Kaur Gill:**

[\[65485\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to the Government's Spending Review 2021, Priority outcomes and metrics, what the baseline year is that her Department uses to determine whether it has achieved the goal of increasing the number of additional girls in education, year-on-year change, in priority countries; and how many girls were in education in that baseline year.

**Wendy Morton:**

As part of the UK's G7 Presidency this year, G7 partners agreed to work with developing countries to get 40 million more girls into school by 2026. This is a global goal, and a milestone towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 4 by 2030. The enrolment data used is for girls of primary and lower-secondary school age living in low and lower-middle income countries. The data is published by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics and 2020 is the baseline year, when 314 million such girls were estimated to be in school.

**Preet Kaur Gill:**

[\[65486\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to the Government's Spending Review 2021, Priority outcomes and metrics,

what the baseline year is that her Department uses to determine whether it has achieved the goal of increasing the number of additional girls reading by age 10 or the end of primary school, year-on-year change, in priority countries; and how many girls were reading by age 10 or the end of primary school in that baseline year.

**Wendy Morton:**

As part of the UK's G7 Presidency this year, G7 partners agreed to working with developing countries to get 20 million more girls reading by age ten or the end of primary school, by 2026. This is a global goal, and a milestone towards Sustainable Development Goal 4 by 2030. This learning data is for low and lower-middle income countries. The data is published by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, and 2019 is the starting year. A baseline number is currently being finalised.

■ **Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office: Staff**

**Preet Kaur Gill:**

[\[66249\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to page 10 of her Department's Annual Report and Accounts: 2020-2021, HC 660, published on 22 September 2022, what assessment she has made of the impact of resourcing challenges in respect of securing staff and skills experienced by her Department on (a) making progress on her development priorities and (b) Britain's global standing.

**Amanda Milling:**

The merger of the two legacy organisations has brought together a wealth of knowledge, experience and skills needed to make progress on both the FCDO's development priorities and Britain's global standing. Prioritisation of the internal workforce continues, to ensure staff are deployed to the areas of the FCDO's greatest need.

Work is ongoing on the FCDO's Strategic Workforce Plan, which will define the skills and experience the organisation needs both now and in the future and how the organisation will develop or acquire those skills where they do not exist in the current workforce. In the meantime, the Diplomatic and Development Fast Stream, the Diplomatic and Development Economist Fast Stream schemes and the Direct Entry Scheme for Advisers (DESA), remain some of the primary methods for bringing new skills and future talent into the organisation. The FCDO also recruits for specialist skills and experience, aligned to our Strategic Workforce Plan, from across Government, or externally where the skills are not readily available from within the Civil Service.

■ **Humanitarian Aid**

**Preet Kaur Gill:**

[\[65489\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to the Spending Review 2021: Priority outcomes and metrics, what the baseline year is used to determine whether the goal of increasing the number of people reached

through humanitarian and social protection support has been achieved; and how many people were reached in that year.

**James Cleverly:**

The goal for increasing the number of people reached through humanitarian and social protection support is new. Therefore, there is no existing baseline data with which to compare achievements. Financial year 2021/22 will form our baseline.

■ **India: Visas**

**Virginia Crosbie:**

[\[65538\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what discussions she has had with her Indian counterpart on the reopening of tourist visas for travellers from the UK to India.

**Amanda Milling:**

India has announced that it will issue tourist visas for group travel from 15 October and individual travel from 15 November, which we welcome. It is for the Indian Government to determine the types and validity of the visas it offers.

■ **Interpol: Public Appointments**

**Peter Dowd:**

[\[66202\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment her Department has made of the candidacy of Emirati Major General Nasser Ahmed al-Raisi for the Interpol presidency, to be elected on 23-25 November 2021, in the context of the UAE's human rights record.

**James Cleverly:**

As with all elections for international organisations, the UK Government will review all candidates for the presidency of Interpol, and consider our vote carefully. We are committed to the promotion of universal freedoms and human rights and we encourage all states, including the United Arab Emirates, to uphold international human rights obligations.

■ **Nnamdi Kanu**

**Feryal Clark:**

[\[64752\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether she has made representations to her Nigerian counterpart on the situation of British citizen Maazi Nnamdi Kanu.

**Vicky Ford:**

The UK Government is seeking clarification about the circumstances of Mr Kanu's arrest from the Nigerian Government. We are also taking active steps to provide assistance to Mr Kanu. We are in regular contact with the Nigerian authorities and remain in contact with his family and legal representatives. Our current priority is Mr

Kanu's health, welfare and fair treatment and we will continue to proactively follow up with the Nigerian authorities on this case.

## ■ Overseas Aid

**Ruth Jones:**

[\[61213\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent assessment she has made of the effect of reductions in the aid budget on (a) poverty, (b) inequality and (c) the UK's reputation in the Global South.

**Amanda Milling:**

The UK is a world leader in development, committed to the global fight against poverty and to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. In 2020 we spent £14.5 billion Official Development Assistance (ODA) fighting poverty and helping those in need, despite the seismic impact of the pandemic on the UK and global economy. This included £1.7 billion supporting the effort to fight coronavirus, £1.5 billion in humanitarian assistance, and we gave more than half of our regional bilateral aid to countries in Africa.

In 2021, the UK will spend over £10 billion and remain one of the largest ODA contributors in the world. Based on 2020 OECD data, the UK will be the third largest ODA donor in the G7 as a percentage of GNI in 2021 and will spend above the average for OECD Development Assistance Committee members (0.41%). As the Chancellor said during his budget speech of 27th October, improving economic forecasts shows that HMG is scheduled to return to spending 0.7% of Gross National Income on aid in financial year 2024/25.

**Preet Kaur Gill:**

[\[66248\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 26 October 2021 to Question 59919, on Overseas Aid, and with reference to the Autumn Budget and Spending Review 2021, what assessment she has made of the impact on funding for existing bilateral projects of counting a proportion of the additional loan of over £1 billion worth of Special Drawing Rights to the IMF's Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust as Official Development Assistance.

**Amanda Milling:**

Departmental Official Development Assistance (ODA) budgets will be increasing significantly over the Spending Review period, from the £10 billion that was allocated in 2020 to at least £12.3 billion by 2024-25. The UK's Special Drawing Rights (SDR) contribution to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust provides valuable financial support to the poorest and most vulnerable countries. The ODA impacts of SDR channelling are additional to these growing departmental ODA budgets.

## ■ Taiwan: Politics and Government

**Lisa Nandy:**

[\[66189\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent assessment her Department has made of the security situation in Taiwan.

**Amanda Milling:**

HMG considers the Taiwan issue one to be settled peacefully by the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait through constructive dialogue. We are concerned by any activity which raises tensions and risks destabilising the status quo and have been clear that the numerous Chinese military flights near Taiwan at the beginning of October were not conducive to peace and stability in the region. We underscored the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait alongside partners in the G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' communique in May and G7 Leaders' communique in June.

## ■ Zimbabwe: Coronavirus

**Ruth Jones:**

[\[62842\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, how many covid-19 vaccination doses the Government has made available to Zimbabwe.

**Vicky Ford:**

Zimbabwe has achieved one of the highest rates of COVID-19 vaccination coverage in Africa which is to be welcomed. As at 19th October a cumulative 3,234,589 million people and 2,493,995 million people have been vaccinated with their first dose and second dose respectively. Zimbabwe has been confirmed as a participant of the COVAX facility, of which the UK is a major donor. Through COVAX, Zimbabwe has so far received 943,200 doses of Sinopharm. The UK has committed £548m to COVAX's Advance Market Commitment to help procure doses for up to 92 lower-income economies, of which Zimbabwe is one.

## HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

### ■ Ambulance Services: North West

**Tim Farron:**

[\[63691\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what proportion of category 1 calls received by Morecambe Bay CCG and North Cumbria CCG were responded to within 7 minutes over the last 12 months.

**Tim Farron:**

[\[63692\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what proportion of category 1 calls received by Morecambe Bay CCG and North Cumbria CCG were responded to within 18 minutes in each of the last 12 months.

**Tim Farron:** [\[63693\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what proportion of category 3 calls received by Morecambe Bay CCG and North Cumbria CCG were responded to within 120 minutes in each of the last 12 months.

**Tim Farron:** [\[63694\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what proportion of category 4 calls received by Morecambe Bay CCG and North Cumbria CCG were responded to within 180 minutes in each of the last 12 months.

**Tim Farron:** [\[63695\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what Morecambe Bay CCG's average ambulance response time has been for (a) category 1 calls, (b) category 2 calls, (c) category 3 calls and (d) category 4 calls in each of the last 12 months.

**Tim Farron:** [\[63696\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what North Cumbria CCG's average ambulance response time is over the last 12 months for (a) category 1 calls, (b) category 2 calls, (c) category 3 calls and (d) category 4 calls.

**Edward Argar:**

The information requested is not held centrally.

## ■ Catheters

**Ruth Jones:** [\[64735\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to improve the management of urinary catheters in NHS hospitals and in the community in England.

**Gillian Keegan:**

In 2018, NHS England published guidance, 'Excellence in Continence Care' to help improve the care and experience of patients with continence issues. The guidance includes evidence-based information and resources on urinary catheterisation and advice on the use of catheters to help raise standards of care. The guidance focuses on ensuring people with incontinence can access a timely and effective assessment and management options.

## ■ Contact Tracing: Travel Requirements

**Alex Sobel:** [\[60503\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to help ensure that the cost of administering covid-19 Passenger Locator Forms is kept to a minimum.

**Maggie Throup:**

The Department is not responsible for the administration of Passenger Locator Forms.

## ■ Contraceptives: Finance

**Dame Diana Johnson:**

[64559]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to the recommendations in the APPG on Sexual and Reproductive Health's report, Women's Lives, Women's Rights, whether the forthcoming national Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy will (a) recognise and (b) seek to tackle the reduction in contraception funding across (i) all areas of service provision and (ii) the most marginalised groups.

**Maggie Throup:**

*[Holding answer 1 November 2021]:* The Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy will include a focus on improving access to contraception across all areas of service provision, particularly for marginalised groups. The Spending Review 2021 maintains the Public Health Grant in real terms, enabling local authorities to continue to invest in prevention and essential services, including sexual and reproductive health services.

## ■ Coronavirus: Death

**Dr Julian Lewis:**

[56714]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will make it his policy, when publishing daily figures for new fatalities after confirmation of covid-19 infection, to include a breakdown showing how many of them had been (a) unvaccinated, (b) partially vaccinated, and (c) fully vaccinated (i) with and (ii) without a classification of being clinically extremely vulnerable; and what additional steps he will take to provide data to the public advertising the role of vaccination in preventing deaths from covid-19 infection.

**Maggie Throup:**

*[Holding answer 20 October 2021]:* We have no plans to do so. However, weekly data on COVID-19 deaths by vaccination status is published in the UK Health Security Agency's weekly COVID-19 vaccine surveillance report. This contains the latest data on vaccine effectiveness data against mortality and also contains estimates on the direct and indirect impact of the vaccination programme, including deaths averted up to 24 September 2021. The weekly reports are available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccine-weekly-surveillance-reports>

The Department is working to ensure the public has access to information to allow an informed choice about vaccinations.

## ■ Coronavirus: Disease Control

**Alex Cunningham:**

[62718]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what plans he has to help protect people who are immunocompromised against the effects of covid-19 over winter 2021-22.



**Maggie Throup:**

*[Holding answer 28 October 2021]:* On 1 September 2021, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advised that individuals aged 12 years old and over with severe immunosuppression at the time of their first or second COVID-19 vaccination should be offered a third primary dose. Severely immunosuppressed individuals may not have developed a full immune response to the primary vaccination, therefore the third primary dose gives a similar level of protection as those without a weakened immune system and has received two doses.

The National Health Service is writing to patients who may be eligible for a third primary dose due to severe immunosuppression. Severely immunosuppressed individuals may become eligible for a booster dose after their third primary dose, pending further advice from the JCVI.

Immunocompromised individuals are a priority cohort for research into therapeutic and prophylaxis treatments, such as monoclonal antibody therapies, novel antivirals and repurposed compounds. In August, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency approved Ronapreve as the first neutralising monoclonal antibody combination product for use in the prevention and treatment of COVID-19 in the United Kingdom.

**Rachael Maskell:**[\[53767\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what discussions he is having with directors of public health to ensure that they are well-placed to manage covid-19 in winter 2021-22.

**Maggie Throup:**

The Department has regular engagement with regional Directors of Public Health through the Government's local action committee (LAC) command structure. The UK Health Security Agency, the National Health Service and the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities regularly meet with the Directors of Public Health to advise on the local management of COVID-19.

**■ Coronavirus: Protective Clothing****Christine Jardine:**[\[58480\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how much spending his Department has recovered for personal protective equipment that was either not delivered or was not fit for purpose, since March 2020.

**Edward Argar:**

This information is not available in the format requested.

**Christine Jardine:**[\[58481\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many of his Department's contracts for personal protective equipment are still to be uploaded to contract finder; what the value is of those contracts; whether those contracts were subject to competitive tendering; and when the remaining contracts will be published.



**Edward Argar:**

All contracts notices and associated contracts awarded by the Department for the supply of personal protective equipment in response to the COVID-19 pandemic are now available at the Contracts Finder service.

Regulation 32(2)(c) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 allows for the direct award of a contract without advertising in cases of “extreme urgency brought about by events unforeseeable by the contracting authority”. The majority of COVID-19 related contracts were awarded using Regulation 32(2)(c) with the remainder using other procedures under the 2015 Regulations which allow for a direct award without tendering such as call-offs from pre-tendered framework contracts.

**Gareth Thomas:**[\[64531\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what information he holds on the number of occurrences civil servants in his Department raised concerns regarding the price paid for personal protective equipment from February 2020 to August 2020; and if he will make a statement.

**Edward Argar:**

HM Treasury put in place measures to protect the taxpayer from mispricing. A central log of concerns regarding pricing was not created.

**■ Coronavirus: Screening****Mr Barry Sheerman:**[\[56266\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to ensure that lateral flow tests for covid-19 are (a) available and (b) accessible.

**Maggie Throup:**

Lateral flow tests are available at asymptomatic test sites and home test kits can be ordered online, by phoning 119, or collected from over 90% of pharmacies across England. Rapid lateral flow testing instructions in English, Welsh and 14 other languages widely and English easy read and large print versions are available online.

**John Lamont:**[\[56671\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what estimate he has made of the cost to the Government of providing covid-19 testing in Scotland.

**Maggie Throup:**

We are unable to provide the information requested as it is commercially sensitive.

**Wera Hobhouse:**[\[64706\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, for what reason a collect code requirement has been implemented for collecting lateral flow tests from pharmacies.

**Maggie Throup:**

This code enables the Department to track test kit distribution, send reminders to submit results, identify take up and assist the Medicines and Healthcare products

Regulatory Agency in case of a batch recall. While a collect code is encouraged, people can still pick up test kits from pharmacies without one.

## ■ Coronavirus: Vaccination

**Dr Rupa Huq:**

[\[53973\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what recent assessment he has made of the potential merits of using the free flu jab list to identify people eligible for priority access to the covid-19 booster jab.

**Maggie Throup:**

*[Holding answer 18 October 2021]:* The clinical risk groups for influenza were initially considered as a potential way to identify and prioritise individuals at risk of COVID-19 when recommendations for phase one of the vaccination programme were developed.

However, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation's advice for the COVID-19 booster vaccine programme recommended offering vaccination to priority groups one to nine in phase one of the vaccination programme, as they received their primary course approximately six months ago.

**Tim Loughton:**

[\[56544\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment his Department has made of the impact of changes to the criteria for covid-19 booster vaccinations on people with asthma.

**Maggie Throup:**

*[Holding answer 20 October 2021]:* On 14 September 2021, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation advised that individuals who were vaccinated in phase one of the COVID-19 vaccination programme should be offered a booster vaccine. This includes those in the chronic respiratory disease (CRD) clinical risk group. In phase one, those with asthma needing continuous or repeated use of systemic steroids or required hospital admission were included in the CRD risk group.

On 16 September, the Green Book definition of asthma was updated to state that those with 'poorly controlled asthma' would be eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose. This includes individuals who have had two or more courses of oral corticosteroids in the preceding 24 months; or are on maintenance oral corticosteroids; or have had one or more hospital admission(s) for asthma in the preceding 24 months. A specific assessment of the impact of the revised definition of poorly controlled asthma has not been made.

**Daisy Cooper:**

[\[56559\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what discussions he is having with his Scottish counterpart on ensuring that covid-19 vaccinations from anywhere in the UK can be recognised by both the Scottish and English apps for the purposes of proving covid-19 vaccination status for international travel.

**Maggie Throup:**

Ministers have regular discussions with the devolved administrations on a range of issues, including COVID Pass interoperability and alignment. Digital and non-digital solutions are now available in every nation of the United Kingdom, depending on where a patient is registered with their general practitioner.

We have now established bi-directional vaccine record data flows between England and Wales, Scotland and the Isle of Man, which allows users to demonstrate their vaccination status through both the NHS COVID Pass and the Scottish COVID Pass.

**Chris Grayling:**[\[56819\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, for what reason the Government will not recognise covid-19 vaccine records from Sri Lanka.

**Maggie Throup:**

We are taking a phased approach to our inbound vaccination programme with other countries and territories, building on the success of the pilot with the United States and Europe. Vaccine certification between countries and territories varies and we are ensuring that certificates and apps meet our minimum requirements on content and that carriers are clear about the certification we will accept. Sri Lanka's vaccine certification will be considered in the future expansion of the policy.

**Dame Diana Johnson:**[\[59744\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to the latest covid-19 statistics which show that 6.2 per cent of 12 to 15 year old school pupils in Hull and East Yorkshire have had a covid-19 jab compared to the national average of 14.4 per cent, what steps he is taking to improve covid-19 vaccine uptake in Hull amongst that age group.

**Maggie Throup:**

*[Holding answer 25 October 2021]:* School children aged 12 to 15 years old in the Hull and East Yorkshire region, including those being home-schooled, were contacted before the October half-term offering a COVID-19 vaccination. Some schools in the region have already provided vaccination clinic dates to pupils and parents. In addition, the National Health Service is working with healthcare providers in all of the local authority areas of Humber Coast and Vale, including Hull, to prepare appointments for 12 to 15 year olds outside of school hours.

**Jim Shannon:**[\[60417\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he plans to take to help ensure that people attend their appointments for the covid-19 booster vaccine.

**Maggie Throup:**

NHS England are contacting those eligible for a COVID-19 booster vaccine inviting them to book an appointment by either calling 119 or online. If an eligible individual has not been contacted at six months and one week since their second dose, they are invited to book their appointment via the National Booking Service without the need of an invitation letter. NHS England's National Immunisation Management

System sends reminders via text or letter to anyone who has not been vaccinated, or who has not booked an appointment through the National Booking Service.

The COVID-19 vaccination programme works with regional teams and local health systems to ensure good and timely access to vaccination appointments, with more clinics administering vaccines, including pharmacies, general practitioner practices and other convenient community sites. A national 'BOOST your immunity this winter' campaign has launched, setting out the importance of the COVID-19 booster and flu vaccines this winter. We are also providing advice and information to address any questions about the vaccination process.

**Julian Sturdy:**

[\[62712\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment his Department has made of the risk of waning covid-19 vaccine immunity posed to people who were vaccinated early to prevent the wastage of doses and who are too young to receive a booster vaccine under the current criteria.

**Maggie Throup:**

The United Kingdom Health Security Agency observed limited waning in vaccine effectiveness against hospitalisation and death more than 20 weeks post-vaccination with Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) or Comirnaty (Pfizer). This was less evident in younger adults not in a clinical risk group, suggesting that if such individuals were vaccinated early, they should still be protected for longer than older individuals.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation advised that booster vaccines should be offered to those more at risk from serious disease and who were vaccinated during phase one of the programme in priority groups one to nine.

Younger, healthy individuals may be expected to generate stronger vaccine-induced immune responses from primary course vaccination compared to older individuals.

**Catherine West:**

[\[64704\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will make it his policy to ensure that pregnant women will be a priority group for the covid-19 booster jab programme.

**Maggie Throup:**

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advises that women who are pregnant should be offered vaccination at the same time as non-pregnant women, based on their age and clinical risk group. As such, pregnancy alone is not currently a cause for prioritisation for a COVID-19 booster dose at this time. The JCVI will review data as it emerges and consider further advice on booster vaccinations in the rest of the population.

## ■ Dementia

**Rachael Maskell:**

[\[58951\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what (a) staffing and (b) budget has been allocated to work on dementia within his Department.

**Gillian Keegan:**

*[Holding answer 22 October 2021]:* The information is not held in the format requested. Work on dementia involves staffing and budgets across multiple teams within the Department, including those focused on dementia policy, research and prevention, as well as social care reform.

**■ Department of Health and Social Care: Staff****Rachael Maskell:**[\[58949\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many civil servants were employed in his Department to work on (a) dementia, (b) heart disease and (c) cancer in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2015.

**Edward Argar:**

*[Holding answer 22 October 2021]:* The information requested is not held centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

**■ Diabetes: Blood Tests****Ruth Cadbury:**[\[64638\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the number of blood tests being administered for patients with diabetes by NHS England.

**Maria Caulfield:**

No formal assessment has been made.

However, the National Diabetes Audit provides data on completion of key care processes for diabetic patients, including blood tests. It shows that between 2016 and 2020 we saw significant improvement in the completion of these processes. As a result of the pandemic, we have seen a reduction in face to face checks. However, we are providing £2 billion to address the backlog in all services.

**■ Down's Syndrome****Damien Moore:**[\[63870\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to help ensure people with Down Syndrome have access to appropriate (a) healthcare, (b) education and (c) social care throughout their lives.

**Gillian Keegan:**

We are trialling the Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training programme to improve awareness and understanding of learning disability, including Down syndrome, for all health and social care staff. We have committed to investing an additional £5.4 billion over three years to begin a comprehensive programme of reform for adult social care, including an extension of the established Disabled Facilities Grant. The Government is taking forward a review to improve outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), including those with Down

syndrome, with a focus on preparing them for later life and adulthood. We will publish proposals for full public consultation in the coming months. In addition, the Spending Review committed £2.6 billion over the next three years for school places for children and young people with SEND, more than tripling current capital funding levels to over £900 million by 2024-25.

## ■ Dyslexia: Diagnosis

**Kim Leadbeater:**

[\[56693\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether his Department has any plans for the NHS to provide dyslexia diagnosis services.

**Gillian Keegan:**

We have no plans to do so. Assessments are currently provided through Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) services by an educational psychologist or an appropriately qualified specialist dyslexia teacher. We are currently reviewing the provision of SEND services, including those for dyslexia, to ensure that needs can be identified as early as possible.

## ■ Eating Disorders: Mental Health Services

**Mr Barry Sheerman:**

[\[56786\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to improve the quality of provision for eating disorder patients in West Yorkshire.

**Gillian Keegan:**

In West Yorkshire, the CONNECT service provides early intervention, outpatient, inpatient and intensive home-based treatment for people with eating disorders aged 18 years old and over. Patients receive evidence-based interventions, reporting a high degree of patient satisfaction and positive outcomes. Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust leads the service as part of the West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership's mental health, learning disability and autism collaborative. Where people do not meet the criteria for the regional tertiary services, the regional service will work with local community mental health teams to undertake joint assessments and provide direct clinical intervention and consultancy as required.

In 2021/22, clinical commissioning groups in West Yorkshire have prioritised investment into children and young people eating disorder services to increase staffing capacity and ensure access and waiting time standards can be met.

## ■ Elective Recovery Fund

**Rachael Maskell:**

[\[56468\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will publish the Trusts that have met the criteria for the Elective Recovery Fund.

**Edward Argar:**

*[Holding answer 20 October 2021]:* The Elective Recovery Fund is operated and measured by NHS England at an integrated care system level and funding is earned by systems which have met the criteria, rather than individual trusts. All systems have met the criteria for the Elective Recovery Fund in at least one month so far in 2021-22.

**Fractures****Jonathan Ashworth:**[\[63727\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking with the NHS to improve prevention of falls and fractures, particularly for people with osteoporosis.

**Gillian Keegan:**

NHS England and NHS Improvement's Best MSK Health Collaborative Pathway Improvement Programme issued a high impact restoration strategy, which includes a recommendation for systems to optimise secondary prevention of fragility fractures by ensuring equitable provision of and access to, quality assured fracture liaison services.

The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) are leading a programme to promote reconditioning and improve prevention of falls and fractures. This includes raising awareness and promoting the Chief Medical Officer's strength and balance exercise guidelines with members of the National Falls Prevention Coordination Group, chaired by NHS England and NHS Improvement.

**Health and Social Care Levy****John Redwood:**[\[56710\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how much and what proportion of the Government's planned rise in National Insurance he plans to spend on reducing NHS waiting lists.

**Edward Argar:**

The Government plans to spend more than £8 billion from 2022-23 to 2024-25 to tackle elective waiting lists. We are working closely with NHS England and NHS Improvement to develop a plan for how that funding will be used and we will publish a delivery plan for elective recovery later this year.

**Health Services: Females****Dame Diana Johnson:**[\[64556\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, when the Women's Health Strategy will be published.



**Maria Caulfield:**

*[Holding answer 1 November 2021]:* We are currently analysing the responses to the call for evidence which will inform the priorities, content and actions of the new Women's Health Strategy. We will publish the Strategy in due course.

**Human Papillomavirus: Vaccination****Caroline Nokes:**[\[57000\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what recent progress has been made on the HPV vaccination catch-up programme.

**Maggie Throup:**

NHS England and its providers continue to follow the advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation regarding human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccinations. The National Health Service is prioritising the first dose of HPV vaccine for all those eligible whilst addressing immunisations that have been missed. NHS providers are digitalising consent processes, using closed school estates and a range of alternative community settings to deliver vaccines where appropriate. NHS England has also been working closely with the Department of Education to ensure that schools facilitate the continuation of vaccinations where possible.

**Integrated Care Systems: Finance****Rachael Maskell:**[\[63768\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how his Department plans to allocate funding to Integrated Care Systems; and whether he plans to introduce a new funding formula to support that allocation.

**Edward Argar:**

Through NHS England, future allocations to integrated care boards (ICBs) will be based on supporting equal opportunity of access, contributing to the reduction of health inequalities and how quickly ICBs can move towards their target allocations.

Our approach will continue to be informed by the independent Advisory Committee on Resource Allocations and the established clinical commissioning group allocation formula.

**Rachael Maskell:**[\[63769\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what guidance he is issuing to Integrated Care Systems on how they distribute their funding across their footprint.

**Edward Argar:**

NHS England will determine how funding will be distributed to integrated care boards (ICBs).

The approach will continue to be informed by the independent Advisory Committee on Resource Allocations and the established clinical commissioning group allocation formula.

NHS England has recently published supporting information on the management of National Health Service resources by ICBs, which is available at the following link:

<https://nhsproviders.org/resource-library/briefings/management-of-nhs-resources-by-integrated-care-boards-icbs>

NHS England will also publish formal guidance to support local NHS planning for 2022-23. ICB allocations are published in full by NHS England alongside guidance and background material. ICB allocations for 2022-23 will be published as part of 2022-23 Operational Planning Guidance.

## ■ **Members: Correspondence**

**Feryal Clark:** [57446]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, when he plans to respond to the correspondence dated 4 August 2021 from the Hon. Member for Enfield North on Medicus Health Partners, a partnership of GP surgeries operating in Enfield, reference FC9166.

**Edward Argar:**

We replied to the hon. Member on 25 October 2021.

**Robert Largan:** [59118]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, when he plans to respond to the enquiry from the hon. Member for High Peak dated 12 August 2021, reference RL25674.

**Edward Argar:**

We replied to the hon. member on 28 October.

**Robert Largan:** [59121]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, when he plans to respond to the enquiry from the hon. Member for High Peak of 29 June 2021, reference RL24040.

**Edward Argar:**

We replied to the hon. Member on 28 October 2021.

## ■ **Mental Health Services: Veterans**

**Liz Saville Roberts:** [60482]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what estimate he has made of the number of veterans that have received mental health support in each of the last five years.

**Gillian Keegan:**

*[Holding answer 26 October 2021]:* Veterans in England can access mental health support through Operation Courage Transition, Intervention and Liaison Service (TILS), the veteran's specialist mental health service and the NHS Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) service. The data for veterans accessing TILS and IAPT in each of the last five years is shown in the following table.

FINANCIAL YEAR	NUMBER OF TILS ASSESSMENTS	TOTAL NUMBER IN RECEIPT OF
		TILS/ IAPT TREATMENT
2017/2018	1,649	17,271
2018/2019	2,120	18,033
2019/2020	2,569	18,375
2020/2021	2,391	10,793
April to August 2021	1,052	4,294

It should be noted that IAPT data reports veterans who received treatment and declared their veteran status.

## ■ NHS

**Alex Sobel:**

[\[63866\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what criteria are used for declaring the NHS as overwhelmed at an unsustainable level.

**Edward Argar:**

The Government monitors all the relevant data on a regular basis and will make a judgement based on a range of indicators, informed by advice from the Government's scientific and clinical experts.

## ■ Nutrition: Regulation

**Julie Elliott:**

[\[63725\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of recommendation 16, and its sub-recommendations, from the Taskforce on Innovation, Growth and Regulatory Reform report, published 16 June 2021, in respect of regulation of nutraceuticals.

**Maggie Throup:**

*[Holding answer 2 November 2021]:* The Department has reviewed this recommendation and concluded that the United Kingdom already has in place the legislation and processes required for the regulation of such products. These are placed into various existing product categories such as food supplements, novel foods, additives, enzymes, flavouring used in foods, foods for specific groups and medicines.

## ■ Paediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders

**Kim Leadbeater:**

[\[56577\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to dedicate funding and resource to the research and treatment of Paediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections.

**Gillian Keegan:**

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) has advised that no research into paediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections (PANDAS) is currently being funded through its coordinating centres. However, the NIHR welcomes funding applications from patients, carers, clinicians, healthcare workers, service managers and researchers for research into any aspect of human health. Although it is not usual practice to ring-fence funds for particular topics or conditions, applications are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made on the basis of the importance of the topic to patients and health and care services, value for money and scientific quality.

Assessment, investigation, diagnostic formulation and treatment of children with this condition requires the involvement of multidisciplinary teams, including paediatric specialists and children's mental health teams with the relevant expertise. Training on PANDAS is included in the Royal College of Paediatric and Child Health's curriculum.

## ■ Restricted Growth: Children

**Sarah Champion:**

[\[63734\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether his Department records cases of stunting in children under five years old.

**Maggie Throup:**

Data on cases of stunting in all children aged under five years old is not collected centrally.

## ■ Social Services

**Helen Hayes:**

[\[63802\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what discussions he is having with the social care sector on (a) staffing levels, (b) funding and (c) impacts of covid-19 as part of a winter plan for social care.

**Gillian Keegan:**

The Adult Social Care: Winter Plan 2021 to 2022 will be published shortly and draws on the recommendations of the stakeholder-led review of last year's Winter Plan. We hold weekly discussions with adult social care employers, representative organisations and local authorities about issues affecting the sector, including staffing levels, funding and wider impacts of COVID-19.

We are investing over £550 million until 31 March 2022 to support the implementation of measures to support the adult social care sector in the Winter Plan. This includes a

£388.3 million extension to the Infection Control and Testing Fund and £162.5 million through the new Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund. This brings specific funding for adult social care to more than £2.5 billion during the pandemic.

**Helen Hayes:** [\[63803\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will set out a timeframe for publishing a 2021-22 winter plan for social care.

**Gillian Keegan:**

The Adult Social Care: Winter plan 2021 to 2022 will be published shortly.

## ■ Social Services: Private Sector

**Rachael Maskell:** [\[53950\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he will take with the HMRC and the Pensions Regulator to alert the CQC of the financial liabilities of private providers when wage payments or pension contributions are not honoured by private care providers.

**Rachael Maskell:** [\[53954\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the process by which information is shared between the CQC, the Pensions Regulator, HMRC and HSE in the event that concerns about the financial or operational matters of private care providers are raised with one or more of those regulatory authorities.

**Gillian Keegan:**

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) Market Oversight Scheme, set up under the Care Act 2014, assesses the financial sustainability of potentially difficult to replace adult social care providers. Where a significant risk to financial sustainability is identified, the CQC's Market Oversight team may approach HM Revenue and Customs and the Pensions Regulator to obtain and assess third party assurance and to understand actions available to those regulators; these would likely relate to arrears for taxes and pensions contributions.

When the CQC receives information of concern, it will assess the information, consider next steps and if appropriate, share with other third parties. The CQC and the Health and Safety Executive have agreed a Memorandum of Understanding, with the support of the Local Government Association, to share relevant intelligence and enforcement data. The CQC would share relevant information with local authorities. Providers are also obliged to notify the CQC of any disruption in delivering regulated activity.

For providers outside the scope of the Market Oversight Scheme applying for registration or re-registration, the CQC considers any issues identified regarding the past non-payment of wages or pensions, with any other relevant regulatory history of the applicant. However, the payment of wages and pensions is principally a matter between an employer and its employees.

## ■ Social Services: South East

**Mr Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi:**

[\[59931\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment he has made of (a) the impact and (b) adequacy of the availability of care sector staff on the quality of care for residents in (i) Slough and (ii) the South East.

**Gillian Keegan:**

*[Holding answer 25 October 2021]:* No specific assessment has been made. The quality of care, including in relation to staffing, is regulated by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). To comply with the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014, service providers must deploy enough qualified, competent, skilled and experienced staff to ensure they are able to meet all CQC regulatory requirements and their service users' needs at all times.

## ■ Travel: Coronavirus

**Bell Ribeiro-Addy:**

[\[57353\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will add those African nations being supplied with UK-approved vaccines for covid-19 to the list of countries with approved proof of vaccination for travel to England.

**Maggie Throup:**

Fully vaccinated arrivals from a number of African countries, including Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria and South Africa, currently meet the definition of 'eligible traveller' and are subject to reduced testing and quarantine requirements.

We are working with international partners to continue the expansion of the policy to other countries and territories in a phased approach, where this meets our certification requirements. The extension of vaccine certification is reviewed regularly.

**Stephen Farry:**

[\[57466\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of requiring PCR testing for inward bound travel into the UK to identify residual infection from previous covid-19 illnesses and necessitate additional isolation periods for recovered individuals.

**Maggie Throup:**

No assessment has been made. It is possible for polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests to remain positive for some time after infection despite the individual not being infectious. Anyone who has previously received a positive PCR test result should not be re-tested within 90 days, unless they develop any new symptoms of COVID-19.

**■ Vitamin D****Mark Tami:** [\[56813\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what comparative assessment his Department has made of guidance on vitamin D consumption issued in the (a) UK, (b) US and (c) EU.

**Maggie Throup:**

In 2016, the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) published a review of the evidence on vitamin D and a wide range of health outcomes. This included consideration of the approach taken by the Institute of Medicine in the United States in setting dietary reference intakes for vitamin D. In 2016, the SACN and the European Food Safety Authority published a joint explanatory note outlining their dietary reference values (DRVs) for vitamin D.

The SACN noted that for assessments carried out in the United Kingdom, US and the European Union, serum concentration of 25-hydroxyvitamin D (25(OH)D) continues to be the best indicator of exposure to vitamin D from skin synthesis and dietary intake, and is used to derive DRVs for vitamin D. However, the evidence considered for setting a target concentration of 25(OH)D, as the basis for setting DRVs, is not the same.

**HOME OFFICE****■ Asylum: Temporary Accommodation****Bambos Charalambous:** [\[66250\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers were living in contingency accommodation across the UK as at 1 October 2021.

**Bambos Charalambous:** [\[66251\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers were living in (a) hotels, (b) hostels, (c) military barracks and (d) other types of temporary or contingency accommodation as at 1 October 2021.

**Bambos Charalambous:** [\[66252\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers living in hotels or hostels were (a) single men, (b) single women, (c) accompanied children with parent or guardian and (d) unaccompanied minors on 1 October 2021.

**Bambos Charalambous:** [\[66253\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers living in hotels or hostels had been in contingency accommodation for (a) 35 days or less, (b) more than 35 days, (c) more than three months, (d) more than six months, (e) more than 12 months, (f) more than 18 months or (g) more than two years, as at 1 October 2021.



**Kevin Foster:**

The latest published Immigration Statistics detail the number of asylum seekers accommodated in each local authority area. These statistics can be found at [Asylum and resettlement datasets - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets).

Data is published on a quarterly basis, with the latest information published 22 August 2021. The next quarterly figures are due to be released later this month.

The Home Office does not publish a breakdown of these statistics which disaggregates the number of asylum seekers accommodated in specific accommodation, as these figures are not available in a reportable format and to provide the information could only be done at disproportionate cost.

**Bambos Charalambous:**[\[66254\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum-seeking unaccompanied or accompanied children were living in hotels or hostels had been in contingency accommodation for (a) 35 days or less, (b) more than 35 days, (c) more than three months, (d) more than six months, (e) more than one year or (f) more than two years, as at 1 October 2021.

**Kevin Foster:**

The transfer of minors from hotel accommodation or contingency accommodation into Local Authority care is fluid and evolving and data is not held in a reportable way, to provide them could only be done at a disproportionate cost. We publish statistics on how many unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors are transferred into Local Authority care at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2021>

**■ Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence****Tony Lloyd:**[\[63655\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will provide details of the outstanding issues preventing the UK's ratification of the Istanbul Convention; and what steps the Government is taking to bring forward (a) legislative or (b) other proposals to enable the ratification of that convention.

**Rachel Maclean:**

The UK signed the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) in 2012, signalling our strong commitment to tackling violence against women and girls.

This Government remains committed to ratifying the Convention as soon as possible.

**■ Drugs: Organised Crime****Rachael Maskell:**[\[66216\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to tackle county lines drugs gangs.

**Rachael Maskell:** [\[66219\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what operational support her Department provides for police forces to (a) identify and (b) tackle county lines drugs gangs.

**Rachael Maskell:** [\[66220\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much and what proportion of her Department's budget is allocated to tackling county lines drugs gangs.

**Rachael Maskell:** [\[66221\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions she has had with international partners on tackling county lines drugs gangs.

**Rachael Maskell:** [\[66223\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to help prevent (a) county lines and (b) other drug dealing operations to liaise online.

**Kit Malthouse:**

This Government is determined to crack down on the county lines gangs who are exploiting our children and have a devastating impact on our communities. That is why we are investing a dedicated £40m this year to tackle drugs supply and county lines and surge our activity against these ruthless gangs bringing our total dedicated investment to over £65m since November 2019.

Tackling drugs supply and county lines is a key priority for police and law enforcement agencies who receive core funding to respond to a range of serious and organised crime threats, including drugs supply. In total, the Home Office budget for 21/22 is £14.2bn, which includes funding for policing and fire, securing the borders and controlling immigration and issuing passports and visas.

The £40m investment provided this financial year has allowed us to expand and build upon our successful County Lines Programme which, since launching in November 2019, has already seen more than 1,500 lines closed, over 7,400 arrests, £4.3 million in cash and significant quantities of drugs seized, and more than 4,000 vulnerable people safeguarded.

Our programme investment includes funding the National County Lines Co-ordination Centre to improve the intelligence picture and co-ordinate the national law enforcement response. We have also increased disruption on the rail networks through the British Transport Police's dedicated County Lines Taskforce and directly fund police intensification in the top three exporting areas (the Metropolitan Police Service, Merseyside Police, and West Midlands Police). In addition, this year we have established a dedicated fund to help local police forces tackle the scourge of county lines. We are also funding specialist support for young people at risk of county lines exploitation and their families.

Lastly, we are funding the MPS-led Social Media Hub which brings together a dedicated team of police officers and staff who work with Social Media platforms to

tackle gang related serious violence perpetrated online, including county lines activity.

County lines drug dealing is a domestic issue, so our engagement with international partners on this is limited. However, we engage with the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime and other international partners on a range of drug policy issues.

**Rachael Maskell:** [\[66217\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to support people exploited by county lines drugs gangs.

**Rachael Maskell:** [\[66218\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to prevent exploitation of vulnerable people by county lines drugs gangs.

**Rachael Maskell:** [\[66222\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to help ensure young people are not being exploited across County Lines.

**Kit Malthouse:**

The Government is committed to the prevention of county lines exploitation and to supporting children, young people and the most vulnerable in our society who are affected by it. On 20 January this year, we announced £40m of dedicated investment for 2021/22 to tackle drugs supply and county lines, doubling our investment from the previous year.

Since it was launched, in November 2019, our county lines programme has resulted in 1,500 line closures, 7,400 arrests and more than 4,000 vulnerable people safeguarded as part of police and law enforcement action to bring those responsible to justice and protect the vulnerable.

In addition, we also provide £1m of specialist support to under 25s from London, the West Midlands and Merseyside who are criminally exploited through county lines, to help them safely reduce and exit their involvement. This includes a rescue service to support the safe return home of these vulnerable young people who are identified outside their home areas in connection with county lines.

We are also continuing to fund Missing People's SafeCall service. This national service provides specialist advice and support to young people and a range of support options to their parents/carers who are affected by county lines exploitation.

## ■ Fireworks

**Peter Gibson:** [\[62852\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what support her Department is offering to local police services to help tackle the use of illegal fireworks.

**Kit Malthouse:**

*[Holding answer 2 November 2021]:* There is a comprehensive legislative framework in place which provides Local Authority Trading Standards and the Police with the powers to control the sale, availability and use of fireworks, as well as setting a curfew and noise limit. Current legislation restricts retailers to only selling consumer fireworks during certain seasonal celebrations and they may only supply fireworks outside these periods if they obtain a license from their local licensing authority.

Local Authority Trading Standards will work with retailers to ensure fireworks which they sell are safe. They also have powers to enforce against those who place non-compliant fireworks on the market, including those imported illegally or via the internet, or those selling fireworks without an appropriate license.

**■ Immigration Bail: North West**

**Afzal Khan:** [\[63872\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people are on immigration bail in (a) Manchester, Gorton constituency, (b) Manchester, (c) Greater Manchester and (d) the North West of England.

**Afzal Khan:** [\[63873\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people on immigration bail are currently subject to a reporting condition in (a) Manchester Gorton, (b) Manchester, (c) Greater Manchester and (d) in the North West of England.

**Afzal Khan:** [\[63874\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people on immigration bail are under the age of 18, including those whose age is disputed and assert that their age is under 18, who are living in (a) Manchester Gorton, (b) Manchester, (c) Greater Manchester and (d) the North West of England as at 26 October 2021.

**Afzal Khan:** [\[63875\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people under the age of 18, including those whose age is disputed and assert that their age is under 18, are on immigration bail and subject to a reporting condition in (a) Manchester Gorton, (b) Manchester, (c) Greater Manchester and (d) the North West of England as at 26 October 2021.

**Afzal Khan:** [\[63876\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people subject to a reporting condition are in the care of local authorities in (a) Manchester Gorton, (b) Manchester, (c) Manchester Gorton and (d) in the North West as a (i) looked-after child and (ii) care leaver on 26 October 2021.

**Afzal Khan:**

**[63877]**

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people subject to reporting conditions have dependent children in (a) Manchester Gorton, (b) Manchester, (c) Greater Manchester and (d) the North West as at 26 October 2021.

**Tom Pursglove:**

BAIL CONDITIONS ARE IMPOSED WHERE AN INDIVIDUAL WITHOUT VALID LEAVE TO REMAIN IN THE UK COMES INTO CONTACT WITH IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT (IE) AND ARE NOT IMMINENTLY REMOVABLE. FOR EXAMPLE, WHERE A LEGAL BARRIER OR LACK OF TRAVEL DOCUMENT PREVENTS THEIR RETURN. THE INDIVIDUAL WOULD BE PLACED ON REPORTING. THIS IS A FORM OF CONTACT MANAGEMENT, WHEREBY INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND A REPORTING CENTRE (MANAGED BY IE) OR A POLICE STATION ON A REGULAR BASIS. UKVI, ASYLUM, CRIMINAL CASEWORK, REMOVAL CASEWORK AND ICE ALL FEED CASES INTO THE REPORTING POPULATION. THE FREQUENCY AT WHICH AN OFFENDER REPORTS IS BASED ON THEIR REMOVABILITY, THE RISK THEY POSE TO THE PUBLIC AND THEIR VULNERABILITY. THERE ARE 14 REPORTING CENTRES THROUGHOUT THE UK AND OVER 100 POLICE STATIONS WHERE INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT. THESE ARE SERVICED BY C.210 FULL TIME-EQUIVALENT (FTE). WHEN ATTENDING A REPORTING EVENT, AN INDIVIDUAL MAY BE INTERVIEWED TO GATHER INFORMATION THAT ALLOWS IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT TO APPLY FOR A TRAVEL DOCUMENT AND MAKE A DECISION ON AN OUTSTANDING APPLICATION OR PROMOTE A VOLUNTARY RETURN. WHEN AN INDIVIDUAL BECOMES REMOVABLE, THEY MAY BE DETAINED AT A REPORTING CENTRE OR A POLICE STATION WHEN THEY NEXT REPORT. SIGNIFICANT CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE TO BAIL CONDITIONS, AND TO REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, CONSIDERING THE EVOLUTION OF THE CURRENT PANDEMIC. WE DO NOT ROUTINELY PUBLISH THE INFORMATION THAT HAS BEEN REQUESTED, HOWEVER, REQUIRING A CHILD TO REPORT WILL BE RARE AND THE DECISION WILL BE MADE ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS BY THE REPORTING AND OFFENDER MANAGEMENT TEAMS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT [EVERY CHILD MATTERS: STATUTORY GUIDANCE](#) AND THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD. HOME OFFICE DEFINES AN AGE DISPUTE CASE AS ONE WHERE AN INDIVIDUAL CLAIMS TO BE A CHILD. THE CATEGORIES SUCH AS CREDIBLE AND CLEAR DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE THAT THEY ARE 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OVER OR PRIOR TO DETENTION GAVE A DATE OF BIRTH THAT WOULD MAKE THEM AN ADULT AND/OR STATED THEY WERE AN ADULT; AND ONLY CLAIMED TO BE A CHILD AFTER A DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN ON THEIR ASYLUM CLAIM, ENTRY TO THE UK OR IMMIGRATION STATUS DO NOT APPLY. THE INDIVIDUAL IS UNABLE TO PROVE HE/SHE IS UNDER 18 YEARS OLD AND IS AWAITING A MERTON COMPLIANT AGE ASSESSMENT TO CONFIRM THEIR AGE. IT'S ALSO IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT DUE TO THE ONGOING COVID-19 PANDEMIC, WE INTRODUCED INTERIM GUIDANCE ON REPORTING FOR INDIVIDUALS WHICH MEANS THAT NOT EVERYBODY WITHIN THE REPORTING POPULATION IS CURRENTLY REQUIRED TO REPORT IN-PERSON. THERE IS NO CHANGE TO THE CASE WORKING PROCESS. CASEWORKERS MAKE DECISIONS REGARDING WHO IS REQUIRED TO ATTEND A REPORTING CENTRE ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE. CASEWORKERS EVALUATE EACH CASE BASED ON UP TO DATE CIRCUMSTANCES AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW. THE DECISION IS MADE TO SET UP REPORTING IN LINE WITH THE EXISTING BAIL AND REPORTING POLICIES AS WELL AS THE NEW INTERIM REPORTING GUIDANCE. BASED ON RECENT DATA ONLY A VERY SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THE REPORTING POPULATION ARE CURRENTLY REQUIRED TO REPORT IN-PERSON AS A CONDITION OF BAIL AT THIS TIME. INITIALLY, THERE WAS A TEMPORARY SUSPENSION ON IN-PERSON REPORTING FOR THOSE WHO WOULD OTHERWISE BE REQUIRED TO REPORT, WHICH WAS APPLIED FROM 17 MARCH 2020. FOLLOWING THE INTRODUCTION OF LARGE-SCALE TESTING AND A REDUCTION IN THE RATES OF TRANSMISSION, AND IN LIGHT OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVICE AS TO THE MEASURES THAT COULD BE IMPLEMENTED TO ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY, REPORTING CENTRES THEN RE-OPENED, INITIALLY THROUGH TWO PILOT SCHEMES COMMENCING ON 20 JULY 2020, AND THEN THROUGH OTHER CENTRES. COVID-19 RISK ASSESSMENTS AND SAFE SYSTEMS OF WORKING WERE INTRODUCED, TOGETHER WITH OTHER SAFETY MEASURES, INCLUDING, WHERE APPROPRIATE, AN ADJUSTMENT OF THE TIME SLOTS FOR REPORTING. FOLLOWING THE INTRODUCTION OF FURTHER NATIONAL RESTRICTIONS IN NOVEMBER 2020 AND JANUARY 2021, THE HOME OFFICE'S APPROACH WAS REVIEWED AND REVISED AGAIN, AS REFLECTED IN THE LATEST COVID-19 INTERIM GUIDANCE, "REPORTING AND OFFENDER MANAGEMENT – INTERIM GUIDANCE" (VERSION 3.0). CURRENTLY

The position is kept under on-going review, having regard to public health considerations as well as the public interest in the maintenance of immigration control.

## ■ Immigration: Windrush Generation

**Yvette Cooper:**

[\[62616\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to Recommendation Three of the Windrush Lessons Learned Review, how many events with the Windrush generation have taken place with a focus on reconciliation and in the presence of (a) trained facilitators and/or specialist services and (b) senior Home Office staff and ministers.

**Priti Patel:**

*[Holding answer 28 October 2021]:* Community grassroots engagement has been key to delivering our messages to the people we know we need to reach.

Since 2018, we have held approximately 200 community engagement and outreach events across the country. These community events include one-to-one surgeries to help people apply for documentation to the Windrush Scheme and public community engagement events to raise awareness of the Windrush Schemes.

## ■ Migrant Workers: Large Goods Vehicle Driver

**Tim Farron:**

[\[63690\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications were (a) made and (b) granted under the fuel tanker driver concession visa, which closed on 15 October 2021.

**Kevin Foster:**

On 1 October, the Home Office stood up at pace an emergency arrangement for HGV drivers in the fuels supply sector. This arrangement permitted fully licensed and qualified drivers, identified by the fuel transport sector and endorsed by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, to take up employment in the UK on a temporary basis. The arrangement closed on 15 October 2021.

The rapid deployment of this arrangement necessitated applications for leave to enter be considered at the border, and as a result this group is not discretely captured within published Home Office data.

This arrangement formed part of a wider response to issues in the supply chain. The UK Government is working with the haulage sector to promote jobs, training and a range of other initiatives to get more people into HGV driving.

Like other sectors the focus should be on training and recruiting from the UK based workforce in the first instance, especially given the impact of the pandemic resulting in more UK based workers looking for new employment. Reported shortages of HGV



drivers across the EU and much of the developed world also indicate the ability to recruit abroad is no guarantee of being able to do so.

## ■ Money Laundering

**Kevin Hollinrake:**

[62779]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what total value of (a) fines have been imposed and (b) assets confiscated as a result of action taken by the National Crime Agency in relation to money laundering and other economic crime in each of the last five years.

**Damian Hinds:**

[Holding answer 2 November 2021]: The National Crime Agency do not issue or collect court fines.

For assets confiscated by the National Crime Agency see the Annual Asset Recovery Statistical Bulletin 2020/21 published in September, which contains data going back to 2016. This is available here: [Asset recovery statistical bulletin: financial years ending 2016 to 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/asset-recovery-statistical-bulletin-financial-years-ending-2016-to-2021)

## ■ National Crime Agency: Staff

**Kevin Hollinrake:**

[62781]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish the (a) budget, (b) headcount, and (c) the number of accreditations issued to financial investigators for each year in the last five years by the National Crime Agency's Proceeds of Crime Centre.

**Kit Malthouse:**

[Holding answer 2 November 2021]: (a) budget

The total spending of the Proceeds of Crime Centre (POCC) over in each of the last five financial years is in the table below. This covers a range of costs, for example pay, overtime, travel, training delivery costs.

FINANCIAL YEAR	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22 (YEAR TO DATE[1])
£	982,365	962,650	874,568	937,167	501,138

### (b) headcount

The headcount of the POCC now, and at the end of the preceding four financial years, and the year to date is in the table below.

	MARCH 2018	MARCH 2019	MARCH 2020	MARCH 2021	OCTOBER 2021
Staff in post	14	15	16	18	20

**(c) number of accreditations**

The number of new accreditations given to Financial Investigators (FIs) by the POCC is set out below. The POCC also provides accredited FIs with Continuous Professional Development assurance and advice. In addition the POCC does a variety of work beyond new accreditations for FIs, including accreditations to non-FIs, providing non-accredited training, and acting as expert advisers across Law Enforcement.

FINANCIAL YEAR	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22 (YEAR TO DATE[2])
Financial Investigators accredited	201	241	151	119	140
Confiscators* accredited	143	118	83	51	47

\*Confiscator accreditation can be gained by experienced FIs in order to hold additional powers.

[1] As of the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021

[2] As of 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021

## ■ Passports: Applications

**Greg Clark:**

[\[66178\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 9 September 2021 to Question 43418, on Passports: Applications, what measures she has introduced to reduce processing times for applications.

**Kevin Foster:**

Since the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 5 million people have chosen to delay applying for a passport. With the potential demand for passports higher than ever before, since April 2021 passport applicants have been advised to plan to wait up to 10 weeks before they receive their passport.

Her Majesty's Passport Office has a range of tried and tested contingency arrangements available to help passport applications to be processed as quickly as possible during the periods of very highest demand, including the flexing of resources from across the Home Office and other government departments. However, there are no current plans to change the advice about how long to allow when applying for a passport until the level of potential demand returns closer to normal levels.

## ■ Police

**Stuart Anderson:**

[63878]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to increase police visibility and trust in local communities.

**Kit Malthouse:**

The Government is delivering on the people's priorities by recruiting an additional 20,000 police officers and putting violent criminals behind bars for longer.

To the end of September this year, Police forces in England and Wales have recruited an additional 11,053 police officers as part of the police uplift programme, 55% of the 20,000-recruitment target by 2023.

Whilst decisions about the deployment of officers are a matter for Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables, these decisions are expected to be informed by local need.

The Beating Crime Plan published on 27 July laid out the Government's plan for tackling crime and its commitment to reconnect the police with the public. It can be found at:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1015382/Crime-plan-v10.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1015382/Crime-plan-v10.pdf)

The police's ability to fulfil their duties is dependent on their capacity to secure and maintain public trust and support for their actions, as part of the model of policing by consent. That is why the Government will also be looking carefully at strengthening the system of local community scrutiny and the value and use of body-worn video.

## ■ Refugees: Afghanistan

**Sir George Howarth:**

[63657]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that people who are at risk of death or persecution due to their religion or belief are prioritised in the Afghan citizens' resettlement scheme.

**Victoria Atkins:**

Whilst the ACRS is not yet open, the policy statement published on gov.uk on 13 September sets out that the scheme will prioritise:

- a) those who have assisted the UK efforts in Afghanistan and stood up for values such as democracy, women's rights and freedom of speech, rule of law (for example, judges, women's rights activists, journalists); and
- b) vulnerable people, including women and girls at risk, and members of minority groups at risk (including ethnic and religious minorities and LGBT+).

We will work with UNHCR and other expert partners directly in the region to identify eligible people and bring them to the UK.

The policy statement sets out further information on the eligibility, prioritisation and referral of people for the ACRS, and is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement-accessible-version#afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy>

## ■ Repatriation: Eritrea

**Tim Farron:**

[64569]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the criteria are for satisfying the conditions of a voluntary return to Eritrea.

**Tom Pursglove:**

The Home Office will always look to support those who wish to depart the United Kingdom voluntarily, and the extent of that support is based on a case by case assessment of an individual's needs.

General eligibility criteria can be found online at [Get help to return home if you're a migrant in the UK: Who can get help - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/get-help-to-return-home-if-youre-a-migrant-in-the-uk)

## ■ Windrush Compensation Scheme

**Karin Smyth:**

[63755]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, by which date applicants to the Windrush Compensation Scheme will have received their final decision letter.

**Priti Patel:**

We cannot provide a specific timeframe by when claimants will receive their final decisions.

## ■ Windrush Compensation Scheme: Offenders

**Yvette Cooper:**

[63654]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her letter to the Home Affairs Committee of 16 February 2021, in how many instances a claimant to the Windrush Compensation Scheme has had their compensation award reduced or declined on the basis of previous criminality.

**Priti Patel:**

Fewer than 10 claimants have had their compensation award for Impact on Life declined or reduced because of previous criminality.

All decisions to withhold or reduce compensation for Impact on Life due to previous criminality are signed off by Ministers.

**INTERNATIONAL TRADE****■ Woodhouse Colliery: Exports**

**Tim Farron:** [62692]

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what discussions she has had with AMR Capital, the owners of the proposed Whitehaven coal mine, on the export destination of mined coal from Cumbria.

**Mike Freer:**

The Secretary of State for International Trade has had no discussions with AMR Capital (the major shareholder of West Cumbria Mining) on the export destination of mined metallurgical coal from West Cumbria Mining's proposed Whitehaven coal mine. Nor did she have any discussions with AMR Capital during her previous role as Minister of State for Energy, Clean Growth and Climate Change and UK International Champion on Adaptation and Resilience for the COP26 Presidency.

**JUSTICE****■ Crimes of Violence**

**Ellie Reeves:** [66255]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many people have been (a) charged, (b) prosecuted and (c) convicted for offences under the Offences against The Person Act 1861, section 23, and section 24 in each year since 2010.

**James Cartlidge:**

The Ministry of Justice has published information on prosecutions and convictions under the Offences against the Person Act 1861 in England and Wales, from 2013 to 2020, in the 'Principal offence proceedings and outcomes by Home Office offence code' data tool, available here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/987731/HO-code-tool-principal-offence-2020.xlsx](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/987731/HO-code-tool-principal-offence-2020.xlsx)

The Ministry of Justice does not hold information on initial charges brought.

Data showing the number of defendants prosecuted and convicted under section 23 and 24 of this Act, in England and Wales from 2010 to 2020 (latest available) can be found in the attached table.

The data supplied is a subset of published information from the Courts Proceedings database.

**Attachments:**

1. Table [2021-11-03 PQ 66255 table.xlsx]

## ■ Fraud: Victims

**Matt Vickers:**

[\[63920\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps his Department is taking to improve support for victims of fraud.

**Tom Pursglove:**

In April 2021, the new Code of Practice came into force setting out the key rights of victims of crime, including the right of referral to specific support services. This may include referral to specialist support services for victims of fraud.

In 2021/22, the MoJ is providing £150.5m for victim and witness support services. This will support victims of all crime types, including victims of fraud.

## ■ Gender: Registration

**Mark Jenkinson:**

[\[62848\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps he will take to ensure the recording of biological natal sex on all records in his Department's remit.

**James Cartlidge:**

This question is not answerable within the proscribed PQ cost limit of £850.00.

The PQ requests an answer pertaining to the steps taken to ensure biological natal sex is recorded on all records in the MOJ.

To provide a response, officials would need to ascertain the facts of the extent of the activities undertaken to ensure the recording of biological natal sex on all MOJ records, or alternatively confirm that no steps are taken to ensure the recording of biological natal sex on all MOJ records.

In addition to this, investigations would also need to identify all systems, programmes and files that may hold records concerning the recording of biological natal sex in the organisation and extract that information to form a factual answer.

It is estimated that this would cost £1500.00.

To enable the department to provide a full answer within the proscribed cost limit, a revision to the question on scope and specificity is recommended.

## ■ Housing: Civil Proceedings

**Dan Carden:**

[\[66261\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what data his Department used to calculate the proposed fixed recoverable costs; which band housing disrepair cases will fall into; and if he will publish statistics on claimant costs awarded in housing disrepair cases.

**James Cartlidge:**

The Government set out the way forward on extending fixed recoverable costs (FRC) in civil claims on 6 September 2021, following its earlier consultation. The proposed FRC were put forward by Sir Rupert Jackson, then a Court of Appeal judge, in his

2017 [Review of Civil Litigation Costs: Supplemental Report – Fixed Recoverable Costs](#). The FRC set out in Sir Rupert's report will be updated for inflation prior to implementation in 2022. As proposed by Sir Rupert, housing disrepair claims will generally be allocated to Band 3, with more complex claims falling in Band 4. The Ministry of Justice does not hold detailed data on claimant costs awarded in housing disrepair claims.

## ■ Human Rights

**Charlotte Nichols:**

[62891]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what plans he has to bring forward legislative proposals to amend the Human Rights Act 1998.

**James Cartlidge:**

As the Deputy Prime Minister has set out, we will update the Human Rights Act (HRA) to make sure it meets the needs of the society it serves and commands public support. The Government has established the Independent Human Rights Act Review to examine the framework of the HRA, how it is operating in practice and whether any change is required. We have received the Panel's report and are carefully considering the Panel's conclusions as part of a wider reform programme. We will publish the Panel's report in due course and have already committed to consulting on proposed changes to the Act.

## ■ Legal Aid Scheme: Housing

**Dan Carden:**

[66260]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to the Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme, if he will publish data on the (a) number of housing possession proceedings issued, (b) size of the listing backlog and (c) number of possession hearings that have taken place.

**James Cartlidge:**

This answer is in relation to all possession proceedings in England and Wales and not limited to those with Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme (HPCDS) involvement, which provides on-the-day emergency advice and advocacy to anyone facing possession proceedings on the day of their hearing.

a) The requested data is published quarterly and can be found here - <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mortgage-and-landlord-possession-statistics>

b) The requested information is not held.

c) The information requested could only be obtained at disproportionate cost, however the above link also provides statistics on the number of orders made following a hearing in possession proceedings.



## ■ Prison Officers: Age

**Liz Saville Roberts:** [63832]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what assessment he has made of trends in the age profile of (a) male and (b) female prison officers.

**Victoria Atkins:**

The largest individual age group among female prison officers, as of 30 June 2021, was under 30 years old, at 38%. The largest age groups among male prison officers as of 30 June 2021 were the following age groups, 30-39 and 50-59 year olds, both at 27%. The number of staff aged under 30 for both male and female prison officers has increased compared to 31 March 2021.

Further information on all HMPPS staff age demographics can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/her-majestys-prison-and-probation-service-workforce-quarterly-march-2021/her-majestys-prison-and-probation-service-workforce-quarterly-march-2021#equality-and-diversity>

## ■ Prison Officers: Health

**Liz Saville Roberts:** [63829]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether his Department undertook an equality impact assessment prior to the introduction of the annual fitness test for prison officers in 2001.

**Victoria Atkins:**

Although the current requirements of the public sector equality duty were introduced by the Equality Act 2010, considerations of the impact of the Fitness Testing Policy were made prior to its introduction in 2001. The importance of ensuring the policy was applied fairly, regardless of the sex or gender identity of a prison officer, has been recognised since the policy was implemented, and any staff who fail the fitness test have had the support of occupational health services.

## ■ Prison Officers: Menopause

**Liz Saville Roberts:** [63830]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what assessment he has made of the effect of the menopause on the ability of female prison officers to pass the annual fitness test.

**Liz Saville Roberts:** [63831]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether dispensation is given to menopausal female prison officers taking the annual fitness test.

**Victoria Atkins:**

The HMPPS policy on staff fitness testing states that if an employee is suffering from any specific side-effects related to the menopause, there may be the opportunity to postpone the test for a limited period whilst the side-effects subside. The deferred test would need to be completed within a 3-6-month period of the originally scheduled

test and the employee would be expected to take the test at the next opportunity. If they are still unable to take the test due to significant medical symptoms, a referral to Occupational Health (OH) should be made to advise on adjustments if appropriate and a GP referral maybe required.

HMPPS is commissioning further specialist medical advice to ensure the Equality Assessment for Fitness Testing remains valid, and to consider what further support can be offered to menopausal staff in general and specifically in relation to the fitness test.

## ■ Prison Officers: Pay

**Liz Saville Roberts:** [\[63827\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the Prison Service Payment Plus policy in each of the last five years, broken down by grade of staff that money has been paid to.

**Victoria Atkins:**

The requested figures are available for years going back to 2016 and are presented below. It should be noted the hourly rate for Payment Plus increased by £5 per hour from £17 to £22 during 2017, and the Payment Plus pay bill was higher in 2020/21, than in the previous two years, due to the additional resourcing challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic.

GRADE	2016/17 *	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Band 3 Officer	£30,134,418	£40,417,136	£28,424,839	£26,446,349	£39,896,675
Band 4 Officer	£5,032,835	£7,372,709	£5,703,364	£4,366,680	£7,386,766
Band 5 Officer	£1,990,098	£2,511,523	£2,006,305	£1,668,558	£3,582,568
Total Cost	£37,157,350	£50,301,368	£36,134,509	£32,481,587	£50,866,009

\*costs reflect 11 months only - December 2016 data was unavailable.

## ■ Prison Officers: Recruitment

**Liz Saville Roberts:** [\[63820\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of recruiting a new prison officer.

**Liz Saville Roberts:** [\[63821\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of prison officer entry level training per officer.

**Liz Saville Roberts:** [\[63822\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how much has been spent on prison officer (a) recruitment and (b) training by prison service area in each of the last five years.

**Victoria Atkins:**

HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) operates a centralised recruitment model. Recruitment and training costs are not attributed to individual prisons but are averaged based on a variable cost per hire calculation for all recruitment and training activity. We would not be able to provide a breakdown of the recruitment or training costs by each prison service area as the information requested could only be obtained at disproportionate cost and would contain commercially sensitive information relating to partner suppliers.

The estimated cost to recruit and train a new Band 3 Prison Officer is around £13,000 as published in the Prison Service Pay Review Body report. Further information can be found on page 55 at: [Prison Service Pay Review Body - Twentieth Report on England and Wales 2021 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/101422/Prison_Service_Pay_Review_Body_-_Twentieth_Report_on_England_and_Wales_2021.pdf)

Please be aware that the figures contained in the document are subject to regular change due to a number of variables and assumptions used to calculate the figures.

**■ Prison Officers: Resignations****Liz Saville Roberts:****[63823]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many and what proportion of prison officers in (a) Band 2, (b) Band 3, (c) Band 4 and (d) Band 5 have resigned from service, by prison, in each of the last 12 months.

**Victoria Atkins:**

The latest set of HMPPS Workforce Bulletin statistics for the quarter to 30 June 2021 is available in published workforce statistics here: [Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service workforce quarterly: June 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/her-majestys-prison-and-probation-service-workforce-quarterly-june-2021)

This publication provides headline statistics at an organisational level, we are not able to break this down further to establishment level by month.

The next set of data for the period to 30 September 2021 is due to be published in the Workforce Statistics Report on 18 November 2021.

These statistics only cover information in relation to the public sector.

**Liz Saville Roberts:****[63824]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many and what proportion of prison officers in (a) Band 2, (b) Band 3, (c) Band 4 and (d) Band 5 have left service on capability grounds, by prison, in each of the last 12 months.

**Victoria Atkins:**

The latest set of HMPPS Workforce Bulletin statistics for the quarter to 30 June 2021: [Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service workforce quarterly: June 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/her-majestys-prison-and-probation-service-workforce-quarterly-june-2021)

This publication provides headline statistics at an organisational, Group and Division level but we are not able to break this down further to establishment level by month.

Leaving reason is broken down into various categories, and capability would be noted as part of the dismissal figures:

Dismissal Other

Dismissal - Conduct

Dismissal - Poor performance

Dismissal - Unsatisfactory attendance/Medical Inefficiency

The next set of data for the period to 30 September 2021 is due to be published in the Workforce Statistics Report on 18 November 2021.

### ■ Prison Officers: Retirement

**Liz Saville Roberts:**

[\[63825\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many and what proportion of prison officers in (a) Band 2, (b) Band 3, (c) Band 4, and (d) Band 5 have retired in each of the last 12 months, by prison.

**Victoria Atkins:**

The latest set of HMPPS Workforce Bulletin statistics for the quarter to 30 June 2021: Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service workforce quarterly: June 2021 - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

This publication provides headline statistics at an organisational, Group and Division level, we are not able to break this down further to establishment level by month. This information is broken down into various categories but can be found under retirement and medical retirement.

The next set of data for the period to 30 September 2021 is due to be published in the Workforce Statistics Report on 18 November 2021.

These statistics only cover information in relation to the public sector.

### ■ Prison Service: Incentives

**Liz Saville Roberts:**

[\[63828\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the Prison Service Bonus Payment policies in each of the last five years, broken down by grade of staff who have received a payment under those schemes.

**Victoria Atkins:**

The figures requested from 2016 to 2019 are provided below. The figures shown are for HMPPS (shown as NOMS, National Offender Management Service), therefore inclusive of Prison and Probation staff. A breakdown by grade is not available.

YEAR	IN-YEAR PERFORMANCE PAYMENTS (£)	NUMBER OF STAFF RECEIVING AN IN-YEAR PAYMENT	END OF YEAR PERFORMANCE PAYMENTS (£)	NUMBER OF STAFF RECEIVING AN END OF YEAR PAYMENT	TOTAL
2016/17	£762,445	1360	£386,758	1416	£1,149,203
2017/18	£1,779,633	2473	£783,052	1803	£2,562,685
2018/19	£1,521,995	2139	£867,271	1902	£2,389,266

We will be publishing both the 2019/20 and 2020/21 figures before the end of the year. This data may not include COVID payments as there were not paid under 'HMPPS Bonus payment policies' but in direct response to an emergency.

## ■ Prison Service: Recruitment

**Liz Saville Roberts:**

[\[63826\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many (a) Band 2 and (b) Band 3 staff have joined the prison service in each of the last 12 months, broken down by prison.

**Victoria Atkins:**

The latest set of HMPPS Workforce Bulletin statistics for the quarter to 30 June 2021: [Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service workforce quarterly: June 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

This publication provides headline statistics at an organisational and Group/Division level, we are not able to break this down further to establishment level by month.

The next set of data for the period to 30 September 2021 is due to be published in the Workforce Statistics Report on 18 November 2021.

These statistics only cover information in relation to the public sector.

Over the past year, 6,184 staff joined HMPPS, which is an increase of 693 (12.6%) compared to the year ending 30 June 2020. These joiners consisted of 4,177 across PSP, 189 in the YCS, 1,305 in the Probation Service, and 513 in HMPPS HQ and Area Services. Compared to the year ending 30 June 2020 these numbers of joiners represent a slight increase of 1.9% for PSP, an increase of 125.0% for YCS, an increase of 40.0% for Probation Service, and an increase of 36.1% for HMPPS HQ and Area Services.

## ■ Prisoners: Crime

**Grahame Morris:**

[\[65402\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the Answer of 26 October 2021 to Question 58816, Prisoners: Crime, whether he holds data on the number of (a) referrals, (b) prosecutions and (c) successful prosecutions relating to crimes allegedly committed

by prisoners in (i) HMP Aylesbury, (ii) HMP Berwyn, (iii) HMP Chelmsford, (iv) HMP Rochester and (v) HMP Swaleside in each of the last three years.

**Victoria Atkins:**

The Ministry of Justice is not able to provide data on (a) referrals, (b) prosecutions and (c) successful prosecutions relating to crimes allegedly committed by prisoners as this information is not held centrally on the court proceedings database.

We are currently undertaking a review of our centrally recorded data on crimes in prison and plan for data collection to begin next year (2022). This will require prisons to capture and record the number of police referrals that are made.

■ **Prisoners: Mothers**

**Ms Lyn Brown:**

[\[62678\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, if he will make an assessment of the implications for his policies of the findings of the report, Counting the cost of maternal imprisonment, published by Crest Advisory on 24 October 2021.

**Ms Lyn Brown:**

[\[62679\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to the report Counting the cost of maternal imprisonment, published by Crest Advisory on 24 October 2021, and the estimate that local authority intervention costs and costs to HMPPS of maternal prison sentences total up to £265,008 per family, if he will make an estimate of the total cost to the public purse of a (a) fixed term recall, (b) three month custodial sentence, (c) six month custodial sentence, (d) 12 month custodial sentence and (e) community sentence for a primary carer mother with two children under 16.

**Victoria Atkins:**

We recognise the significant impact of imprisonment on women with dependent children and their families, who are disproportionately affected by parental imprisonment.

On 20 September the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) published a new policy on pregnancy, Mother and Baby Units and maternal separation from children up to the age of two in women's prisons. This contains requirements that aim to improve support for women experiencing separation from young children, during an important period for attachment and bonding.

The recommendations in Crest's report concern work related to a number of Government Departments. Through our multi-agency approach to implementation of the Farmer Review for Women, on which 20 recommendations have been completed to date, we will ensure that these recommendations and findings are factored into our wider work on how imprisoned mothers can be supported at every stage of the Criminal Justice System.

Sentencing is a matter for the independent judiciary. However, we recognise the additional challenges for pregnancy women in custody and are taking steps to ensure

sentencing decisions are better informed by individual circumstances and that there are viable alternatives to custody.

Since the publication of the Female Offender Strategy in 2018, we have invested around £7 million in the women's community sector to increase sustainability, enhance services and develop new provision, with a further £2.5 million being invested this year. We are also investing in a range of initiatives that aim to encourage use of robust community sentences including Problem Solving Courts, Community Sentence Treatment Requirements, Electronic Monitoring and a Pre-Sentence Report pilot. Specifically, we have developed a PSR checklist for women, to ensure these take into account individual circumstances such as pregnancy and the impact that imprisonment has on these.

We have not yet made an assessment of the report's estimate that the cost of local authority interventions and costs to HMPPS of maternal prison sentences total up to £265,008 per family. However, published figures for the annual costs of female imprisonment for 2019-20 can be found here: [Prison performance statistics 2019 to 2020 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/prison-performance-statistics-2019-to-2020).

## ■ Prisoners: Pregnancy

**Carolyn Harris:**

**[62782]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to the publication of the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman's independent investigation into the death of a baby (Baby A) at HMP Bronzefield on 27 September 2019, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of ending the use of imprisonment for pregnant women.

**Victoria Atkins:**

The death of Baby A was a tragedy and we have taken a range of actions with our partners to prevent this from happening again.

Sentencing is a matter for the independent judiciary. However, we recognise the additional challenges experienced by pregnant women in prison and we are taking steps to ensure sentencing decisions are better informed by individual circumstances and that there are viable alternatives to custody.

Since the publication of the Female Offender Strategy in 2018, we have invested around £7 million in the women's community sector to increase sustainability, enhance services and develop new provision, with a further £2.5 million being invested this year.

We are also investing in a range of initiatives that aim to encourage use of robust community sentences including Problem Solving Courts, Community Sentence Treatment Requirements, Electronic Monitoring and a Pre-Sentence Report (PSR) pilot. Specifically, we have developed a PSR checklist for women which ensures that individual circumstances, such as pregnancy, are taken into account.



## ■ Reparation by Offenders

**Lee Anderson:** [\[63883\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps his Department is taking to rollout community payback by offenders.

**Kit Malthouse:**

Community Payback is the term used to describe any work done as part of an unpaid work requirement made by the Courts. Unpaid work is the main punitive disposal for community-based sentences, its purpose is to punish offenders for breaking the law whilst also allowing individuals to make reparations to their local communities for their crimes.

This Government is investing £93m so that communities can benefit from a record-breaking 8 million hours of impactful and demanding unpaid work each year. This funding will allow us to rejuvenate our unpaid work offer, by recruiting additional staff and refreshing and expanding our transport fleet. We are working with large charities and organisations, Police and Crime Commissioners and local authorities to make sure that communities have their say in how unpaid work should be used in their area. This includes placements with organisations such as the Canal and River Trust and Forestry England. Other national initiatives will include a tree planting project, helping to support the Government's wider sustainability objectives.

As part of this we are consulting a range of further potential voluntary sector partners to identify unpaid work placements that will develop work ready skills and offer vocational training, helping offenders to integrate into society and promote future desistance from crime.

## ■ Sexual Offences: Trials

**Helen Hayes:** [\[63806\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps is he taking to reduce the (a) backlog in cases and (b) waiting times for sexual offence cases in London to go to trial.

**Helen Hayes:** [\[65480\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps he is taking to reduce the backlog and waiting times for sex offence cases going to trial in London.

**James Cartlidge:**

The Ministry of Justice is working to reduce outstanding caseloads and waiting times across London by increasing capacity in the Crown court and improving collaborative working with partners across the Criminal Justice System.

Safe distancing measures, including protective screens and face coverings, are applied in all courts, allowing the majority of courtrooms to continue operating. To increase capacity in London, 14 Nightingale courtrooms have been opened, additional staff and salaried Judiciary have been recruited and limits on fee-paid Judiciary have been increased.

**LEVELLING UP, HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES****■ Buildings: Insulation****Dame Margaret Hodge:**[\[63643\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, if he will prioritise the Government's response to the review of the ban on the use of combustible materials in and on the external walls of buildings, which closed in May 2020.

**Dame Margaret Hodge:**[\[63645\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether his Department plans to extend the ban on the use combustible materials to buildings above 11 metres in height, as well as a range of high-risk buildings.

**Christopher Pincher:**

In November 2018 the Government introduced a ban on combustible materials in and on the external walls in new blocks of flats above 18 meters in height, as well as hospitals, care premises, and student accommodation.

In January 2020 we consulted on the proposal to extend the ban of the use of combustible materials in and on the external walls of buildings. We continue to review and analyse the numerous and detailed responses we have received and develop our proposal. We will publish a response to the consultation.

**Andrew Rosindell:**[\[64555\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether he has made an estimate of the number of buildings under 18 metres where a third-party is demanding an ESW1 certificate in contravention of Government requirements.

**Christopher Pincher:**

The EWS1 process is not a statutory requirement. Government supports the independent report published on 21 June 2021, that EWS1 certificates should not be required for buildings below 18 metres in height. However, the decision of when or whether to ask for an EWS1 remains with the relevant mortgage lender. We continue to challenge industry on the use of the EWS1 process.

**■ Business: Rents****Seema Malhotra:**[\[65435\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, if his Department will make an estimate of the total amount of rent arrears owed by British businesses as at October 2021.

**Neil O'Brien:**

Many businesses have not yet fully recovered from the impact of the pandemic, particularly in vulnerable sectors such as hospitality and retail

Government has committed to ringfencing rent arrears accrued by businesses affected by enforced closures during the pandemic, and introduce a system of

binding arbitration to be used as a last resort if landlords and tenants cannot come to a resolution. Full detail will be announced in due course.

### ■ Civic Dignitaries: Safety

**Jeff Smith:**

[\[62757\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what recent discussions he has had with local government leaders on the safety of elected representatives when carrying out their democratic duties.

**Kemi Badenoch:**

The Secretary of State recently attended a Local Government Forum where this issue was raised.

To protect elected members' safety, the Government is reviewing proposals to remove the requirement to publish home addresses on registers of interests and has already changed the law to remove the requirement for people standing as local councillors to have their home addresses published on ballot papers.

The LGA provides comprehensive guidance and advice for councillors on personal safety on their website and is considering developing a further training offer and bespoke advice.

### ■ Community Renewal Fund

**Steve Reed:**

[\[66199\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, pursuant to his oral contribution of 25 October 2021, Official Report, column 18, if he will provide an update on his commitment to provide an update to areas that had made bids to the Community Renewal Fund by the end of the week commencing 25 October 2021; and if he will make a statement.

**Neil O'Brien:**

Areas that bid to the UK Community Renewal Fund have been informed today whether they have been successful.

### ■ Councillors: Disclosure of Information

**Steve Reed:**

[\[65442\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether he plans to undertake a review of the publication by default of the home addresses of councillors in England.

**Kemi Badenoch:**

The Committee on Standards in Public Life published a report on Local Government Ethical Standards. One of their recommendations would ensure that councillors no longer need to publish their home address. We have been considering these recommendations carefully, and will respond in due course.

## ■ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities: Reviews

**Steve Reed:**

[\[65444\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what the purpose is of his review of his Department.

**Eddie Hughes:**

*[Holding answer 2 November 2021]:* Levelling up is at the heart of the Government's agenda. Levelling up means empowering local leaders and communities to drive real change; boosting living standards, particularly where they are lower; spreading opportunity and improving public services, particularly where they are weaker. The Secretary of State is therefore looking at a number of areas of the department's work to ensure it reflects these priorities.

## ■ Derelict Land: Property Development

**Ruth Cadbury:**

[\[58917\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, how much and what proportion of funding from the £400 million Brownfield Fund has been provided to the 7 Mayoral Combined authorities.

**Ruth Cadbury:**

[\[58918\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, how much and what proportion of funding has provided to each of the Mayoral Combined authorities through the Brownfield Fund.

**Christopher Pincher:**

*[Holding answer 22 October 2021]:* The £400 million Brownfield Fund will help unlock 26,000 homes by bringing under-utilised brownfield land back into use and contribute to levelling-up our country.

Table 1 displays the allocation of the £400 million Brownfield Fund.

**Table 1**

MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY	ALLOCATION	PROPORTION
Greater Manchester	£96,999,805	24.25%
Liverpool City Region	£44,643,420	11.16%
North of Tyne	£23,853,618	5.96%
South Yorkshire	£40,340,322	10.09%
Tees Valley	£19,352,315	4.84%
West Midlands	£108,031,802	27.01%
West Yorkshire	£66,778,719	16.69%

MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY	ALLOCATION	PROPORTION
Total	£400,000,001	100.00%

Total of £400,000,001 is due to rounding

## ■ Derelict Land: Regeneration

**Ruth Cadbury:** [\[65447\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, with reference to paragraph 4.49 of the Autumn Budget and Spending Review 2021, what methodology his Department used to forecast that the £1.8 billion funding for brownfield regeneration would create 160,000 homes.

**Christopher Pincher:**

The £1.8 billion investment announced at Spending Review will help to regenerate communities and level up the country through unlocking new homes. The funding will deliver more than just homes, providing the investment in infrastructure required to regenerate communities and support local jobs.

The Government and our local authority partners have extensive experience of brownfield development, through our existing funds such as the Brownfield Housing Fund and Brownfield Land Release Fund. I refer the Honourable Member to the answer I gave to question UIN 64643 on 1 November on the details of the Fund.

## ■ Evictions

**Wera Hobhouse:** [\[63837\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what estimate he has made of the number of banning orders issued under the Protection from Eviction Act 1977 in the last 12 months.

**Eddie Hughes:**

Local authorities are required make an entry on the database of rogue landlords and property agents where a person or organisation has received a banning order. In the last 12 months, there have been no entries made as a result of banning orders issued under the Protection from Eviction Act 1977.

**Wera Hobhouse:** [\[63839\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what estimate he has made of the number of Section 21 evictions issued, by (a) ethnicity and (b) gender of the person being evicted, in the latest period for which figures are available.

**Eddie Hughes:**

There is no requirement on landlords to notify the Government when they serve notice of their intention to seek possession to their tenant. As such, the Department

does not hold data on the number of Section 21 notices issued by ethnicity, or the gender of the person being evicted.

If the tenant does not vacate the property after the expiry of a notice, a landlord is required to make a claim for possession in the county court to legally regain possession of the property. This can result in the property being repossessed by a county court bailiff or High Court Enforcement Officer if the case is not otherwise resolved.

The Mortgage and Landlord Repossession Statistics, published by the Ministry of Justice, record the number of claims for possession brought by landlords in the county court in each quarter, and the number of repossessions carried out by county court bailiffs. These statistics show that there were 359 evictions via the accelerated procedure (section 21) in April to June 2021 but data on the ethnicity or gender of the occupiers whose property was repossessed is not collected.

The statistics are available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/mortgage-and-landlord-possession-statistics-april-to-june-2021/mortgage-and-landlord-possession-statistics-april-to-june-2021>.

#### ■ **Garden Communities: Gilston and Harlow**

**Robert Halfon:**

[62704]

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, how much funding the Government has provided to the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town project since it was announced.

**Christopher Pincher:**

£3.6 million of a total allocation of £171.2 million in infrastructure funding, and £2.9 million in Garden Communities funding, has been provided to date to the appropriate local authorities for the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town project.

#### ■ **Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation: Enfield North**

**Feryal Clark:**

[63910]

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, how many people are (a) homeless, (b) in emergency accommodation and (c) in temporary accommodation in Enfield North constituency.

**Eddie Hughes:**

The Department holds information on homelessness and rough sleeping at a local authority level. In the London Borough of Enfield, the latest figures indicate the number of households who were assessed as being owed a homelessness duty is 386. These figures are from April-June 2021. The number of households in emergency accommodation is 169 as of January 2021, the latest figures recorded. Further information about the figures can be found on gov.uk, where all live tables for homelessness data are published, [here](#).

## ■ Homelessness: Enfield North

**Feryal Clark:**

**[63911]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what recent steps he has taken to support people at risk of homelessness in Enfield North constituency.

**Eddie Hughes:**

The Government has committed over £800 million to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping this year, further demonstrating the Government's commitment to end rough sleeping this Parliament and fully enforce the Homelessness Reduction Act. This includes a £65 million one-off top up to the Homelessness Prevention Grant, for local authorities to help vulnerable households with rent arrears to reduce the risk of them being evicted and becoming homeless, bringing total spend this year from the Homelessness Prevention Grant to £375 million.

Whilst the Department does not hold financial data for specific constituencies, Enfield London Borough council has received financial support for the following programmes:

NAME OF SCHEME	FUNDING ALLOCATED
Homelessness Prevention Grant	£8,927,794
Homelessness Prevention Grant: exceptional winter top-up	£1,871,957
Rough Sleeping Initiative	£690,250
Accommodation for Ex-Offenders (AfEO) Scheme	£143,125
Homelessness Domestic Abuse New Burdens Funding	£28,993

In total, Enfield London Borough has received £11,662,119 in funding from the Department to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping.

## ■ Housing Associations: Fire Prevention

**Apsana Begum:**

**[65525]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what assessment he has made of the impact of the fire safety challenges on the ability of housing associations to (a) build new homes, (b) undertake maintenance and repair works on existing properties and (c) not increase service charges and rents.

**Eddie Hughes:**

Individual housing associations are responsible for making the necessary investments to ensure their buildings are safe. The Government has supported this by committing up to £400 million to fully fund the removal and replacement of unsafe



ACM cladding systems on buildings over 18 metres that are owned by registered providers of social housing. The Government has also committed to meet the cost of removing other types of unsafe cladding on buildings over 18 metres where the costs would otherwise have been borne by leaseholders or where a registered provider of social housing's financial viability would otherwise be threatened.

The Government is committed to increasing the supply of affordable housing and is investing over £12 billion in affordable housing, the largest investment in a decade. This includes the £11.5 billion Affordable Homes Programme, which will provide up to 180,000 new homes across the country, should economic conditions allow.

Social landlords are obliged by law to maintain the structure and exterior of their properties, and to keep sanitation, water, gas and electrical installations in repair. The Regulator of Social Housing requires that social rented homes are maintained by all landlords to at least the quality set out by the Decent Homes Standard, and we are reviewing the Decent Homes Standard to consider whether it needs to be updated to make sure it delivers what is needed for safety and decency today.

Service charges are payable only to the extent that the costs have been reasonably incurred as set out under the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985. The Government's social housing rent policy prohibits rent increases in excess of CPI plus one percentage point per annum (subject to certain exceptions) and are encouraged to keep service charges within this parameter.

## ■ **Housing: Devon and Rural Areas**

**Sir Geoffrey Cox:**

[\[62651\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what assessment he has been made of the potential impact on housing need in rural areas as a result of covid-19 related adjustments to working patterns; what discussions his Department has had with local authorities on the availability of housing in Devon; and what steps the Government is taking to help increase the supply of affordable homes for (a) homeownership and (b) the private and social rented sectors.

**Christopher Pincher:**

The long-term impacts of COVID-19 are still unclear and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities is actively monitoring and considering potential effects that the pandemic could have on our policies and programmes, including housing need.

My officials and Homes England engage regularly with places across the country, including Devon, to support them to deliver the homes that their community needs, and would welcome any further discussions with authorities in your region.

## ■ **Housing: Energy**

**Feryal Clark:**

[\[63912\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial

Strategy on improving the energy efficiency of homes through retrofitting to help tackle the climate emergency.

**Christopher Pincher:**

The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on a number of issues.

DLUHC and BEIS work closely together on improving the energy efficiency of existing homes. As well as keeping us on our path to net zero, this will reduce energy bills for households and make our homes healthier and more comfortable.

On 19 October, the Government published its Net Zero Strategy and Heat and Building Strategy which set out the steps we will take to improve the energy efficiency of buildings and decarbonise heating, including the further investment we will make in our targeted support for households. The 2019 Conservative Manifesto committed to a £3.8 billion Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund over a 10-year period to improve the energy performance of social rented homes. As part of the 2021 Spending Review process, we announced that £800 million has been committed for the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund over 2022/23 to 2024/25, and that a further £950 million has been committed for the Home Upgrade Grant over the same period.

These strategies also set out how we will support households to move from fossil fuel heating to low carbon alternatives, such as heat pumps, including our new £450 million Boiler Upgrade Scheme providing £5,000 capital grants.

■ **Housing: Finance**

**Lucy Powell:**

[\[64624\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, with reference to the Autumn Budget and Spending Review 2021 p107, if he will provide a detailed breakdown of the funding that makes up the £24 billion for housing stated in that Review.

**Christopher Pincher:**

*[Holding answer 1 November 2021]:* At the Spending Review, the Government announced nearly £24 billion for housing between 2022-23 and 2025-26. This included £17.7 billion for housing supply programmes, £3 billion for home ownership and £3 billion for building safety. This funding demonstrates the Government's continued commitment to investing in safe and affordable housing, delivering the homes the country needs.

■ **Landlords: Licensing**

**Steve Reed:**

[\[65445\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, pursuant to the Answer of 19 July 2021 to Question 32407, on Landlords: Licensing, if he will provide a timescale for a decision to be made on the renewal of the Liverpool Council Selective Licensing application submitted in February 2021.

**Eddie Hughes:**

We have received Liverpool City Council's application for a selective licensing scheme. Each application is assessed on its merits against the statutory criteria. Timings can be affected by the complexity of an application and whether further information is required. We will update on the outcome of the application in due course.

**Landlords: Registration****Wera Hobhouse:**[\[63836\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of proposals for a mandatory register of landlords.

**Eddie Hughes:**

The Government has committed to exploring the merits of introducing a national landlord register in England as part of a commitment to drive up standards in rented accommodation. We are engaging with a range of stakeholders from across the sector to inform this work and we will publish a White Paper in due course that will set out proposals for private rented sector reform.

**Local Government: Equality and Racial Discrimination****Rachael Maskell:**[\[62762\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what support he plans to provide to councils that have agreed to make their city anti-racist and inclusive to advance their work on anti-racism and inclusivity.

**Kemi Badenoch:**

The UK Government welcomes proactive work which tackles not only racism but all forms of discrimination. Local leaders should decide how best to take this forward in their communities, and in a way which complies with the Equality Act and The Seven Principles of Public Life.

We encourage local authorities to build on and strengthen a shared local and national identity across class, colour and creed and ensure all activities provide value for money for council taxpayers.

**Local Government: Expenditure****Mr Clive Betts:**[\[64534\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what the projected real terms and cash increase is for local government spending in each of the next three years; and what the forecast increase in Council Tax is in each of those years.

**Kemi Badenoch:**

The Spending Review for local government is set out in table 4.9 (page 108) of HMT's budget documentation.

([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1028814/Budget\\_AB2021\\_Web\\_Accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1028814/Budget_AB2021_Web_Accessible.pdf)) Councils are responsible for setting their council tax levels. The Spending Review confirmed that it expected referendum principles for each of the three years to be a 2% core principle and 1% Adult Social Care precept. Details will be set out in the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement.

## ■ Local Plans

**Mr Clive Betts:**

**[65367]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, if he will list the local authorities which do not have an up-to-date local plan as at 27 October 2021; and by when each of those authorities is expected to have an up-to-date local plan in place.

**Christopher Pincher:**

The National Planning Policy Framework states that policies in local plans and spatial development strategies should be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years, and should then be updated as necessary. This is a legal requirement as set out in Regulation 10A of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

As of 27 October 2021, 180 (53%) Local Planning Authorities have an adopted local plan (under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 ) that is over five years old; and 25 (7%) do not have an adopted local plan (under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).

In March 2020 Government set out a clear expectation that local planning authorities must have an up-to-date plan in place by the end of 2023. On 19 January 2021, a Written Ministerial Statement was made which set out the importance of maintaining progress to get up to date local plans in place by December 2023. The Written Ministerial Statement is available at: <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2021-01-19/hcws720>.

## ■ Non-domestic Rates: Tax Allowances

**Mr Clive Betts:**

**[64533]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether the increase in Business Rates relief announced in the Autumn Budget and Spending Review 2021 will impact local government funding.

**Kemi Badenoch:**

The Government will compensate local authorities for loss of income as a result of business rate relief, following a well-established process. Relief awarded in line with the eligibility criteria, which will be set out in guidance, will not therefore impact on local government funding.

## ■ Parks: Finance

**Andrew Gwynne:**

[\[66174\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, with reference to the Autumn Budget and Spending Review 2021, when he plans to publish details of the application process for the Levelling up parks' fund.

**Neil O'Brien:**

The £9 million Levelling Up Parks Fund will create over 100 green spaces across the UK on land which is unused, undeveloped or derelict. Further details on the fund will be announced in due course.

## ■ Permitted Development Rights

**Feryal Clark:**

[\[63913\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what recent assessment his Department has made of the impact on high street businesses of the recent extensions of Permitted Development Rights.

**Christopher Pincher:**

We aim to publish an Impact Assessment on the measures in due course and in accordance with the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015.

## ■ Planning

**Mr Barry Sheerman:**

[\[62602\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of proposals in the Planning for the Future White Paper on the delivery of (a) local democracy in the planning system, (b) high-quality affordable homes and (c) protections for countryside and accessible green spaces.

**Christopher Pincher:**

The Secretary of State is considering the best approach to taking forward our proposals for planning reform, as part of a wider review of the department's programmes. We are clear that the system should be accessible to communities, provide the well-designed homes our country needs and protect and improve our environment. We will make an announcement on next steps for the reforms, including more detail on the areas raised.

## ■ Planning: Carbon Emissions

**Tim Farron:**

[\[62686\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether he has made an assessment of the potential merits of including a net zero test in any planning reforms.

**Eddie Hughes:**

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities are considering how the planning system can further support our commitment to reaching net zero. As set out in the Net Zero Strategy, we will make sure that the reformed planning system supports our efforts to combat climate change and help bring greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. As part of our programme of planning reform we intend to review the National Planning Policy Framework to make sure it contributes to climate change mitigation and adaptation as fully as possible.

**Regional Planning and Development****Steve Reed:**[\[66200\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, how many areas with priority (a) 1, (b) 2 and (c) 3 made bids to the first round of the Levelling Up Fund.

**Neil O'Brien:**

The first round of the Levelling Up Fund will invest £1.7 billion in 105 local infrastructure projects across the UK. Citizens across the UK can expect to see projects getting underway from early 2022. As set out in the Levelling Up Fund Explanatory Note, a total of 305 Levelling Up Fund bids were received on or before the 18 June 2021 and were assessed in accordance with the approach outlined in the Levelling Up Fund Technical Note.

All successful bids have been published here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-first-round-successful-bidders>

**Regional Planning and Development: Children****Seema Malhotra:**[\[66198\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what metrics the Government plans to use to assess the effect of the levelling up agenda on children.

**Neil O'Brien:**

These metrics can be found here: See [Spending Review 2021 Priority Outcomes and Metrics](#)

**Regional Planning and Development: Denton and Reddish****Andrew Gwynne:**[\[62649\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what plans he has to increase investment in jobs, skills and transport infrastructure in parts of the Denton and Reddish constituency; and if he will meet with the hon. Member for Denton and Reddish to discuss plans to level-up communities within the Denton and Reddish constituency.

**Neil O'Brien:**

Spending Review demonstrated Government's commitment to Levelling up by supporting community priorities. £1.7 billion was confirmed for the first 107 successful places within the £4.8 billion Levelling Up Fund. The Greater Manchester area will receive £112.8 million of this first wave, including £19.87 million to regenerate Ashton Town Hall, bordering the Honourable Gentleman's constituency.

Government recognises that local transport networks, particularly public transport, have been a weakness holding back the productivity of city regions outside London. That's why we have created City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements (CRSTS), providing major city regions with the freedom to address local challenges and improve services. At the Spending Review, we announced £5.7 billion of CRSTS funding for 8 city regions, with Greater Manchester, including Denton and Reddish, receiving the largest single allocation of £1.07 billion. Over the coming months, Transport for Greater Manchester will begin to develop its programme business cases to confirm how their portion of the fund will be used.

Also announced at the Budget was Restoring Your Railways funding to reinstate a passenger rail line between Ashton-under-Lyne and Stockport, which the Honourable Gentleman personally campaigned for. I congratulate him on the success of this campaign and look forward to seeing these proposals develop over the coming months.

**■ Regional Planning and Development: Environment Protection****Andrew Gwynne:**[\[62650\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what assessment he has made of the role of local civic pride projects in the levelling-up agenda; and if he will bring forward plans for funding park, public realm and local environmental improvements, as part of that agenda.

**Eddie Hughes:**

Levelling up is about empowering local leaders and communities to seize their own destiny; boosting living standards, particularly where they are lower; spreading opportunity and improving public services, particularly where they are weak; and restoring local pride in places across the UK. As the most recent part of this agenda, we are investing £9 million to level up urban green spaces across the UK through the Levelling Up Parks Fund. Grants will be given to, and administered by, local authorities, to deliver new green spaces in over 100 of the neighbourhoods most deprived of green space.

**■ Regional Planning and Development: Finance****Steve Reed:**[\[65443\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, how many bids were submitted to the first round of funding of the Levelling Up Fund.



**Neil O'Brien:**

The first round of the Levelling Up fund will invest £1.7 billion in 107 local infrastructure projects across the UK. Citizens across the UK can expect to see projects getting underway from early 2022.

**Regional Planning and Development: Greater London****Feryal Clark:**[\[63909\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what steps he is taking to ensure that communities in London experiencing high levels of poverty are not be excluded from the Government's policies on levelling up; and if he will make a statement.

**Neil O'Brien:**

Levelling up is at the heart of the Government's agenda. Levelling up means empowering local leaders and communities to drive real change; boosting living standards, particularly where they are lower; spreading opportunity and improving public services, particularly where they are weaker; and restoring local pride across the UK. SR21 announced the first places to receive £1.7 billion funding from the £4.8 billion Levelling Up Fund, putting community priorities at the heart of our investment through delivery of local priorities. In the capital, Ealing, Newham, Brent, Wandsworth, and Tower Hamlets have all been successful in round one of the Levelling Up Fund and will receive £64.9 million to deliver community enhancing projects.

**Rented Housing: Reform****Daisy Cooper:**[\[62872\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, if he will set out his timetable for the introduction of the Renters Reform Bill.

**Eddie Hughes:**

The Government remains committed to building back fairer and delivering a better deal for renters. We will publish a White Paper in 2022, that will set out a package of reforms that create a fairer private rented sector that works for both tenants and landlords. We are undertaking robust and structured stakeholder engagement working with the sector to inform this while also learning from the pandemic and its impact on the sector. We will bring forward legislation in due course and when parliamentary time allows.

**Rents: Arrears****Wera Hobhouse:**[\[63838\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what estimate he has made of the number of people in rent arrears, broken down by (a) ethnicity and (b) gender, as of 26 October 2021.

**Eddie Hughes:**

The full breakdown of those in arrears with rent payments is provided in Table T15, including Table T15h, which details whether private renters are in arrears with rent payments by ethnicity. These are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/household-resilience-study-wave-3> in 'Household Resilience Study: Wave 3 tables'.

To help support the most vulnerable renters, the Government has recently made available the £500 million Household Support Fund and £65 million in additional Homelessness Prevention Grant funding.

**■ Right to Buy Scheme****Mark Jenkinson:****[62846]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, if he will make it his policy to rollout the Voluntary Right to Buy Scheme nationally.

**Christopher Pincher:**

This Government remains committed to the Right to Buy and to spreading the dream of home ownership to even more people. The Midlands pilot of the Voluntary Right to Buy scheme completed this year and an independent evaluation of the pilot was published in Feb 2021. The Government is looking at the evaluation's findings, which will be used to inform future policy, and we will announce further details on the Voluntary Right to Buy.

**■ UK Shared Prosperity Fund: Cornwall****Steve Reed:****[65441]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, how much funding Cornwall will receive through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in (a) 2022-23, (b) 2023-24 and (c) 2024-25.

**Neil O'Brien:**

The Budget and SR launched the UKSPF, worth over £2.6 billion, to help people access new opportunities in places of need.

The UKSPF will ramp up to £1.5 billion in 2024-25 and total funding will at a minimum match the size of EU funds in all nations, each year. As the Prime Minister previously said, the Government will also match EU funding levels in Cornwall.

Further details on the UKSPF will be published in due course.

**■ Woodhouse Colliery****Tim Farron:****[62685]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what discussions he has had with the charity CDP on the proposed Whitehaven coal mine.

**Christopher Pincher:**

Due to the quasi-judicial nature of his position, it would not be appropriate to comment on this application at the present time, as to do so might appear to prejudice the Secretary of State's decision.

**NORTHERN IRELAND****Irish Language****Bell Ribeiro-Addy:**[\[63890\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what steps he is taking to introduce an Irish language Bill.

**Conor Burns:**

It is disappointing that the Northern Ireland Executive has not progressed the package of identity, language and culture legislation that was carefully negotiated as part of the New Decade, New Approach agreement.

This balanced package of legislation is not an 'Irish language bill' as it will benefit everyone in Northern Ireland, including the Irish language and Ulster Scots communities, and culture and identity more widely.

In the absence of progress from the Northern Ireland Executive, the Government is now taking the necessary steps to introduce the legislation.

**SCOTLAND****Politics and Government: Scotland****Peter Grant:**[\[903929\]](#)

What recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Government's representation of (a) Scotland and (b) Scottish interests internationally.

**Mr Alister Jack:**

The FCDO provides a range of services to all parts of the UK, such as promoting trade and investment, delivering security and providing consular services. UK policy in this area was set out earlier this year in the Integrated Review. My Department is committed to representing Scottish interests on the world stage as demonstrated by my ministerial colleague, Lord Offord, on his recent visit to Mumbai.

**Public Expenditure: Scotland****James Daly:**[\[903927\]](#)

What assessment he has made of the effect of the 2021 Budget and Spending Review on people and local communities in Scotland.

**Mr Alister Jack:**

The Scottish Government will receive the biggest funding settlement since devolution began in 1998. An extra £4.6 billion a year in Barnett Consequentials on top of the block grant means a record £41 billion a year for the Scottish Government. So, there can be no excuses for underfunded public services in Scotland.

**Regional Planning and Development: Scotland****Peter Gibson:**[\[903930\]](#)

What assessment he has made of the potential benefits of the Levelling Up Fund for Scotland.

**Iain Stewart:**

The chancellor has announced £171,708,259 of UKG investment directly in Scotland under round 1 of the Levelling Up Fund.

From the Inverness Zero Carbon Cultural Regeneration to improvement to the B714 in Ayrshire, these are projects championed by local areas which will make a real difference to communities.

**TRANSPORT****A12: Suffolk****Dr Dan Poulter:**[\[64570\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of re-trunking the A12 north of Ipswich.

**Dr Dan Poulter:**[\[64571\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether he has made an assessment of the potential merits of improving roads in Suffolk to support the proposed increase in energy infrastructure.

**Dr Dan Poulter:**[\[64572\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps his Department will take to ensure that infrastructure is provided and maintained to support the construction of the Sizewell C Nuclear Power Station in Suffolk.

**Dr Dan Poulter:**[\[64573\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment his Department has made of the potential merits of a Four Villages Bypass on the A12 around Marlesford, Stratford St Andrew, Farnham and Little Glemham in Suffolk to reduce the impact of HGV vehicle movements on the villages whilst the construction of Sizewell C is in progress.

**Dr Dan Poulter:**

[\[64574\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps his Department will take to reduce congestion on the A12 north of Ipswich and in surrounding villages as a result of traffic movements relating to the construction of the Sizewell C Nuclear Power Station.

**Trudy Harrison:**

The A12 north of Ipswich is the responsibility of Suffolk County Council as the local highway authority. It is for them, working with Transport East as the relevant sub-national transport body, to consider the opportunities and options for enhancing the A12 and other transport provision in this area to meet the demands of local people, businesses and energy infrastructure.

The Suffolk Energy Gateway Project proposed by Suffolk in 2016 (also known as the Four Villages Bypass) did not provide sufficient value for money and the level of investment from industry and the Council was too low to secure government funding. It is for Suffolk, working with Transport East, to develop a revised proposal and bid again when the opportunity arises, but this would have to represent better value for money and include a larger financial contribution from the Council and industry stakeholders.

The examination of the application for development consent for the proposed Sizewell C nuclear power station closed on 14 October 2021 and the Examining Authority is now writing its report which will set out its conclusions and recommendations on the proposals. The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) is due to receive the Examining Authority's report by 14 January 2022.

As is the case for all applications for development consent, the Secretary of State for BEIS will consider all matters that are relevant when taking his decision on the project. This includes an assessment of potential impacts on roads during construction and operation and where necessary the applicant will need to provide mitigation measures which may include road improvements. Given the quasi-judicial role of the Secretary of State for BEIS in determining the application, it would be inappropriate to comment on specific matters regarding the proposed project, as this could be seen as prejudicing the decision-making process.

The Department and National Highways is examining the case for retrunking the A12 between Ipswich and Lowestoft with Suffolk County Council and Transport East as part of a wider strategic review of the road. Evidence gathered through this review will inform ministerial decisions about whether to progress work further.

■ **Buses: Driving**

**Mike Amesbury:**

[\[63868\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps his Department is taking to tackle DVLA licence delays for bus operators that are training new drivers.

**Trudy Harrison:**

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency is currently prioritising applications for vocational driving licences and has moved additional staff into this area. Applications for provisional vocational licences are being processed within the normal turnaround time of five working days, reduced from ten.

**■ Coronavirus: Protective Clothing****Rachael Maskell:**[\[65459\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what plans he has to reintroduce the requirement to wear face masks on public transport.

**Chris Heaton-Harris:**

The success of the vaccination programme meant that at Step 4 of the Roadmap we were able to move away from legal restrictions. However, Government guidance sets out that members of the public should wear face coverings in crowded and enclosed areas where they come into contact with people they do not normally meet.

**■ Driving Licences: Reciprocal Arrangements****Mr Gregory Campbell:**[\[66167\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on expanding the list of designated countries where an exchange agreement is in place for recognition of driving licences.

**Trudy Harrison:**

On 20 May 2021, legislation was introduced to designate specified driving licences issued in the Cayman Islands, Taiwan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates and North Macedonia for exchange in GB.

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) is currently dealing with requests for reciprocal driving licence exchange agreements from Malaysia, Serbia and Sri Lanka and continues to work with the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office to identify further opportunities.

The DVLA has also been in contact with the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators to gauge interest in reciprocal licence exchange arrangements among US licensing authorities.

**■ Hammersmith Bridge****Fleur Anderson:**[\[62883\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what recent progress he has made on securing the reopening of Hammersmith Bridge to vehicles.

**Trudy Harrison:**

Hammersmith Bridge is owned by the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBHF) and therefore responsibility for reopening the bridge to motor vehicles and making decisions on its repair lies with the borough.

**Fleur Anderson:**

**[62884]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether a recent assessment has been made of the impact of the Hammersmith bridge closure on air quality in (a) Wandsworth Borough, (b) Richmond Borough, (c) Hammersmith & Fulham Borough and (d) Hounslow Borough.

**Trudy Harrison:**

As Hammersmith Bridge is owned by the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBHF), the Department for Transport has not undertaken any assessments of the impact on air quality due to the closure of the bridge or its impact on local authorities. This assessment will form part of the business case being developed by LBHF for the repairs to the bridge.

## ■ Low Emission Zones: Greater London

**Ruth Jones:**

**[64733]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether his Department's recent funding agreement with Transport for London required the Mayor of London to extend the Ultra Low Emission Zone.

**Trudy Harrison:**

Transport in London is devolved to the Mayor of London and Transport for London (TfL). The decision to expand the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) was made by the Mayor in June 2018.

The Government has provided over £4bn to keep London's transport system moving through the pandemic. These funding agreements move TfL towards a financially sustainable future in a way that is fair to national taxpayers. The latest TfL funding deal did not require the Mayor to implement the expanded ULEZ. It was however clear that any change to the Mayor's existing plans would have to be paid for without recourse to Government funding.

## ■ Railways: Fares

**Mr Barry Sheerman:**

**[65380]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what the average real-terms change in the cost of railway tickets has been since 2010; and what plans he has to make travel by railway more affordable.

**Chris Heaton-Harris:**

The Office of Road and Rail publishes information on average changes in rail fares by sector and ticket category on their website:

<https://dataportal.orr.gov.uk/statistics/finance/rail-fares/table-7180-average-change-in-fares-by-regulated-and-unregulated-tickets/>.

Currently, there are a number of railcards available that offer discounts against most rail fares. Most recently we launched the Veterans' Railcard, which extended military



veterans cut-price train travel. We are pleased to celebrate the first anniversary of the Veterans' railcard launch in November 2021.

## ■ Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

**Stuart Anderson:**

[\[63881\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that (a) roads are adequately maintained and (b) potholes are fixed promptly.

**Trudy Harrison:**

The Department is providing over £5 billion of investment for highways maintenance to eligible local highways authorities in England, outside of London, over this Parliament.

Well-planned maintenance to prevent potholes and other defects from forming in the first place is vital, and the Department advocates a risk-based, whole life-cycle asset management approach to all aspects of the local highway network.

To assist local authorities in treating potholes and other road defects, the Department worked with the Association of Directors, for Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT) to publish Potholes: a repair guide.

## ■ Transport: Electricity

**Bill Wiggin:**

[\[66168\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what estimate his Department has made of the amount of electricity that will be required to fuel transport in the UK in the years (a) 2025, (b) 2030, (c) 2035 and (d) 2040.

**Trudy Harrison:**

As part of BEIS annually published [Energy and Emissions Projections](#) a breakdown is given of the final energy demand for electricity for each sector including transport, for all years up to 2040 (see 'Annex F: Final energy demand' of each publication). The annual projections include only firm and funded policy, and over time will include the measures set out in the recent Transport Decarbonisation Plan and Net Zero Strategy as they progress to impact assessment stage.

As part of the [Net Zero Strategy](#) BEIS have considered the electricity demand from all sectors including transport for the delivery pathway up to 2037 (see Figure 14), to ensure that power supply can meet expected demand across the whole economy, while delivering net zero and carbon budgets.

## ■ Travel: Finance

**Damien Moore:**

[\[63871\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether overwhelming public opposition expressed through a consultation exercise is considered sufficient grounds for a local authority to decide not to progress with a scheme developed under the Emergency Active Travel Fund.

**Chris Heaton-Harris:**

The Department has consistently made clear that local authorities should seek the views of a representative sample of the local population as a whole on their proposals and provided guidance on how best to do this, including via polling and public opinion surveys, which can help provide a more accurate understanding of public views than a traditional consultation exercise. Local authorities do not need to show that schemes are universally popular at the time of introduction, but should be prepared to make changes if there is strong evidence that their original proposals are unsuitable. The views of the local Member of Parliament should also be taken into account.

We have revised our Network Management Duty guidance to state that measures should be "taken as swiftly as possible, but not at the expense of consulting local communities" and that "local residents and businesses should... be given an opportunity to comment on proposed changes" to schemes. Please note these requirements also apply as much to the removal or modification of existing schemes as to the installation of new ones.

**TREASURY**■ **Beer: Excise Duties****Daisy Cooper:**[\[65515\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will review the criteria for the duty relief on draught beer, to include craft and micro breweries which distribute products to licensed premises in containers smaller than 40 litres.

**Helen Whately:**

The Treasury welcomes views from industry on the qualifying criteria for the duty relief on draught beer. We will discuss this further with industry groups as part of our alcohol duty review consultation process.

■ **Business: Coronavirus****Mrs Flick Drummond:**[\[903997\]](#)

What steps his Department is taking to help the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors recover from the covid-19 pandemic.

**Richard Thomson:**[\[903998\]](#)

What recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Scotland on the level of VAT applied to hospitality businesses.

**Lucy Frazer:**

This Government has provided around £400 billion of direct support to the economy during the pandemic, and as part of that it has provided £16 billion of business rates relief to the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors in England.

At Autumn Budget 21, the Government announced a new temporary relief worth almost £1.7 billion for these sectors to support local high streets as they adapt and recover.

At Spring Budget 21, the Government extended the 5% temporary reduced rate of VAT for the tourism and hospitality sectors until the end of September. On 1 October 2021, a new reduced rate of VAT at 12.5% was introduced to help ease businesses back to the standard rate. This rate will end on 31 March 2022. There are no plans to extend the length of this relief again.

## ■ Carbon Emissions: Economic Situation

**Dr Matthew Offord:**

[\[63709\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will set out a timeline for the completion of his Department's macroeconomic modelling of the benefits of the net zero transition.

**Helen Whately:**

As set out in the recently published 'Net Zero Review Final Report', HM Treasury is committed to building its understanding of the impacts of the transition to net zero. This is an ongoing process that will need to evolve as the transition to net zero evolves.

HM Treasury will continue to engage with experts in this area as it builds up analytical capacity and understanding. Different approaches will be better suited to answering different questions and a variety of analytical methods and tools will be needed to examine the issue fully. This will include drawing on the analysis of others, for example the Bank of England's analysis building upon a subset of the Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) scenarios.

## ■ Carbon Emissions: Taxation

**Dr Matthew Offord:**

[\[63708\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment he has made of the role of the tax system in achieving net zero.

**Helen Whately:**

The government takes its environmental responsibilities seriously and has published the Net Zero Strategy on how the UK will deliver on its commitment to reach net zero emissions by 2050. The government has also published the Net Zero Review exploring the key issues and trade-offs as the UK decarbonises.

## ■ Cider: Excise Duties

**Dr Rupa Huq:**

[\[63812\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of a progressive duty system for small cider producers.

**Helen Whately:**

As announced at Autumn Budget 2021, the Government will build on Small Brewers Relief to extend small producer reliefs, including to cidermakers. The technical details of our new small producer reliefs will be finalised through the alcohol duty review consultation process.

**Alex Sobel:**[\[63863\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of introducing a progressive duty system for small cider producers.

**Alex Sobel:**[\[63864\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of increasing the minimum juice content in HMRC's definition of cider from 35 per cent to 50 per cent for the purpose of taxation.

**Helen Whately:**

As announced at Autumn Budget 2021, the Government will build on Small Brewers Relief to extend small producer reliefs, including to cidermakers. The technical details of our new small producer reliefs will be finalised through the alcohol duty review consultation process.

The Government will explore the merits of increasing the minimum juice content through our alcohol duty review consultation.

**■ Countryside: Access****Caroline Lucas:**[\[63698\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent progress has been made by the Access to the Outdoors Commission, also known as the Agnew Review, chaired by Lord Agnew and commissioned by his Department; when the Agnes Review plans to publish its findings; and what steps the Government plans to take to deliver the quantum shift in public access to nature that the former Chancellor of the Exchequer tasked the Review with achieving.

**Helen Whately:**

The pandemic has made the benefits of spending time outdoors in nature clearer than ever. The Spending Review is providing more than £30 million to improve public access to green spaces in support of health, wellbeing and the environment, including an expanded network of green routes for different users. In addition, SR21 commits £9 million to the new Levelling Up Parks Fund, creating over 100 new parks across the UK to improve access to parks in urban areas that are deprived of green space.

## ■ Credit: Debts

**Seema Malhotra:**

[66197]

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment he made of the impact on credit scores (a) across different age groups, (b) in Feltham and Heston constituency and (c) England of the increase in debt from buy now, pay later products.

**John Glen:**

HM Treasury does not hold information on the impact of Buy-Now Pay-Later product usage on credit scores.

On 21 October, the Government published a consultation document outlining its proposed approach to the regulation of Buy-Now Pay-Later products. The consultation document can be found at the following link, including details on how to respond: [www.gov.uk/government/consultations/regulation-of-buy-now-pay-later-consultation](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/regulation-of-buy-now-pay-later-consultation).

The consultation closes on 6 January. Once the consultation has concluded, the Government will review responses and consider next steps.

## ■ Customs

**Emily Thornberry:**

[62667]

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate he has made of the number of customs declarations that will be required for (a) exports from Great Britain to the EU; and (b) imports from Great Britain to the EU once full border controls have been implemented.

**Lucy Frazer:**

I refer the Rt Hon Member to the answer of 27 July 2021 to UIN 35879 which explains how such an assessment could not be made without disproportionate cost.

The annual figure pertaining to 2021 declarations will be available in due course.

**Emily Thornberry:**

[62670]

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate he made of the number of annual customs checks that will be conducted for (a) exports from Great Britain to the EU and (b) imports from Great Britain to the EU once full border controls have been implemented.

**Emily Thornberry:**

[62671]

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate he has made of the number of annual checks associated with safety and security measures that will be conducted for (a) exports from Great Britain to the EU and (b) imports from Great Britain to the EU once full border controls have been implemented.

**Lucy Frazer:**

As the customs authority, HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) will act to ensure that border processes are as smooth as possible, without compromising security. HMRC will continue to use a risk-based, intelligence-led approach to customs and safety and

security checks working alongside Border Force. Since checks are conducted based on risk, volumes are not guaranteed.

The management of EU import procedures is the responsibility of the customs authorities of the relevant EU Member States.

## ■ Fossil Fuels: Carbon Emissions

**Helen Hayes:**

**[63790]**

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps the Government is taking to recoup the costs of net zero from fossil-fuel intensive corporations.

**Lucy Frazer:**

The Government is already committed to maintaining an ambitious carbon price to ensure that polluters continue to pay for their emissions. The UK has two main carbon pricing policies - the Carbon Price Support (CPS) and the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). Revenues from carbon pricing support government priorities including meeting our net zero targets.

The CPS rate is a tax on fossil fuels used in electricity generation. CPS ensures that a strong decarbonisation signal is maintained to ensure a downwards trajectory in power sector emissions as we push to fully drive out coal.

The ETS applies a carbon price to businesses in power generation, heavy industry and aviation. The ETS will be the world's first net zero cap and trade market, delivering a robust carbon price signal and promoting cost-effective decarbonisation by allowing businesses to cut carbon where it is cheapest to do so.

We are taking the opportunity to develop a scheme with greater ambition; for example, by reducing the cap on emissions allowances by 5% from the UK's expected share of the EU ETS cap. We will also be consulting on setting a net zero consistent cap trajectory. The UK has also committed to exploring expanding the UK ETS to other sectors.

At the same time as using carbon pricing to ensure firms face a cost for the carbon they emit, we are also supporting firms and households; with £1.8 billion to support tens of thousands of low-income households to make the transition to net zero while reducing their energy bills.

## ■ Health and Social Care Levy

**Anne Marie Morris:**

**[65434]**

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether the Health and Social Care Levy rise in National Insurance is an increase of 1.25 percentage points or 1.25 per cent; and what the equivalent percentage rise is in the amount take from a standard taxpayer.

**Lucy Frazer:**

The Health and Social Care Levy is an increase of 1.25 percentage points in the main and additional rates of Class 1, 1a, 1b and 4 in 2022-23. From April 2023 onwards, the rates will reduce back to previous levels and there will be a separate 1.25 per

cent charge on all earnings above the Primary Threshold subject to the same Classes of National Insurance Contributions (NICs).

In the tax year 2022-23, a taxpayer earning the median income would be subject to 13.25 per cent in Class 1 NICs on earnings above the Primary Threshold. From April 2023 onwards they would be subject to 12 per cent in Class 1 NICs, plus 1.25 per cent on their earnings above the Primary Threshold.

## ■ Inheritance Tax

**Dr Matthew Offord:**

**[65411]**

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate he has made of the revenue to the Exchequer from inheritance tax in the next five years.

**Lucy Frazer:**

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) publishes its forecasts for receipts from Inheritance Tax (IHT) at each fiscal event in its 'Economic and fiscal outlook' publication. The most recent forecast was published alongside the Chancellor's Autumn Budget, on 27 October 2021.

The OBR's forecast for IHT receipts received by HMRC is reproduced in the table below, for each of the next five full forecast years after the current year. The last two years of outturn receipts have also been included for comparison.

BASIS	TAX YEAR	RECEIPTS (£BILLIONS)	
2020-21	Outturn	2019-20	5.1
			5.4
2022-23	Forecast	2021-22	6.0
			6.4
2023-24			6.5
2024-25			6.8
2025-26			7.2
2026-27			7.6

Source: OBR *Economic and fiscal outlook*, Table 3.4: Current receipts:  
<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-october-2021/>.



## ■ Non-domestic Rates

**Rachael Maskell:** [65467]

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what his plans are for consulting on reforms to business rates.

**Lucy Frazer:**

The Business Rates Review concluded at Autumn Budget 2021 with the publication of the final report.

The final report reaffirmed the importance of business rates for raising revenue for essential local services, introduced substantive interventions to the business rates system and announced a package of measures worth £7 billion over the next 5 years.

## ■ Overseas Aid

**Rachael Maskell:** [64671]

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what economic outcomes he requires to be met to restore the Overseas Development Assistance budget to 0.7 per cent of gross national income.

**Mr Simon Clarke:**

In July the Chancellor set out the responsible fiscal circumstances under which the UK will make the return to spending 0.7% of its gross national income (GNI) on Official Development Assistance (ODA): when the independent Office for Budget Responsibility's fiscal forecast confirms that, on a sustainable basis, the Government is not borrowing for day-to-day spending and underlying debt is falling. This is set out in further detail in the Chancellor's written ministerial statement, here:

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2021-07-12/hcws172>.

The ODA fiscal tests are now forecast to be met in 2024-25. The government will continue to monitor future forecasts closely and, each year over the spending review period, will review and confirm, in accordance with the International Development (Official Development Assistance Target) Act 2015, whether a return to spending 0.7% of GNI on ODA is possible against the latest fiscal forecast.

## ■ Science: Research

**Chi Onwurah:** [66192]

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with reference to the Autumn Budget and Spending Review 2021, what estimate he has made of spending on (a) science and (b) R&D tax reliefs as a proportion of GDP for each year from 2018 to the end of the current Parliament.

**Helen Whately:**

The estimates on government Research & Development spending and tax reliefs as a proportion of GDP for each year from 2018 are as follows:

% , GDP	2018	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
R&D Spending	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7
R&D Tax Reliefs	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4

Notes:

*Rounded to 1 decimal place*

Government Research & Development (R&D) spending and tax reliefs have been calculated using the Frascati definition, with estimates for R&D funded by government. OECD averages do not account for contributions to EU science programmes, UK figures reported consistent with OECD calculations. Source for definition. [Gross domestic expenditure on research and development, UK: 2019](#)

Sources:

[OBR's Economic and fiscal outlook – 27 October 2021](#)

[OECD R&D tax expenditure and direct government funding of BERD: Indirect government support through R&D tax relief as a percentage of GDP \(2018\)](#)

[OECD Main Science and Technology Indicators: Percentage of GERD performed by the Government Sector \(2018\)](#)

[Gross domestic expenditure on research and development, UK: 2019, Published BEIS R&D allocations UKRI budget allocations \(2021/22\)](#)

[Autumn Budget and Spending Review \(2021\)](#)

[HMRC Tax Relief estimates 2018-19 and 2019-20](#)

## ■ Sharing Economy: Coronavirus

**Daniel Kawczynski:**

**[62674]**

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps he plans to take to support the parts of the gig economy which have experienced economic downturn during covid-19 lockdown and which have not benefitted from Government covid-19 financial support during covid-19 lockdown.

**Helen Whately:**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the government provided unprecedented support to protect jobs and businesses. For example, some gig workers who are self-employed may have benefited from the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS), designed to support the incomes of self-employed individuals who were

temporarily unable to carry out their business or were impacted by reduced demand due to COVID-19, leading to a significant reduction in profits.

Government action has helped to lay the foundations for an economic recovery, and this plan is working: the UK has seen faster-than-anticipated growth, and a strong recovery in jobs across the country. The recent Budget and Spending Review builds on this, by taking action to help businesses - including those in the gig economy - to recover, invest, grow and create jobs. The Government is also taking steps to support families and working people, many of which will benefit those individuals who work in the gig economy.

Gig workers who claim Universal Credit will benefit from the reduced taper rate, which will help to make work pay; and from the Government's new £99 million In-Work Progression offer, which will mean more people in work on Universal Credit will be able to access individualised work coach support to help them progress and increase their earnings.

Alongside individuals across the economy, gig economy workers should also benefit from investment in skills, announced at Spending Review 2021, which will give adults more opportunities to upskill and retrain to improve access to higher paid jobs. This includes continuing to offer free Level 3 courses in high value subjects, quadrupling the scale of Skills Bootcamps in growing sectors, and a brand new scheme to boost adult numeracy - Multiply. Improving numeracy can boost earnings by up to 14%.

## ■ Tax Avoidance

**Daisy Cooper:**

[\[62864\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent estimate he has made of the amount of revenue that will be raised from the Loan Charge.

**Lucy Frazer:**

The Loan Charge was announced at Budget 2016 as part of a package of measures to tackle Disguised Remuneration tax avoidance. The forecast was last revised at Spring Budget 2021, with the latest estimated overall Exchequer yield of £3.3 billion for the entire package, which includes an element of Loan Charge.

In September 2019, the Government commissioned an Independent Review into the Loan Charge, led by Sir Amyas Morse. The changes to the Loan Charge following the independent review were estimated to reduce the yield forecast through Loan Charge. At Budget 2020, the changes were costed as a separate measure, with an estimated reduction to the Exchequer yield of £745 million.

**Stephen Hammond:**

[\[65394\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he has made an assessment of the potential merits of a further independent review of the Loan Charge since Lord Morse's 2019 Review.

**Lucy Frazer:**

A comprehensive independent review of the Loan Charge has already taken place. In September 2019, the Government commissioned Lord Morse to lead this Review.

There are no plans for a further review of the Loan Charge.

Lord Morse's report was published in December 2019 and concluded that it was right for the Government to collect the tax due, but also recommended changes to how the Loan Charge works.

The Government accepted all but one of the Review's 20 recommendations, which is estimated to benefit over 30,000 individuals, removing 11,000 from the Loan Charge entirely.

These changes have improved how the Loan Charge operates, which ensures that individuals pay the right amount of tax and ensures fairness for all taxpayers and the wider public.

**■ Tax Avoidance: Prosecutions****Daisy Cooper:****[62867]**

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many promoters and operators of schemes now subject to the Loan Charge have been prosecuted for promoting and operating those schemes to date.

**Lucy Frazer:**

Promotion or operation of mass marketed tax avoidance schemes is not in and of itself a criminal offence. However, there are a range of offences which might be committed by those who promote tax avoidance schemes or advise on their use.

On that basis, to date, while there have been no prosecutions of individuals related to schemes subject to the Loan Charge, a number of individuals are currently under criminal investigation by HMRC for offences linked to schemes subject to the Loan Charge.

In addition to schemes subject to the Loan Charge, since 1 April 2016, more than 20 individuals have been convicted for offences relating to arrangements which have been promoted and marketed as tax avoidance, including offences related to disguised remuneration. These have resulted in over 100 years of custodial sentences, the majority of which relate to promoters.

HMRC are committed to continuing to tackle promoters and operators of tax avoidance schemes. This includes challenging the entities and individuals who promote disguised remuneration loan schemes.

Prosecutions are only one type of intervention available to HMRC where they identify concerns.

## ■ Tonnage Tax

**Ian Mearns:**

[\[65409\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether trade unions organising seafarer ratings and officers will be consulted over the changes to the Tonnage Tax outlined in paragraphs 2.175 to 2.177 of the Autumn Budget and Spending Review 2021, HC 822.

**Helen Whately:**

At Autumn Budget 2021, the Chancellor announced that the Government will introduce a package of measures to reform the UK's Tonnage Tax regime, which will come into force from April 2022. These reforms aim to see more firms basing their headquarters in the UK, using the UK's world-leading maritime services industry, and flying the UK flag.

The Government and industry will continue to work collaboratively on the training commitment, which supports the training of hundreds of new, skilled cadets every year. This will include engagement with stakeholders in trade unions and industry.

The Government will also review whether to include ship management within scope of the Tonnage Tax regime, and whether the existing limit that can be claimed in capital allowances by organisations leasing ships to Tonnage Tax participants remains appropriate. Relevant stakeholders will be consulted throughout this review.

## ■ Treasury: Darlington

**Bridget Phillipson:**

[\[65425\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many (a) Treasury and (b) non-Treasury civil servants were physically present and working in the Economic Campus in Darlington on (i) Monday, (ii) Tuesday, (iii) Wednesday, (iv) Thursday and (v) Friday in the week commencing 11 October 2021 in which the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury was working in that campus.

**Helen Whately:**

All HMT offices are open and available for use by HMT staff. We are not able to share separate breakdowns by location and do not hold information on non-HMT staff use of the Darlington economic campus.

## ■ Treasury: Stonewall

**Tim Loughton:**

[\[62564\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what funding his Department has allocated to Stonewall in each of the last five years; and to what projects that funding was allocated.

**Helen Whately:**

The Treasury has not allocated any project funding to Stonewall over the past five years.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

### ■ Minister for Women and Equalities: Black History Month

**Ruth Jones:**

[\[60511\]](#)

To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, how her Department has marked Black History Month 2021.

**Kemi Badenoch:**

This year, the Government marked Black History Month with the #TransformingToday campaign. Throughout the month, the Cabinet Office has coordinated the government-wide campaign, #TransformingToday, which has celebrated Black British talent, trailblazers and pioneers. There has been a particular focus on our Covid heroes. As Minister of State for Equalities I wrote an opinion piece for Black History Month Magazine and took part in an interview with Sky News' Trevor Phillips on the topic of Black History Month.

There have been numerous central events including a No10 reception celebrating the success of Black interns, entrepreneurs and others, attended by the Prime Minister. There was also an event highlighting service with school pupils from three schools and Victoria Cross recipient Johnson Beharry; as well as other events in skills and digital helping to support Black people in their ambitions.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### ■ Employment and Support Allowance: Appeals

**Kate Osamor:**

[\[63814\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many employment and support allowance first-tier Tribunal appeals were lapsed between January and March 2021.

**Kate Osamor:**

[\[63815\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many employment and support allowance first-tier Tribunal appeals were lapsed between April and June 2021.

**Chloe Smith:**

The information requested is not readily available and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

### ■ Employment and Support Allowance: Work Capability Assessment

**Peter Grant:**

[\[65453\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what estimate she has made of the number of claimants who are due to reach the end of their 12 month entitlement to contributions-based employment and support allowance before the Centre for Health and Disability Assessments has completed its work capability assessment by the end of 2021.

**Chloe Smith:**

The information requested is not readily available and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

**■ Employment: Social Security Benefits****Lilian Greenwood:**[\[63713\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the average time to process payments to support workers was in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available.

**Chloe Smith:**

*[Holding answer 29 October 2021]:* Access to Work customers have 9 months within which to submit their request for payment, once costs have been incurred. Access to Work aim for customers to be paid within 10 days of receipt of claims and all supporting evidence.

Unfortunately, we are not able to provide details of average processing times for payments to support workers as we do not hold this data.

**■ Members: Correspondence****Paul Maynard:**[\[62696\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, when she plans to reply to the letter of 21 June 2021, resent on 8 September 2021, from the hon. Member for Blackpool North and Cleveleys, regarding the Personal Independence Payment application process.

**Guy Opperman:**

A reply was sent to the Honourable Member on 02/11 2021.

**■ Personal Independence Payment****Drew Hendry:**[\[64655\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment her Department has made of the impact of excluding children under the age of three from personal independence payment's higher rate mobility awards on those children and their families.

**Drew Hendry:**[\[64656\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of providing additional support for the mobility needs of severely disabled children under the age of three.

**Chloe Smith:**

Children under the age of 16 can claim Child Disability Living Allowance (DLA). They are not eligible for Personal Independence Payment (PIP) which is a benefit for working age claimants.

DLA is an extra-costs benefit available to those under the age of 16 who, due to a disability or health condition, have mobility issues and/or have needs which are



substantially in excess of a child the same age without the disability or health condition. DLA is a contribution towards the extra costs associated with being disabled.

As all younger children have substantial mobility needs, only children over the age of three can claim the mobility component of DLA. Under 3s, however, can still access other forms of support, including the care component of DLA.

There are no current proposals to change the existing age restrictions for the mobility component of Child DLA.

### ■ Personal Independence Payment: Appeals

**Kate Osamor:** [\[63816\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many personal independence payment first-tier Tribunal appeals were lapsed between January and March 2021.

**Kate Osamor:** [\[63817\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, for the period April to June 2021, how many personal independence payment first-tier Tribunal appeals lapsed.

**Chloe Smith:**

The information on number of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) appeals lapsed during the requested periods is given below:

PERIOD	NUMBER OF PIP APPEALS LAPSED
January – March 2021	7,020
April – June 2021	5,310

Data has been rounded to the nearest 10. Totals are for Great Britain.

PIP appeals data taken from the DWP PIP computer system's management information. Therefore this data may differ from that held by Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service for various reasons such as delays in data recording and other methodological differences in collating and preparing statistics.

### ■ Social Security Benefits: Mental Health Services

**Kate Osamor:** [\[60479\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether her Department offers mental health support to claimants who have had their benefits stopped and have experienced problems with their mental health.

**Chloe Smith:**

We have taken steps to increase staff awareness of the mental health difficulties that may be experienced by our customers, so they can direct them to further support at any stage of the claimant journey. For example, we introduced mental health training

for UC Work Coaches in late 2017; this has better equipped them to identify customers' mental health issues and take appropriate action. We have also made mental health training mandatory for all new Personal Independent Payment and Employment Support Allowance telephony staff.

Every Jobcentre has a complex needs toolkit containing links to local organisations which can help and provide support. The toolkit was developed to support claimants with various complex needs, including by signposting them to appropriate organisations and services. Designated contacts from each jobcentre attended training sessions where they were taught how to use the toolkit. The toolkit is now covered within UC training for all new starters.

## ■ Universal Credit

**Charlotte Nichols:**

[\[59985\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if she will make it her policy to remove the escalation to a decision maker when awarding the allowance for the carer's element within universal credit, once a claimant has declared that they receive carer's allowance, in order to avoid the delay in the award of that payment.

**Chloe Smith:**

For the majority of cases a referral to a Decision Maker is not required once a claimant has declared that they have relevant caring responsibility. However, if more than one claimant is receiving Carer's Allowance or Carer Element for the same person, the carers should decide between them who will receive the additional amount for caring. If they cannot decide, the decision is referred to a Decision Maker.

**David Linden:**

[\[64710\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many universal credit claimants did not receive the £20 uplift as a result of the benefit cap in (a) the UK and (b) each parliamentary constituency.

**David Rutley:**

The information is not available. This is because Universal Credit is a unitary concept. Whilst there are different elements in the determination of the gross entitlement, Universal Credit is paid as one single payment. As such it is not possible to describe the benefit cap deduction as a deduction from a particular increase to an element of the Universal Credit award, such as the £20 uplift.

The benefit cap restores fairness between those receiving working age benefits and taxpayers in employment and encourages people to move into work, where possible.

**Rachael Maskell:**

[\[65466\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people will benefit from the changes to the tapering on university credit announced in the Autumn Budget 2021 (a) nationally, (b) in York and (c) in York Central constituency.

**David Rutley:**

Universal Credit recipients in work will soon benefit from a reduction in the Universal Credit taper rate from 63% to 55%, and increasing the work allowance by £504 per year means that 1.9m working households will be able to keep substantially more of what they earn. These measures effectively represent a tax cut, worth around £2.2bn a year in 2022-23, for the lowest paid in society, and are combined with a rise in the National Living Wage to £9.50 per hour.

The latest available statistics on the number of people who are on Universal Credit and are in employment, for Great Britain and by local authority and parliamentary constituency, are published and can be found at:

<https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/>

Guidance on how to extract the information required can be found at:

<https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/online-help/Getting-Started.html>

**■ Universal Credit: Appeals**

**Kate Osamor:** [63818]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, for the period January to March 2021, how many universal credit first-tier Tribunal appeals were lapsed.

**Kate Osamor:** [63819]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, for the period April to June 2021, how many universal credit first-tier Tribunal appeals were lapsed.

**Chloe Smith:**

The information requested is not readily available and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

**■ Universal Credit: Arts**

**Mr Barry Sheerman:** [62600]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment she had made of the financial and social implications of withdrawing the £20 uplift to the standard allowance of universal credit on people employed in the creative and performing arts sectors.

**David Rutley:**

No assessment has been made of the impact of withdrawing the uplift on people employed in the creative and performing arts sectors.

The Chancellor announced a temporary six-month extension to the £20 per week uplift at the Budget on 3 March to support households affected by the economic shock of Covid-19. Universal Credit has provided a vital safety net for six million people during the pandemic, and the temporary uplift was part of a COVID support package worth a total of £407 billion in 2020-21 and 2021-22.

There have been significant positive developments in the public health situation since the uplift was first introduced. With the success of the vaccine rollout and record job vacancies, it is right that our focus is on helping people back into work. This approach is based on clear evidence about the importance of employment, particularly where it is full-time, in substantially reducing the risks of poverty.

Through our Plan for Jobs, we are targeting tailored support schemes of people of all ages to help them prepare for, get into and progress in work. These include: Kickstart, delivering tens of thousands of six-month work placements for Universal Credit claimants aged 16-24 at risk of unemployment; we have also recruited an additional 13,500 work coaches to provide more intensive support to find a job; and introduced Restart which provides 12 months' intensive employment support to Universal Credit claimants who are unemployed for a year. Our Plan for Jobs interventions will support more than two million people

This Government is wholly committed to supporting those on low incomes, and continues to do so through many measures, including by spending over £111 billion on welfare support for people of working age in 2021/22. This government is continuing to take action to support living standards by increasing the National Living Wage to £9.50 effective from April 1st 2022, as well as reducing the taper rate in Universal Credit from 63% to 55% and increasing the value of work allowances by £500 per year, meaning Universal Credit claimants will be able to keep more of their benefit payments when they increase their earnings.

The government is committed to supporting the creative and performing arts sectors, recently announcing a further £42m of investment in the creative industries at the Spending Review to help grow businesses in the creative industries and provide opportunity for people across the country. Additionally we will be funding the £800 million Live Events Reinsurance Scheme and an extension to the £500 million Film & TV Production Restart Scheme, to enable UK events and productions to thrive and plan with certainty.

## WRITTEN STATEMENTS

### BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

#### ■ Business Update

**Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (Kwasi Kwarteng):**

**[\[HCWS368\]](#)**

The National Security and Investment Act protects the public from potential risks. It bolsters the UK's status as an attractive place to invest by providing more efficient clearance processes for relevant acquisitions and more certainty and transparency for investors and businesses. It is a proportionate response to modern developments in international investment.

It will also ensure foreign direct investment projects can continue to boost jobs and stimulate the economy in every corner of the UK, as the vast majority of deals will be able to proceed without delay.

The Act provides for a call-in power which enables the Government to screen qualifying acquisitions for national security risks. In order to use the call-in power, the Secretary of State must – in accordance with section 3 of the Act – lay before Parliament, and publish, a statement on the expected use of the call-in power. This will provide clarity and certainty for businesses and investors on the circumstances in which national security risks are considered more likely to arise from qualifying acquisitions.

The Government consulted on a draft of the statement from 20 July to 30 August, in line with the commitment to consult given during Parliamentary passage of the Act. I am grateful for the constructive responses which we received from businesses, investors, law firms and others.

I am today laying the statement before Parliament and publishing it alongside the Government's response to the consultation. This fulfils the requirements of the Act and enables the call-in power to be used once the Act fully commences on 4 January 2022.

The statement should be read alongside other guidance documents which the Government has published about the NSI system, and further guidance will be published in the coming weeks.

I will place a copy of the Government response to the consultation on the draft statement for the purposed of section 3 in the Libraries of the House.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### ■ Confirmation of fishing licence numbers issued by the UK and the Crown Dependencies

**Minister of State (Victoria Prentis):**

[\[HCWS372\]](#)

This statement sets out, for clarity, the numbers of fishing licences issued by the UK and the Crown Dependencies since the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) was signed. The information is correct as of 9am on 3 November 2021.

The position does change as applications can be made or withdrawn at any time. Requests to withdraw licences by the European Commission can also be made at any time and therefore the number of active licences will be slightly different.

#### UK waters

Under the Fisheries Act 2020, all foreign vessels fishing in UK waters are required to have a licence. Article 2(1) of Annex 38 to the TCA sets out the level of access which applies during the adjustment period (until 30 June 2026). This includes both the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and also particular zones in the territorial sea (6 to 12 nautical miles from the shore in ICES divisions 4c and 7d-g). Access to the territorial sea is limited to “qualifying” vessels, i.e. those that fished in those zones in at least four of the years between 2012 and 2016, or their direct replacements. The TCA also places some limitations on access in terms of which stocks can be targeted, where and by which Member States.

In the UK 6 to 12 nautical mile zone, our approach has been to license vessels once sufficient evidence has been provided that they have fished in UK waters on at least one day in four of the years between 2012 and 2016.

The number of licences that have been issued to EU vessels to fish in UK waters are as follows.

Overall total:

#### UK

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	LICENCES ISSUED	LICENCES PENDING FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE COMMISSION/MEMBER STATE
1831[i]	1793	38

In short, almost 98% of all licences received by the UK have been granted.

#### UK 12-200nm zone

The majority of these licenses were granted on 31 December 2020 with 1,285 EU vessels licensed.

Applications received: 1,673

Vessels licensed: 1,673

By member State:

MEMBER STATE	APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	LICENCES ISSUED	APPLICATIONS PENDING
Belgium	65	65	0
Denmark	121	121	0
France	736	736	0
Germany	49	49	0
Republic of Ireland	358	358	0
Lithuania	2	2	0
Netherlands	192	192	0
Poland	2	2	0
Portugal	49	49	0
Spain	90	90	0
Sweden	9	9	0

#### **UK 6-12nm zone**

##### **Vessels over 12m**

Applications received: 109

Vessels licensed: 102

By member State:

MEMBER STATE	APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	LICENCES ISSUED	APPLICATIONS PENDING
Belgium	21	17	4
France	88	85	3

##### **Vessels under 12m**

Applications received: 50

Vessels licensed: 19

By member State:



MEMBER STATE	APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	LICENCES ISSUED	APPLICATIONS PENDING
France	50	19	31

- 1 licensed vessel was withdrawn at the EU's request.

### **Crown Dependency waters**

The TCA provides for different arrangements for the Crown Dependencies of Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man, all of which are responsible for issuing their own licences. Article 502(1) of the TCA provides that:

“Each Party shall grant vessels of the other Party access to fish in its waters reflecting the actual extent and nature of fishing activity that it can be demonstrated was carried out during the period beginning on 1 February 2017 and ending on 31 January 2020 by qualifying vessels of the other Party in the waters and under any treaty arrangements that existed on 31 January 2020.” A “qualifying vessel” is one which fished in the relevant CD waters on more than 10 days in one of the periods defined by the TCA.

Both Jersey and Guernsey have extended transitional arrangements to enable EU vessels to continue to fish in their waters, while evidence of relevant fishing activity during the reference period is collected and they move to a full licensing regime.

Licensing figures for the Crown Dependencies are as follows:

### **Jersey**

TOTAL LIVE APPLICATIONS	PERMANENT LICENCES ISSUED	TEMPORARY LICENCES GRANTED. VALID UNTIL 31/1/22. FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE COMMISSION/MEMBER STATE REQUIRED FOR THEM TO BE MADE PERMANENT	LAPSED ON 30/10 DUE TO LACK OF EVIDENCE
217	113	49	55

Jersey have also received 11 applications for replacement vessels, which are pending the finalisation of a methodology for such vessels.

### **Guernsey**

Guernsey's transitional arrangement which allows access for 167 French vessels will continue until 31 January 2022.

Full licences will be issued to eligible vessels on 1 December 2021. 58 applications have been received.

**Isle of Man** : no applications received.

[i] Additionally, a further 37 applications for direct replacement vessels have been received from France. Processing of these will be carried out once a methodology has been finalised for such vessels

## HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

### ■ Adult Social Care Winter Plan

**Minister of State (Minister for Care and Mental Health) (Gillian Keegan):**

[\[HCWS371\]](#)

On 3 November 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care will be publishing the Adult Social Care: Winter plan 2021 to 2022. This plan has been developed in conjunction with the NHS and social care sector stakeholders, drawing on the recommendations of Sir David Pearson's review of last year's Adult Social Care Winter Plan; advice from SAGE and UKHSA; and extensively on lessons learned so far in the pandemic.

The Adult Social Care Winter Plan 2021 to 2022 will set out the actions National Government will be taking to support the sector, along with the steps local authorities, the NHS, and care providers should take to prevent and control COVID-19 outbreaks. The plan focuses not just on COVID-19, but also other viruses such as flu and norovirus, to ensure that those who receive social care are protected this winter.

Thanks to the huge success of the UK's vaccine rollout, we are in a favourable position as we approach this winter, and I am determined to ensure that those in all social care settings remain protected whilst maintaining their quality of life. The UK Government has already set out a comprehensive package of measures to support the adult social care sector throughout the winter. These are:

- £388 million in further funding to support infection prevention control, testing and vaccination uptake in adult social care settings. This is in addition to a further £478 million to continue enhanced hospital discharge support until March 2022.
- A new £162.5 million Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund to bolster the dedicated care workforce. This funding will support local authorities, working with providers, to recruit staff and retain the existing workforce - through a range of measures which could include local recruitment activity, the creation of staff banks, additional overtime hours and payments to incentivise joiners and recognise loyalty – to ensure the right number of staff with the skills to deliver high quality care to meet increasing demands.
- Free flu vaccination for eligible frontline social care workers and carers and ensuring pharmacists can vaccinate staff and recipients of care in care homes.
- COVID-19 booster vaccinations to those in JCVI cohorts 1-9 that received their second dose more than six months ago. Older Adult Care Home residents and staff will receive COVID-19 boosters within their home.

- Continuing the designated settings scheme, in order to provide appropriate care for in a COVID-secure environment for those likely to be infectious with COVID-19 who are discharged from hospital. The Designated Settings Indemnity Support has also been extended to cover the winter period until 31 March 2022, in order to maintain the current level of support for these vital settings.
- Continuing to provide free PPE for COVID-19 needs to the Adult Social Care sector until the end of March 2022, with sufficient stock to cope throughout winter. Regular asymptomatic COVID-19 testing will be maintained, with the availability of more intense testing regimes for higher risk settings.
- We are also publishing the evaluation from the Workforce Capacity Fund. The fund which saw £120m support provided to the sector in Jan 2021, helped the sector to deal with challenges of COVID-19 last winter, delivered 7.3 million additional hours with over 39k new recruits. It was deemed, by overwhelming majority of LAs, as either 'somewhat' or 'very' effective in supporting them to strengthen workforce capacity last winter.

The Department of Health and Social Care has worked closely with the NHS to ensure the Adult Social Care Winter Plan is co-ordinated and integrated with their planning. NHS England and Improvement's winter planning guidance is already available [ [NHS England » 2021/22 priorities and operational planning guidance: October 2021 – March 2022](#) ]. The Adult Social Care Plan and NHSEI's planning guidance enable the providers of care across both sectors to prepare for winter.

## LEVELLING UP, HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES

### ■ DLUHC update

**Parliamentary-Under Secretary for Levelling Up - Local Government, Constitution and the Union (Neil O'Brien):** [\[HCWS369\]](#)

I will shortly announce 477 projects supporting people and communities across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland which are set to receive a share of over £200 million, helping support local areas to pilot imaginative new approaches and programmes that unleash their potential, instil pride, and prepare them to take full advantage of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund when it launches in 2022. The UK Community Renewal Fund is part of the Government's plan to level up our regions and create a more united country.

This is levelling up in action – investing in projects across the whole of the UK that will make a real difference to people's lives. Supporting those on low incomes to become budding entrepreneurs, investing in local businesses and councils at the forefront of our decarbonisation drive, and funding new education and training facilities that will help people go far but stay local. Through this fund we are also empowering local leaders to shape the places they live, guaranteeing that these investments have a lasting impact.

Selection of UK Community Renewal Fund projects that will be funded include:

- Over £1 million to upskill people in retrofit and modern construction skills in Devon to support the decarbonisation drive in the property sector, helping people get construction jobs and ensuring businesses have the skills they need.
- £201,064 to support unemployed and disadvantaged residents in Carmarthenshire into self-employment or to start their own business, by investing in digital, employability and entrepreneurial skills. The programme will also fund a bootcamp for female entrepreneurs, developing a networking group for women in business.
- £67,626 to deliver deaf awareness training and basic British Sign Language to customer facing staff at a range of organisations throughout Rhondda Cynon Taf. The money will also be used to set up local community groups for the elderly who are hard of hearing, tackling loneliness and isolation.
- £72,501 to support neurodiverse people with conditions such as Tourette's, OCD, ADHD/ADD and Dyslexia in Antrim and Newtownabbey to secure employment and prepare for the world of work.
- £612,000 shared between Inverclyde and Aberdeen City for a pilot to support 16–24-year-olds from deprived areas to upskill and secure jobs.

Delivering on the commitment to level up all of the UK underpins the choices made in the Budget and Spending Review. The historic levels of investment confirmed through SR21 will improve living standards for people and places across the UK, helping ensure that people's opportunities in life are not determined by where they live. Investing in people will boost employment, wages and prospects. The Budget and Spending Review launches the UK Shared Prosperity Fund worth over £2.6 billion, to help people access new opportunities in places of need. Funding will rise to £1.5 billion a year by 2024-25.

## TREASURY

### ■ Launch of the London Capital & Finance Compensation Scheme - Contingencies Fund Advance

**The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (John Glen):** [\[HCWS370\]](#)

On 19 April 2021 the government announced the detail of a compensation scheme for London Capital & Finance plc (LCF) bondholders (HCWS922). The scheme provides 80% of LCF bondholders' principal investment up to a maximum of £68,000 and will be open to all bondholders who hold bonds that have not already been compensated by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS).

Now that the necessary legislation has passed through Parliament, final preparations are being made so that the scheme can begin making payments in November. The government has appointed FSCS to run the scheme on its behalf using Part 15A of the Financial Services and Markets Act. The government and FSCS are committed to providing all eligible bondholders with their compensation within six months.

I would like to emphasise that bondholders do not need to do anything at this stage and should wait for FSCS to contact them about their compensation payment. Further detail

on exactly how the scheme will operate, including the scheme rules and frequently asked questions, are available online at [www.gov.uk/LCF-compensation-scheme](https://www.gov.uk/LCF-compensation-scheme)

The Compensation (London Capital & Finance plc and Fraud Compensation Fund) Act received Royal Assent on 20 October 2021 but provision for this was not included in the Main Estimate for HM Treasury at the start of the financial year. In accordance with normal procedures, HM Treasury will therefore be using a Contingencies Fund advance to enable bondholders' access to their compensation payments, ahead of the provision being provided in the Treasury's Supplementary Estimate.

Parliamentary approval for additional resources of £120,000,000 for this new expenditure will be sought in a Supplementary Estimate for HM Treasury. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £120,000,000 will be met by repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund.