

## Daily Report

Friday, 8 July 2022

This report shows written answers and statements provided on 8 July 2022 and the information is correct at the time of publication (03:38 P.M., 08 July 2022). 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

### CABINET OFFICE

#### ■ Cabinet Office: Pay

**Jon Trickett:**

[\[28388\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what the wage ratio was between the highest paid member of staff in his Department and the lowest in (a) 2020, (b) 2021 and (c) 2022.

**Mrs Heather Wheeler:**

Please find below information regarding the highest remuneration amounts in CO, the median remuneration amounts in CO and the remuneration ratio.

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Highest remuneration (£000)	255-260	250-255	Not yet published
Median remuneration (£)	38,435	39,520	Not yet published
Remuneration ratio	6.70	6.40	Not yet published

The total remuneration includes salary, non-consolidated performance related pay and benefits in kind. It does not include severance payments, employer pension contributions and the cash equivalent transfer value of pensions.

#### ■ Coronavirus: Mortality Rates

**Rachael Maskell:**

[\[27665\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what recent assessment he has made of the impact of (a) underlying health conditions, (b) age or another protected characteristic and (c) vaccination status on mortality rates of covid-19.

**Mrs Heather Wheeler:**

The information requested falls under the remit of the UK Statistics Authority.

A response to the hon. Member's Parliamentary Question of 29 June is attached.

**Attachments:**

1. UKSA response [UKSA\_Response\_to\_PQ27665 (1) (1).pdf]

## ■ Public Bodies: Equality

**Rachael Maskell:**

[\[28443\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, if he will take steps to help ensure that (a) all public bodies undertake annual diversity reviews and (b) those annual reviews include an assessment of the progression of people with protected characteristics.

**Mr Jacob Rees-Mogg:**

Regulation 4 of the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017 already requires many public authorities to publish, every year, information relating to those of their employees who share a relevant protected characteristic. This helps the authorities to demonstrate their compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty.

The Government is committed to reforming Arm's-Length Bodies to ensure they are necessary, accountable, efficient and effective. To achieve this vision the Government has launched a Public Body Review Programme. The guidance includes an expectation that:

"All Arm's-Length Bodies shall, in the management of its workforce:

- Meet its legal obligations as a public sector employer.
- Follow the Public Sector Pay Policy.
- Report their gender pay gap, if meeting the reporting threshold.
- Adhere to diversity action plans in place".

Additionally, the Cabinet Office has published a new 'Sponsorship Code of Good Practice'. As part of the Code, Arm's-Length Bodies are challenged to have a diversity action plan.

## CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

## ■ Church of England

**Mr Ben Bradshaw:**

[\[26687\]](#)

To ask the Member for South West Bedfordshire, representing the Church Commissioners, with reference to the Answer of 28 March 2022 to Question 145801, on Church of England, and the official document, Governance: simple, fruitful and sustainable, published by the Diocese of Truro in April 2021, which states that in a multi-parish benefice a pastoral scheme may unite several parishes to become a single parish with one PCC, whether the Church Commissioners have made an assessment of the consistency of that scheme with the definition of a parish.

**Andrew Selous:**

The document Governance: simple, fruitful and sustainable summarises the Diocese of Truro's approach to mission and pastoral planning and is consistent with the requirements of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011, which provides the legal

framework for the local organisation of worship, mission and ministry. Under the terms of the Mission and Pastoral Measure several parishes can be united to become a single parish with a single PCC, or variations of that model.

## ■ Church of England: Leeds

**Mr Ben Bradshaw:**

[26685]

To ask the Member for South West Bedfordshire, representing the Church Commissioners, with reference to their decision to award the Diocese of Leeds £3,094,588 of Strategic Development Funding (SDF), and figure 10 of the Independent Review of Lowest Income Communities funding and Strategic Development Funding by Sir Robert Chote and others, how many of the (a) anticipated and (b) recorded numbers of new disciples came from the project Strengthening Mission Across the City of Leeds between 2017 and 2021.

**Andrew Selous:**

The Church Commissioners do not award funding to specific dioceses; this is the role of the Archbishops' Council, as delegated to the Strategic Investment Board. The Independent Review notes on page 27 para 3.32, beneath Figure 10, that "the Strategy and Development Unit do not regard the estimates of new disciples witnessed and expected for individual projects that underpin the aggregates as a robust basis to compare their actual and expected performance, which of course suggests that one should be wary of combining them into an aggregate figure." The figure used in the report is 175 new disciples out of an anticipated 1125 by 2024, but is based on older data. More up-to-date figures from the end of 2020 show that the project as a whole is ahead of its interim goals for attendance by the end of 2021, and early data shows further growth into 2022. As with all churches, the long-term effects of the Covid-19 pandemic are still to be worked out. The Chote Review of Lowest Income Communities funding and Strategic Development Funding can be found at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/IRLS%20-%20final%20report%20%282%29.pdf>

## ■ Church of England: Truro

**Mr Ben Bradshaw:**

[26681]

To ask the Member for South West Bedfordshire, representing the Church Commissioners, with reference to the Low Income Communities Funding, if the Commissioners will ask the Bishop of Truro to pass on the benefits from that funding to mission in Truro's lowest income communities, such as by reducing their parish share, as opposed to leaving it to underwrite the diocesan deficit.

**Andrew Selous:**

The award, monitoring and evaluation of Lowest Income Communities Funding is the responsibility of the Archbishops' Council, as delegated to its Strategic Investment Board. The primary business of the diocese is to fund mission in parishes, chiefly through funding the provision of stipendiary clergy, and so the primary driver of a deficit or surplus is the difference in cost between ministry funded and funds received

from parishes and other sources towards these ministry costs. The Diocese of Truro expects that by 2023 all or nearly all of the funding received from the Lowest Income Communities Fund will have been passed onto funding ministry and mission in the diocese's lowest income communities, and not underwriting the diocesan deficit.

■ **Church of England: Wigan**

**Mr Ben Bradshaw:**

[\[26682\]](#)

To ask the Member for South West Bedfordshire, representing the Church Commissioners, with reference to paragraph 76 of the Diocese of Liverpool's Transforming Wigan bid document and the 500 per cent increase in the number of young people involved in church, as reflected in average weekly attendance figures, in the performance reporting on SDF projects, what figure has been reported against that target to the Archbishops' Council Strategic Development Unit.

**Andrew Selous:**

The latest monitoring report for the 'Transforming Wigan' project dates from April 2020. The project team reported that this was the most challenging part of the project. An initial attempt to develop a Network Youth Strategy was brought to an end as it did not provide the growth required or connect well with the whole. The Wigan team undertook a significant review to re-engage and develop a more embedded youth strategy, building on learning what worked well. The next phase of work was to be built around pioneer chaplaincy, an internship scheme for engaging young people in mission, and a Brighter School of Discipleship. From the information available to the National Church Institutions there have been over 2,000 direct contacts with young people in schools through this work.

**Mr Ben Bradshaw:**

[\[26683\]](#)

To ask the Member for South West Bedfordshire, representing the Church Commissioners, with reference to the Diocese of Liverpool's Transforming Wigan bid document, and the expectation expressed in paragraph 76 of that document that there would be a real-terms increase in annual giving of £500,000, what figure has been reported against that target to the Archbishops' Council Strategic Development Unit in performance reporting on Strategic Development Fund projects.

**Andrew Selous:**

Based on learning from the project, the focus of this objective was changed to focus on the long term sustainability of the deanery – to clear the parish share backlog of the deanery with the diocese, to establish an annual balanced budget that is fully funded by the deanery, and to develop a deanery giving scheme focused on the mission, engaging more people in the parish, and increasing overall giving year-on-year. This was on track at the end of 2019, at which point Wigan had cleared its historic backlog. Since then, Covid has had a significant impact, and the deanery is seeking to rebuild its financial position. A final evaluation of the project has been commissioned and should be provided internally to the Strategic Investment Board by the end of the year. More information about the Transforming Wigan project is

available from the Diocese of Liverpool here: <https://liverpool.anglican.org/about-us/liverpool-dbf/sdf-projects/transforming-wigan/>

**Mr Ben Bradshaw:**

[26684]

To ask the Member for South West Bedfordshire, representing the Church Commissioners, with reference to the Diocese of Liverpool's Transforming Wigan bid document, and the list of expectations expressed in paragraph 76 of that document, according to performance reporting on Strategic Development Fund projects, (a) which of those expectations were achieved in full by the end of 2021 and (b) which have not been achieved in full.

**Andrew Selous:**

Over time there have been adjustments to the programme to reflect learning and the experience on the ground. The latest internal project review with the national church dates from April 2020, and at this point a majority of these objectives were seen as on track. An end-of-project independent evaluation has been commissioned and will be presented to the Strategic Investment Board later this year. More information about the project is available from the Diocese of Liverpool here:

<https://liverpool.anglican.org/about-us/liverpool-dbf/sdf-projects/transforming-wigan/>

## DIGITAL, CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### ■ Charity Commission: Internet

**Chi Onwurah:**

[27598]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps a charity can take to remove former trustees from the Charity Commission website once the trustees have been voted out at a general meeting but refuse to remove their names voluntarily.

**Nigel Huddleston:**

Charity trustees of registered charities have a responsibility to keep the charity's registered details up to date with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. Where an individual is no longer a trustee, their details need to be removed from the charity's registered information on the public register of charities.

If the individual is unable or unwilling to do this, another trustee or someone else within the charity acting on behalf of the trustees can make the change. If the charity has any difficulty accessing digital services they can contact the Charity Commission's Contact Centre for support.

### ■ Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport: EU Law

**Layla Moran:**

[27719]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what estimate she has made of (a) the number of officials in her Department involved in recording retained EU legislation for the purposes of the Retained EU Law Dashboard in the latest period for

which figures are available and (b) the cost to the public purse of recording that information.

**Nigel Huddleston:**

DCMS' response to the Cabinet Office's commission for the Retained EU Law Dashboard was coordinated by the department's Legislative Strategy team and drew from a range of officials, with varying involvement over a period of time. It is therefore not possible to disaggregate specifically.

There has been no additional non-pay cost to the public purse by creating the dashboard. The process was led by the Cabinet Office, who commissioned Government Departments to find REUL within their legislation and compile an authoritative account of where REUL sits on the UK statute book.

The dashboard itself is made by the Government Strategic Management Office and is hosted on Tableau Public, which is a free platform for hosting public dashboards.

The dashboard will continue to be updated at no additional cost.

■ **Internet: Business**

**Mr Steve Baker:** [27588]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment she has made of the potential effect of the Online Safety Bill on business-to-business services.

**Nigel Huddleston:**

The Online Safety Bill has been designed to be targeted and proportionate. Companies providing services to other companies on a business-to-business basis are not in scope of the regulatory framework.

**Mr Steve Baker:** [27589]

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what recent discussions she has had with business representatives on the potential effect of the Online Safety Bill on business-to-business services; and if she will take steps to ensure that relevant business stakeholders are supported in understanding the effects of those legislative proposals on those services.

**Nigel Huddleston:**

Business to business services are not in scope of the regulatory framework set out in the Online Safety Bill.

Ministers and officials have regular meetings and discussions with a wide range of stakeholders on a variety of issues, including business to business services. Details of Ministerial meetings are published quarterly on the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website.

## ■ Regional Planning and Development: Culture

**Rachael Maskell:**

**[27657]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment she has made of the role of the (a) arts, (b) creative and (c) heritage sectors in achieving the levelling up agenda.

**Nigel Huddleston:**

The arts, heritage, and creative sectors are at the centre of the government's Levelling Up agenda. By supporting and developing these sectors, we can rejuvenate and transform our communities across the country, creating jobs and boosting pride in place.

As a department, we have assessed that a number of DCMS programmes across these sectors are already playing a key role in achieving the Levelling Up agenda, and generating significant results.

For example, as part of the flagship Cultural Investment Fund, the £20 million first round of the Cultural Development Fund supports creative clusters in Plymouth, Wakefield, Worcester, Grimsby and the Thames Estuary. These projects - by their own forecasts - are expected to create over 1000 jobs, train 3000 people, support over 700 businesses and leverage £17.5 million of additional public/private investment. The £24 million Cultural Development Fund round 2 supports innovative cultural and creative projects in Barnsley, Berwick, Isle of Wight, Middlesbrough, Rochdale, Stockport and Torbay.

Likewise, the £17.5 million Create Growth Programme (CGP) is similarly supporting and developing the creative sectors, providing six regions across England, outside London, with a bespoke package to support high-growth creative businesses. It builds on DCMS's Creative Scale Up pilot, which to date has supported over 200 creative businesses across the Greater Manchester, West Midlands and West of England Combined Authorities. From an initial £4m investment, there was a total increase in turnover among participating businesses of £13.5 million.

The £95 million High Street Heritage Action Zones programme drives the regeneration of 67 towns and cities. Historic England will use historic buildings in developing people's pride in place and supporting the Levelling Up agenda. Across the first round, over 70 historic buildings have been restored through the initiative, as well as over 1000 public events being hosted on high streets, including community-led cultural and creative activities.

## ■ Swimming Pools: Finance

**Sir Alan Campbell:**

**[28403]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, if she will provide immediate emergency funding to public swimming pools in order to protect those public leisure facilities in the context of rising energy prices.

**Nigel Huddleston:**

We recognise the importance of ensuring public access to indoor and outdoor pools and that swimming is a great way for people of all ages to stay fit and healthy. The responsibility of providing this access lies at Local Authority level, and the government continues to encourage Local Authorities to invest in swimming facilities.

We also recognise the impact rising energy prices will have on businesses of all sizes. Ofgem and the government are in regular contact with business groups and the leisure sector to understand the challenges they face and explore ways to protect consumers and businesses.

Sport England has invested £25,027,478 in swimming and diving projects since January 2017, which includes £15,724,500 to Swim England. This is in addition to the £100 million National Leisure Recovery Fund which supported the reopening of local authority swimming pools throughout the country after the pandemic.

**■ Tourism: Coronavirus****Simon Jupp:**[\[27766\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what plans the Government has to review the success of the Tourism Recovery Plan against the objectives it set out.

**Nigel Huddleston:**

The Tourism Recovery Plan sets out the government's commitment to provide the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee with an annual update on the progress of the plan and the tourism industry more generally as it recovers, with the first update in 2022.

We plan to provide the first update in the coming months.

**ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS****■ Bracken: Weedkillers****Martyn Day:**[\[28455\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the use of Asulox on bracken control.

**Victoria Prentis:**

Bracken control is important to protect grazing land and sensitive habitats. Physical methods, for example crushing, are often used but are impractical or less effective in some situations. The Health and Safety Executive has granted an emergency authorisation for the limited and controlled use of Asulox to control bracken between 1 July and 12 September. This decision was taken in accordance with the requirements set out in pesticide legislation and took account of an assessment of potential risks to human health and the environment.

## ■ Food: Public Sector

**Daniel Zeichner:**

**[30035]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the public sector is spending 50 per cent of its food budget on sustainable, organic and locally grown produce that meets animal welfare standards.

**Victoria Prentis:**

The Government is developing an ambitious and transformational approach to public sector food and catering. We want the public sector to lead by example, championing healthier, sustainable food, provided by a diverse range of suppliers.

To underpin this approach, we have launched a consultation on public sector food and catering policy, including updating the Government Buying Standards for Food and Catering Services (GBSF). We are seeking views on proposals relating to the sourcing of food, menu choices and sustainable catering practices. This includes a proposal that the public sector reports on progress towards meeting an aspiration that 50% of its food expenditure is on food produced locally or to higher environmental production standards such as organic, Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF) or equivalent. To monitor progress, the consultation will also examine a proposal for new data reporting requirements to increase transparency of what is bought, served, sold and wasted in the public sector.

There is a strong case for celebrating sustainable, high-quality produce in the public sector. We will use the outputs from this consultation to inform future changes to this policy.

## ■ Horticulture: Seasonal Workers

**Daniel Zeichner:**

**[25878]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will make an estimate of the potential effect of current trends in the supply of seasonal agricultural workers on crop yields this summer.

**Victoria Prentis:**

Defra will continue to closely monitor the supply of labour to UK horticulture throughout the year, working with operators and sector growers to ensure there is sufficient labour to bring home the harvest this summer.

On 24 December 2021, the Government announced that the Seasonal Worker Visa Route has been extended to 2024 to allow overseas workers to come to the UK for up to six months to harvest both edible and ornamental crops. An initial allocation of 30,000 visas was made available in 2022. This was being kept under review with the potential to increase by up to 10,000 visas if there was evidence of need.

We have just announced in the Food Strategy that the Government will release an extra 10,000 visas for the Seasonal Worker visa route (bringing the total to 40,000

visas for 2022) with 8,000 of these going to the horticulture sector and 2,000 to the poultry sector.

A Request for Information (RFI) to recruit additional operators for the horticulture and poultry sectors went live Monday 27 June 2022. The RFI is for one additional operator for the horticulture sector and two operators for the poultry sector. This brings the total number of operators for the horticulture sector to five and two for the poultry sector.

While acknowledging the sector's reliance on foreign workers the Government has been clear that more must be done to attract UK workers through offering training, career options, wage increases and to invest in increased automation technology.

### ■ Peat Bogs: Conservation

**Jim Shannon:**

[\[27619\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether he has had recent discussions with his counterparts in the devolved institutions on a joint approach to preserving peatlands across the UK.

**Victoria Prentis:**

The England Peat Action Plan, published in May 2021, sets out the Government's long-term vision for the management, protection and restoration of peatlands in England.

We continue to work with all the devolved administrations when policy objectives align; for example, we have discussed the recent consultation to end the use of peat and peat containing products in horticulture, including a ban on the sale of peat in the retail sector and in developing wildfire training for the land management sector.

### ■ Pesticides

**Julian Sturdy:**

[\[23283\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, when his Department plans to publish the National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides; and what assessment he has made of whether he will need to bring forward legislative proposals to allow uncertified voluntary conservation workers to return to using glyphosate solution under the direct supervision of properly certified professional staff.

**Victoria Prentis:**

We will be publishing the National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides later this year, which will set out proposals to minimise the risks and impacts of pesticides to human health and the environment, while ensuring pests and pesticides resistance are managed effectively. This will include measures to support the increase in uptake of Integrated Pest Management across agriculture, amenity and amateur sectors.

The Health and Safety Executive have made recommendations on the issue of conservation volunteers using glyphosate under supervision and Defra will consider these as part of the broader review of pesticide regulations.

## FOREIGN, COMMONWEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

### ■ Central Asia: Diplomatic Relations

**Alicia Kearns:**

[\[28504\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if she will take steps to increase UK diplomatic representation in Central Asia.

**Amanda Milling:**

The UK is represented through British Embassies in all five Central Asian republics. Diplomatic staff at our Embassies are engaged in a wide range of work in pursuit of UK interests, including political, security, commercial and climate priorities. Russia's illegal and unjustified invasion of Ukraine is a significant strategic moment for the countries of the region, highlighting the importance of accelerating economic and security relationships with other international partners. The UK is committed to building on strong foundations laid in the thirty years since establishing diplomatic relations with the Central Asian republics, and the Foreign Secretary is ensuring our Embassies are sufficiently resourced to do so.

### ■ Colombia: Development Aid

**Jim Shannon:**

[\[27617\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if she will take steps to encourage the Colombian Government to provide additional support for indigenous people in that country who live in extreme poverty.

**Vicky Ford:**

UK ministers and senior officials regularly raise human rights issues, as well as specific cases of concern, with the Colombian Government. At the UN Security Council meeting on Colombia in April, Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon raised our concerns for indigenous communities that continue to be disproportionately affected by violence, displacement and confinement. We look to the Colombian Government to further integrate its presence in conflict-affected areas, and strengthen the institutions that can investigate and prosecute the criminal actors responsible.

To date, we have spent over £69 million through the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) to support the implementation of the peace agreement in Colombia and improve stability and security. Our funding is supporting the Colombian Government's rural development and reintegration programmes, transitional justice mechanisms, and strengthening the security and participation of indigenous communities in conflict-affected areas.

**■ Developing Countries: Disability****Sarah Champion:** [\[27624\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to the policy paper entitled FCDO disability inclusion and rights strategy 2022 to 2030, published on 16 February 2022, what steps her Department is taking to provide funding for people with disabilities in low-income countries.

**Vicky Ford:**

The FCDO disability inclusion and rights strategy 2022 to 2030 outlines our 'twin-track' approach to provide dedicated support to people with disabilities through disability-specific initiatives alongside mainstreaming disability-inclusive actions in wider work.

The strategy identifies seven intervention areas that we will prioritise for funding and highlights the four key outcomes of rights, voice, choice and visibility.

As examples, the Disability Capacity Building Programme provides grants to grassroots and umbrella organisations for persons with disabilities to access their rights and amplify their voice, while the Disability Inclusive Development programme tests and evaluates interventions designed to improve the lives of people with disabilities. The evidence produced will guide FCDO's approaches and is published as a global public good.

**■ Kuwait: Detainees****Gareth Thomas:** [\[28372\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether she has made representations to the Government of Kuwait on the imprisonment in absentia of the Kuwaiti Shia dissident Mohamad al-Mail; and if she will make a statement.

**Gareth Thomas:** [\[28373\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what discussions she has had with her Kuwaiti counterpart on (a) the rights of Shia Muslims in Kuwait and (b) the Government's assessment of the legality of sentences against Shia figures in Kuwait; and if she will make a statement.

**Amanda Milling:**

We have a close relationship with Kuwait and regularly discuss a wide range of issues including the importance of rights for all religious groups in Kuwait. Kuwait has independent courts and an independent legal system. I visited Kuwait in May for our regular Ministerial Dialogue where I discussed a wide range of topics with the Foreign Minister and Deputy Foreign Minister, as well as meeting with civil society representatives.

## ■ Melilla: Asylum

**Abena Oppong-Asare:**

[\[28505\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if she will make representations to her international counterparts to support calls for an investigation into the deaths of migrants and asylum seekers at Melilla on the Morocco-Spain border on 24 June 2022.

**Amanda Milling:**

We are concerned by the events of Friday 24 June on the border between Morocco and the Spanish enclave of Melilla, during which many migrants died. Senior FCDO officials have spoken to the relevant authorities in Spain and Morocco regarding the incident. We welcome the decision of both authorities to carry out investigations.

## ■ Senegal: Elections

**Ms Lyn Brown:**

[\[27567\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent steps she has taken to tackle risks of (a) violence, (b) unsymmetrical restrictions on opposition events and (c) other risks to the freedom, fairness, and peacefulness of upcoming legislative elections in Senegal.

**Vicky Ford:**

Peaceful, free and credible elections are important to Senegal's stability. Our Ambassador and Embassy in Dakar regularly engages with the Senegalese Government and civil society groups to reinforce these messages, and will closely monitor the upcoming legislative elections in July. Our Embassy in Dakar also engages with civil society groups and international partners in Senegal to support media freedom, which is essential for contributing to a democratic and open society. During my visit to Senegal last November, I [Minister Ford] underlined the importance of Senegal as a stable democracy which supports regional security and stability in West Africa.

## ■ South Sudan: Development Aid

**Mary Glendon:**

[\[27601\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if she will commit to reversing the 59 percent cut to UK aid to South Sudan.

**Vicky Ford:**

The financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has meant we have had to temporarily reduce the level of UK Official Development Assistance (ODA). We are committed to reviewing each year whether a return to 0.7% of gross national income is possible. We continue to be a leading donor to South Sudan and in FY 2021/22 provided an estimated 450,000 people with emergency food aid; daily water and sanitation provision for 86,000 of the most vulnerable displaced persons; nearly 900,000 girls to access education through targeted cash transfers; 797 health facilities to provide essential health and nutrition services; and support to a number of

local peace agreements, including strengthening women's and youth participation in peacebuilding. Our aid budget is complemented by our diplomatic work, which presses for the implementation of the peace agreement, constitutional reforms, and good public financial management, which are essential for wider progress in South Sudan.

## HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

### ■ Coronavirus: Medical Treatments

**Andrew Gwynne:** [\[29955\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many people have received a dose of the antiviral nirmatrelvir+ritonavir, known as Paxlovid, as of 30 June 2022.

**Maggie Throup:**

*[Holding answer 7 July 2022]:* Oral antivirals are currently available to the highest risk patients in England via COVID Medicines Delivery Units. Nirmatrelvir + ritonavir, co-packaged as Paxlovid, has been available to such patients since 10 February 2022. The most recent data available shows that as of the week ending 3 July 2022, 15,530 non-hospitalised patients in England have been treated for COVID-19 using Paxlovid.

Since 12 April 2022, some eligible individuals have accessed Paxlovid by enrolling in the PANORAMIC study. While fewer people will have accessed Paxlovid through this route, this information is not currently held centrally due to blinded clinical trial data.

### ■ Evusheld

**Mr Steve Baker:** [\[R\] \[27586\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will make Evusheld available on prescription to people with immunosuppressed conditions.

**Maggie Throup:**

The Department is conducting an assessment of Evusheld, including seeking advice from clinicians on the most appropriate option for the National Health Service in line with available data, the public health situation and other treatments available. While we are considering the advice received, we are unable to confirm a timetable for any decision.

### ■ Mental Health Services

**Rachael Maskell:** [\[25924\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will take steps to ensure that all people with a chronic mental health condition have a multi-disciplinary care plan in place.

**Gillian Keegan:**

We have no current plans to do so. However, the NHS Long Term Plan commits to the expansion of mental health care, including enabling more people with long term mental health conditions and serious mental illness to have greater access to talking therapies and integrated, multi-disciplinary community mental health care.

The Government launched a call for evidence to support the development of a new cross-Government 10-year plan for mental health, including supporting those with long term mental health conditions, which closed on 7 July 2022.

We have also published a draft Mental Health Bill, which sets out our aim for all patients formally detained under the mental health legislation to have a statutory right to a care and treatment plan.

**■ Polio: Vaccination****Catherine West:**[\[27691\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to the recent detection of poliovirus in London sewage works, whether he has had recent discussions with the NHS on ensuring that all children under the age of 5 are up to date with their polio vaccinations.

**Maggie Throup:**

We have regular discussions with the National Health Service on increasing the uptake of vaccinations. In response to the detection of poliovirus in London, the local NHS is contacting parents and carers of children under five years old who have not received a current polio vaccination. Those with an incomplete or unknown polio vaccination status are being encouraged to contact their general practitioner. The UK Health Security Agency continues to monitor the situation and has increased wastewater surveillance to identify local areas for targeted action.

**HOME OFFICE****■ Home Office****Sarah Olney:**[\[27696\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much her Department has spent on consultancy fees in each of the last five years.

**Tom Pursglove:**

The Home Office does hold information on consultancy spending and reports this in the Annual Report and Accounts.

You can refer to the links and pages below for the available published information that relates to consultancy spending.

Pages 99-101 of the 2020-21 Home Office Annual Report and Accounts

[HO annual report and accounts 2020-21 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Pages 88-89 of the 2019-20 Home Office Annual Report and Accounts

[Home Office annual report and accounts 2019 - 2020 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/611111/home-office-annual-report-and-accounts-2019-20.pdf)

Pages 79-80 of the 2018-19 Home Office Annual Report

[Home Office Annual Report and Accounts 2018-19 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/611111/home-office-annual-report-and-accounts-2018-19.pdf)

Pages 71-72 of the 2017-18 Home Office Annual Report

[Home Office Annual Report - 2017-18 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/611111/home-office-annual-report-2017-18.pdf)

Pages 59-61 (pages 61-63 on the PDF reader) of the 2016-17 Home Office Annual Report

[ho annual report and accounts 2016 2017.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/611111/ho-annual-report-and-accounts-2016-2017.pdf)

Information relating to financial year 2021-22 will be available once the Home Office Annual Report and Accounts have been laid before Parliament. This is expected to be prior to the summer recess.

## ■ Home Office: Official Hospitality

**Jon Trickett:**

**[27530]**

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much her Department spent on hospitality in (a) 2020, (b) 2021 and (c) 2022.

**Tom Pursglove:**

The Home Office does not publish the information sought to the level of granularity required. Identifying hospitality spending specifically can only be obtained at disproportionate cost. However, the Home Office does publish some cost information in relation to hospitality and this is grouped together with travel and subsistence expenditure.

You can refer to the links and pages below for the available published information that relates to spending on travel, subsistence and hospitality:

Page 159 of the 2020-21 Home Office Annual Report and Accounts

[HO annual report and accounts 2020-21 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/611111/ho-annual-report-and-accounts-2020-21.pdf)

Page 150 of the 2019-20 Home Office Annual Report and Accounts

[Home Office annual report and accounts 2019 - 2020 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/611111/home-office-annual-report-and-accounts-2019-2020.pdf)

Information relating to financial year 2021-22 will be available once the Home Office Annual Report and Accounts have been laid before Parliament. This is expected to be prior to the summer recess.

Furthermore hospitality is published for Ministers, Special Advisers and senior staff in line with transparency requirements. Ministers need to declare hospitality offered or received over £140 and this is published by the Cabinet Office on a Transparency Return. Data is published up and until December 2021. Information from January 2022 to March 2022 is expected to be published later in July 2022.

[Home Office: ministerial gifts, hospitality, travel and meetings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-office-ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings)

■ **Home Office: Pay**

**Jon Trickett:**

[28397]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the wage ratio was between the highest paid member of staff in her Department and the lowest in (a) 2020, (b) 2021 and (c) 2022.

**Tom Pursglove:**

The wage ratio between the highest paid member of staff in the Home Office and the lowest was (a) 10.7, (b) 10.0 and (c) 9.9.

Similar information can be found on the Annual Reports and Accounts which is published on GOV.UK (refer to page 114 in the link below):

[HO annual report and accounts 2020-21 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/108421/2020-21-annual-report-and-accounts).

■ **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Kate Green:**

[R] [27593]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that people who are offered assistance under Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy by the Ministry of Defence are granted permission to enter the UK.

**Kevin Foster:**

The Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) offers relocation to eligible Afghan citizens who worked for, or with, a UK government department in Afghanistan - in exposed, meaningful or enabling roles and assessed to be at serious risk as a result of their work. This scheme remains open, and it is free to apply to. Those who are eligible for relocation under the ARAP can relocate with dependent family members.

The Ministry of Defence refers eligible Afghan citizens and their family members to the Home Office for permission to enter the UK subject to the enrolment of biometrics and security checks.

There is no option to enrol biometrics in Afghanistan. We are working with the authorities in neighbouring countries and with international partners to ensure biometric enrolment can be carried out in as rapid and efficient a manner as possible.

The UK is working with international partners, including non-governmental organisations and other countries, to secure safe routes out of Afghanistan as soon as they become available, starting with those in most need. We also intend to establish a diplomatic presence in Afghanistan as soon as the security and political situation allows. We are coordinating this effort with allies.

**■ Refugees: Afghanistan and Ukraine****Vicky Foxcroft:** [28457]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the service standard time is for processing visa applications from (a) Afghan and (b) Ukrainian refugees as of 30 June 2022.

**Kevin Foster:**

There are no published service standards for processing visa applications for Afghanistan and Ukrainian refugees.

**■ Refugees: Ukraine****Sarah Olney:** [27710]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many outstanding visa applications there are for Ukrainian refugees as of 29 June 2022.

**Kevin Foster:**

Information on the number of visas received and granted under the Ukraine Family Scheme and the Homes for Ukraine Scheme can be found in our published data on the GOV.UK webpage: [Ukraine Family Scheme and Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme \(Homes for Ukraine\) visa data - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/data-and-figures/ukraine-family-scheme-and-ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-homes-for-ukraine-visa-data)

**INTERNATIONAL TRADE****■ Trade Agreements: India****Gareth Thomas:** [27504]

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what estimate she has made of when text based negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement between the UK and India will take place; and if she will make a statement.

**Mr Ranil Jayawardena:**

We are in detailed discussions on text across all chapters and continue to make good progress. The fourth round of trade negotiations with India began on 13<sup>th</sup> June and concluded on 24<sup>th</sup> June. The fifth round is due to take place later this month.

Statements are published after each round of talks on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

**JUSTICE****■ Community Orders****Lee Anderson:** [28918]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, if he will replace Community Payback with a scheme where people who receive community sentences work in industries with labour shortages.

**Tom Pursglove:**

Community Payback requires offenders to undertake rigorous and constructive work which benefits the communities they have harmed. Community Payback projects across England and Wales provide valuable support for charities, community groups and local authorities on a daily basis. Through £93m of investment, we are increasing the impact that Community Payback can have on local communities and spaces by ramping up the hours delivered to up to 8 million hours a year.

Whilst Community Payback can add value to the work undertaken by public bodies and voluntary organisations, it should not replace paid employment or infringe the ILO forced labour convention.

However, Community Payback does have an important role to play in developing work ready skills, providing practical training opportunities and improving long term employment prospects.

As part of our investment, we are working to improve our education, training and employment provision in order to better target identified skills gaps. This approach should support offenders so that they are well placed to fill critical labour gaps.

**■ Importance of Strengthening Prisoners' Family Ties to Prevent Reoffending and Reduce Intergenerational Crime Review****Ellie Reeves:**[\[30114\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what plans his Department has to publish an update on their progress against the recommendations made by Lord Farmer, in his review entitled, The Importance of Strengthening Prisoners' Family Ties, published in August 2017.

**Tom Pursglove:**

We expect to complete the final recommendation from Lord Farmer's 2017 Review of Strengthening Family Ties in the male prison estate in the next few months.

Recommendations from this review have been instrumental in supporting the organisation to take a strategic approach to our overall aim to embed the importance of family and significant others in reducing reoffending and preventing intergenerational crime.

**■ Ministry of Justice: Contracts****Jon Trickett:**[\[29891\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many contracts that are worth (a) between £1 million and £3 million and (b) over £3 million their (i) Department and (ii) Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies (A) have agreed since 2010 and (B) are due to agree within the next 12 months; how much their Department has spent on monitoring each contract in each year since 2010; and how many officials have been working on that monitoring in each year since 2010.

**Tom Pursglove:**

The answering of this PQ has been split into two sections; the first will focus on the number and value of contracts agreed since 2010 and the second will address the question on monitoring and officials working on those contracts.

(A) The number of contracts awarded by the Commercial and Contract Management Directorate within the Ministry of Justice on behalf of its [34 agencies and public bodies](#) since 2010 is provided in the below table.

Year	VALUE BANDING	
	£1million - £3million	More than £3million
2010	21	85
2011	57	110
2012	52	89
2013	42	67
2014	58	72
2015	47	61
2016	47	51
2017	72	71
2018	40	83
2019	48	77
2020	67	111
2021	151	117
2022*	46	57

\*Information for 2022 is to the 01 July 2022

The Commercial and Contract Management Directorate within the Ministry of Justice expects to award 188 contracts between July 2022 and July 2023 on behalf of its [34 agencies and public bodies](#).

(B) The Ministry of Justice can only answer the monitoring and officials working part of the PQ at a disproportionate cost. There are 1799 contracts that fall into scope of the request. To answer this would require us to identify and contact the owner of each contract manager individually, in order to gather the required information. Furthermore, information for some of the contracts that date back over 12 years is not held centrally.

To obtain the information for each of the 1799 contracts would require an estimated 30 minutes per contract.

## ■ Rape: Prosecutions

**Caroline Ansell:**

[\[28897\]](#)

To ask to the Secretary of State for Justice, what progress he has made on the objective of ensuring the number of rape cases being referred by the police and going to court is on track to be at the level reached in 2016 by the end of the Parliament; and if he will make a statement.

**Tom Pursglove:**

In June 2021, we published the End-to-End Rape Review Report and Action Plan. During that review, we took a hard and honest look at how the entire criminal justice system deals with rape and in too many instances it simply has not been good enough. We apologised at the time for this and committed to delivering real improvements to transform support for victims, and working with the police and the CPS to more than double the number of adult rape cases being charged and reaching court by the end of this Parliament.

Since June 2021, we have made significant progress in delivering actions to change the system for the better. Whilst the majority of actions are on track and have been delivered in the timescales we intended, there is much work still to do to ensure that the actions are having the impact they need to.

We are committed to going further and pushing harder on our actions so that we can drive bigger impacts, deliver wider system change and crucially, deliver justice for victims of rape and sexual abuse. We are:

- Establishing suspect-focused rape investigations – known as Operation Soteria – across five police forces, and will expand this to 14 more by September, with a national rollout completed by June 2023.
- Expanding pre-recorded cross-examination (Section 28) for victims of sexual violence and modern slavery in Crown Courts nationwide – with this vital measure now available in almost half of all Crown Courts (37 locations). The Government is committed to rolling it out nationwide by September.
- Expanding support for victims. This includes creating a national 24/7 support line for victims of rape and sexual abuse, so that every victim can access support whenever and wherever they need it. We are using additional ringfenced funding to increase the number of Independent Sexual and Domestic Violence Advisors (ISVAs and IDVAs) by 300, to over 1000 by 2024/25 - a 43 percent increase over the next three years.
- Publishing the CJS delivery data dashboard quarterly for adult rape which brings together local data from across the system in one place for the first time, allowing us to increase transparency, increase understanding of the justice system and support collaboration, especially at a local level.

- Announcing a pilot of enhanced specialist sexual violence support in the Crown Court. This is aimed squarely at doing better by rape victims, giving them the support they need to stay engaged in the process and get the justice they deserve.

These actions are starting to have an impact on the system, though there is still more progress to be made:

- Rape cases referred by the police to the CPS have increased in the last quarter of 2021 by 76% from the quarterly average in 2019, when the Rape Review was commissioned.
- Rape cases charged by the CPS in the last quarter of 2021 have also increased by 38% from the quarterly average in 2019.
- Rape convictions are increasing: there was a 67% increase in the number of people convicted for rape offences between 2020 and 2021.

The average number of days for adult rape from CPS charge to the case being completed continued to fall by 38 days – roughly 5 weeks - since the peak in June 2021 – down from 457 days to 419 in October - December 2021.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### ■ Police: Northern Ireland

**Jim Shannon:**

[\[31118\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what recent assessment she has made of the (a) adequacy and (b) effectiveness of the number of police officers in Northern Ireland.

**Conor Burns:**

Policing in Northern Ireland, and therefore police funding and numbers, are devolved matters. The prioritisation of police resourcing is the responsibility of the Department of Justice, working with the wider Executive. How the PSNI allocate their funding is an operational matter for the Chief Constable, in consultation with the NI Policing Board.

Recognising the unique security situation in Northern Ireland, the UK Government makes additional contributions to PSNI through Additional Security Funding. The UK Government contribution this financial year 22/23 is £32 million; demonstrating the UK Government's commitment to security in Northern Ireland.

## TRANSPORT

### ■ Department for Transport: Contracts

**Jon Trickett:**

[\[29885\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many contracts that are worth (a) between £1 million and £3 million and (b) over £3 million their (i) Department and (ii)

Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies (A) have agreed since 2010 and (B) are due to agree within the next 12 months; how much their Department has spent on monitoring each contract in each year since 2010; and how many officials have been working on that monitoring in each year since 2010.

**Wendy Morton:**

Based on records held within our new sourcing system launched from end of 2019:

(A) From 2020 <sup>(i)</sup> DfTc have <sup>(a)</sup> awarded 83 contracts with a value between £1m and £3m, and <sup>(b)</sup> 43 contracts with a value exceeding £3m.

<sup>(ii)</sup> It is likely that the information requested can only be provided at disproportionate cost as we would have to contact each of the agencies and non-departmental public bodies separately dedicating a resource(s) centrally to co-ordinate the response after identifying the relevant resource(s) within each of the agencies and non-departmental public bodies able to provide the answer; however, from the latest publication of Annual Accounts in terms of proportionality of the Department's portfolio, the grey section (£0.386bn) of Image1 relates to size of DfTc spend in relation to the rest of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies (£41.887bn).

(B) In the next 12 months DfTc anticipate that 32 contracts shall commence with value between £1m and £3m and that 20 contracts shall commence with value over £3m. There are currently there are 732 contract managers within DfTc of which 452 have completed foundation contract management training with the remaining 280 working towards completion of the accreditation. It would cause a disproportionate cost to calculate the cost of deploying the 732 contract managers.

## WALES

### ■ Wales Office: Consultants

**Sarah Olney:**

[\[27708\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, how much his Department has spent on consultancy fees in each of the last five years.

**David T C Davies:**

The Office of the Secretary of State for Wales spent the following on consultants over the last five financial years:

FINANCIAL YEAR	SPEND (£)
2017-18	Nil
2018-19	35,400
2019-20	6,600
2020-21	Nil

FINANCIAL YEAR	SPEND (£)
2021-22	Nil

#### ■ Wales Office: Contracts

**Jon Trickett:** [\[29894\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, how many contracts that are worth (a) between £1 million and £3 million and (b) over £3 million their (i) Department and (ii) Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies (A) have agreed since 2010 and (B) are due to agree within the next 12 months; how much their Department has spent on monitoring each contract in each year since 2010; and how many officials have been working on that monitoring in each year since 2010.

**David T C Davies:**

The Office of the Secretary of State for Wales has agreed no contracts worth over £1 million since 2010, and no contracts of such value are due to be agreed within the next 12 months.

**Jon Trickett:** [\[31019\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, what the total value has been of contracts held by their Department with (a) G4S, (b) Serco and (c) Capita in each year since 2020.

**David T C Davies:**

None. The Office of the Secretary of State for Wales does not have any contracts with G4S, Serco or Capita.

#### ■ Wales Office: Official Hospitality

**Jon Trickett:** [\[27535\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, how much his Department spent on hospitality in (a) 2020, (b) 2021 and (c) 2022.

**David T C Davies:**

The Office of the Secretary of State for Wales spent the following on hospitality over the last three years:

YEAR	SPEND (£)
2020	4,356
2021	1,714
2022 to date	7,344

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### ■ Kickstart Scheme: Wakefield

**Simon Lightwood:**

[27772]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many Kickstart placements have (a) been advertised and (b) commenced by young people in Wakefield constituency in the last year.

**Chloe Smith:**

As of 27 June 2022, 420 jobs had been advertised and 220 had been commenced by young people in the Wakefield constituency.

As of 27 June 2022 nationally, there have been over 163,200 Kickstart jobs started by young people. The last Kickstart jobs were started by young people on 31 March 2022, and we expect the number of starts to increase further as employers report commencement of employment.

**Notes section:**

We have previously published the number of jobs approved and advertised as of 31 January 2022, here: <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-31/114956>. At that point, over 235,000 jobs had been advertised and over 305,000 had been approved. The Kickstart Scheme has now closed to employer applications and, as of March 2022, all approved jobs proceeding to the advertisement stage, have been advertised. As such, these totals will not increase further.

Attached are tables listing the number of Kickstart jobs which have been made available and started by young people to date by Local Authority and Parliamentary Constituency. The figures used are correct as of the 27 June 2022 and these figures have been rounded according to departmental standards.

It is important to note that the information provided shows the location of the job not the home location of the young person who has started the job. In some cases, employers will report the address of their head office rather than the precise location of the job where the young person is working.

Jobs made available (advertised) and job starts quoted here include some unfunded Kickstart jobs, these are included in our national total but are not included in our geographic breakdown. Also included in the Great Britain total are a small number of jobs made available (less than 100 in total) that have an unrecorded job location.

The number of approved jobs is defined as the number of jobs associated with approved applications recorded on the Kickstart application system on the date above. This total excludes approved jobs that have been withdrawn from the Kickstart Scheme by agreement with employers and gateways. This is generally because, over time, some previously approved jobs were removed where the employer chose not to follow up the application.

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

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

**Attachments:**

1. Attachment [27772 Tables.xlsx]