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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

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[I] indicates that the member concerned has a relevant registered interest. The full register of interests can be found at <http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/standards-and-interests/register-of-lords-interests/>

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Ministers and others who make Statements or answer Questions are referred to only by name, not their ministerial or other title. The current list of ministerial and other responsibilities is as follows.

<i>Minister</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
Baroness Evans of Bowes Park	Leader of the House of Lords and Lord Privy Seal
Earl Howe	Minister of State, Ministry of Defence and Deputy Leader of the House of Lords
Lord Agnew of Oulton	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education
Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon	Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Lord Ashton of Hyde	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
Lord Bates	Minister of State, Department for International Development
Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Wales Office
Baroness Buscombe	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions
Lord Callanan	Minister of State, Department for Exiting the European Union
Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen	Whip
Earl of Courtown	Deputy Chief Whip
Lord Duncan of Springbank	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Northern Ireland Office and Scotland Office
Baroness Fairhead	Minister of State, Department for International Trade
Lord Gardiner of Kimble	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Baroness Goldie	Whip
Lord Henley	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Lord Keen of Elie	Advocate-General for Scotland and Ministry of Justice Spokesperson
Baroness Manzoor	Whip
Lord O'Shaughnessy	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health and Social Care
Baroness Stedman-Scott	Whip
Baroness Sugg	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Transport, Whip
Lord Taylor of Holbeach	Chief Whip
Baroness Vere of Norbiton	Whip
Baroness Williams of Trafford	Minister of State, Home Office
Lord Young of Cookham	Whip
Viscount Younger of Leckie	Whip

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Written Statements

Wednesday, 18 July 2018

Child Death Review Policy

[HLWS848]

Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: My Rt Hon. Friend the Prime Minister has made the following statement to the House of Commons:

This written statement confirms that child death review policy will transfer from the Department for Education to the Department for Health and Social Care. More than 80 per cent of child deaths have medical or public health causes. The Department of Health and Social Care, its arm's-length bodies and the wider NHS have a responsibility to support understanding of children's deaths and translating learning into actions to reduce preventable deaths.

The transfer was recommended by the Wood Review of the role and functions of Local Safeguarding Children Boards, published in March 2016. It includes responsibility for issuing statutory guidance relating to child death reviews, supporting child death review partners with the implementation of this guidance alongside NHS England, and putting in place transitional arrangements involving NHS Digital for the collection of Local Safeguarding Children Boards child death review data, and then, once operational, by the National Child Mortality Database.

Related areas that remain the responsibility of the Department for Education include children's social care, including safeguarding children and child protection.

These changes will be effective from today, 18 July 2018.

Conflict, Stability and Security Fund

[HLWS847]

Lord Young of Cookham: The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I wish to update the House on the progress of the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) for the Financial Year 2017/18, as well as to announce the initial regional and thematic allocations for this Financial Year 2018/19.

The CSSF is a cross-government fund which uses both Official Development Assistance (ODA) and non-ODA resources to deliver against both national security and UK Aid objectives, through security, defence, peacekeeping, peace-building and stability activity.

Following a review of the cross-government funds, undertaken as part of the National Security Capability

Review, Ministerial oversight of the CSSF and the Prosperity Fund is now the responsibility of a sub committee of the National Security Council. I chair this sub committee, which met for the first time on 13 June, and ensures that both funds deliver effectively on national security priorities and UK Aid objectives.

Examples of successful programmes and results, as well as ways in which the CSSF has made improvements, are included in the CSSF Annual Report, published today. A copy of this document will be placed in the libraries of both Houses and has been published on GOV.UK.

In 2017/18, the CSSF spent £1,182 million against a cross-government allocation of £1,188 million (99.5%). A further breakdown of spend against regional and thematic allocation, by department and by discretionary and non-discretionary spend, is included in the Annual Report. The initial allocated budget for the Fund is £1,279 million for FY 2018/19.

FY 18/19 Allocations

Allocation	Non-ODA	ODA	Total
Middle East, North Africa	£30.5 m	£177.1 m	£207.6 m
South Asia	£18.5 m	£89.7 m	£108.2 m
Africa (sub-Saharan)	£34.0 m	£58.9 m	£92.8 m
Overseas Territories	£44.0 m	£4.5 m	£48.5 m
Eastern Europe, Central Asia	£25.7 m	£16.9 m	£42.5 m
Western Balkans	£5.7 m	£22.4 m	£28.0 m
Americas	£.3 m	£9.7 m	£10.0 m
Good Governance Fund (Western Balkans and Eastern Europe)	-	£33.0 m	£33.0 m
Asia Pacific	-	£3.0 m	£3.0 m
REGIONAL TOTAL	£158.6 m	£415.0 m	£573.7 m
Migration	£10.0 m	£18.5 m	£28.5 m
Counter Extremism	£13.3 m	£14.2 m	£27.5 m
Multilateral Strategy	£3.0 m	£51.5 m	£54.5 m
THEMATIC TOTAL	£26.3 m	£84.2 m	£110.5 m
Peacekeeping	£303.2 m	£82.8 m	£386.0 m
MOD DMAP	£50.0 m	-	£50.0 m
MOD Afghan Security	£100.0 m	-	£100.0 m
MOD UNFICYP	£18.1 m	-	£18.1 m
MOD UN Ops Africa	£20.0 m	-	£20.0 m
Non-Discretionary TOTAL	£491.3 m	£82.8 m	£574.1 m
Corporate Delivery Support & Other (this includes Stabilisation Unit, Joint Funds Unit and pilot activities)	£5.1 m	£15.2 m	£20.4 m
TOTAL CSSF	£681.4 m	£597.2 m	£1278.7 m

Contingency Fund Advance

[HLWS844]

Baroness Buscombe: My honourable Friend the Minister of State for Employment (Alok Sharma MP) has made the following Written Statement.

The Department for Work and Pensions has identified the need for minor revisions to two Statutory Instruments. These relate to the award of some premiums to people entitled to income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, and to the application of the shared accommodation rate for foster carers in Universal Credit. Both drafting points date back to April 2013.

No customers have been adversely affected in either circumstance and payments of benefit have been – and continue to be – made fully in accordance with the policy intent.

The Department will amend the relevant legislation as soon as practically possible to ensure that these payments are included on the statutory framework.

Parliamentary approval for resources of £ 21,400,000 for this new service has been sought in the Main Estimate for the Department for Work and Pensions. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £ 21,400,000 will be met by repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund.

Once the Supply and Appropriation (Main Estimates) (No.2) Bill achieves Royal Assent, the advance will be repaid in full and ongoing expenditure will legitimately rest on the sole authority of the Supply and Appropriation Act, until the amending legislation is in place.

Employment and Support Allowance

[HLWS846]

Baroness Buscombe: My Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (The Rt. Hon. Esther McVey MP) has made the following Written Statement.

On 15 March I provided the House with a statement setting out how the work my Department was undertaking to correct underpayments that occurred when converting Incapacity Benefit claims to Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) between 2011 and 2014 was progressing. I wanted to take this opportunity to provide the House with a further update.

In March I explained that my Department would resource this exercise with 400 staff to make sure we could review cases at pace. This work is now underway with staff reviewing cases, contacting claimants and correcting claims; so far we have paid out over £40 million in arrears.

The Department has analysed the relationship between “official error” and section 27 of the Social Security Act 1998 in regulating how and to what extent arrears can be paid. As a result of the conclusions of this analysis, we will now be paying arrears to those affected back to their date of conversion to ESA.

My Department will be contacting all those identified as potentially affected as planned. Once an individual is contacted, and the relevant information gathered, they can expect to receive appropriate payment within 12 weeks. I can also confirm that once contacted, individuals will be provided with a dedicated free phone number on which they can make contact with the Department.

Where we have already corrected cases and paid arrears from 21 October 2014 we will review the case again and pay any additional arrears that are due prior to that date.

I hope this will help Members to provide reassurance, to their constituents who think they may have been affected, that they will receive all the money they are entitled to.

Free Trade Agreements: Consultation

[HLWS843]

Baroness Fairhead: My Rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for International Trade and President of the Board of Trade (Dr Liam Fox) has today made the following statement:

Today I am announcing the first public consultations on future free trade agreement negotiations. As I informed the House on Monday 16 July, these consultations will provide one of a number of means by which Parliament, the Devolved Administrations, the public, business, civil society and trade unions can have their say on the Government's approach to new trade agreements.

Our first consultations will seek views on free trade agreements with some of our closest strategic allies, with whom we have no existing trade agreements - the United States, Australia and New Zealand. I am also opening a consultation on potentially seeking accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). Our trade and investment working group discussions with Australia, New Zealand and the United States have been constructive and the Governments of each have expressed a desire to enter negotiations with the UK. These consultations will inform our overall approach to our future trade relationship with these countries.

The US is the UK's single largest trading partner and foreign investor, accounting for £100bn of UK annual exports. UK exports to Australia and New Zealand meanwhile are growing at 14.8% and 16.8% respectively, a faster pace than our global average. And these relationships are mutually beneficial – in total, the UK imported £75.4bn worth of goods and services from these three markets.

Whilst there are other markets the UK will look to for new agreements in the future, our shared values and strength of trade with the US, Australia and New Zealand make them the right places to focus our initial attention.

The Government is also engaging with members* of the CPTPP about the possibility of the UK joining the agreement in future.

CPTPP is a signed, but not yet in force, plurilateral trade agreement including some of the world's fastest growing economies that together represent 13-14% of global GDP, and a total population of around 500m people. If the UK were to join, it would be the second largest economy in the group, and CPTPP's coverage of global GDP would increase to around 17%.

Alongside these online consultations, which will shortly be available on gov.uk, I will be publishing information packs that set out the characteristics of free trade agreements and the nature of the current trade and investment ties with the countries in question.

The consultations will be open for 14 weeks.

* Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam

Intelligence and Security Committee: Diversity and Inclusion Report

[HLWS849]

Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: My Rt Hon. Friend the Prime Minister has made the following statement to the House of Commons:

The Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament (ISC) has undertaken a review of diversity and inclusion in the UK intelligence and security community focusing on four key protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010: gender, race, sexuality and disability. The Committee has now completed its inquiry and its report has today been laid in parliament.

The Government welcomes the publication of the ISC's Report. The Report recognises that the intelligence and security community needs to attract and draw upon the skills, talent and experience of all sectors of our society in order to continue its vital work effectively, and to reflect the diverse population it protects. The Report acknowledges the significant progress that has taken place in recent years, highlighting the work of staff networks, innovative and inclusive recruitment campaigns and the facilitation of more flexible working patterns and styles. There is clearly room for improvement and senior leaders remain committed to ensuring the intelligence and security community is as inclusive as possible.

The Government thanks the ISC for its work. We will give full consideration to the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report and will respond formally in due course.

Military Support to France

[HLWS840]

Earl Howe: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Gavin Williamson) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I wish to update the House on the deployment of three CH-47 Chinook heavy lift helicopters to Mali to support French operations in the Sahel region, which I announced in a Written Ministerial Statement on 18 January 2018

(HCWS413). All aircraft and personnel have now deployed and flying operations will begin shortly. We are committed to supporting our French allies in this armed conflict, combating terrorism and instability, as well as strengthening our military co-operation with one of our closest allies.

Northern Ireland: Appointments

[HLWS841]

Lord Duncan of Springbank: My Right Honourable friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Karen Bradley) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The ongoing absence of a Northern Ireland Executive has meant that a number of key public appointments cannot be made both in Northern Ireland and to some posts appointed by UK Ministers. As I told the House on 20 June [HC Deb, col. 309], this is an issue that I have been considering carefully.

While my overriding priority remains reaching agreement on restoring an inclusive power-sharing Executive, it is clear that there are current and developing issues in relation to certain public appointments in Northern Ireland that need to be addressed urgently. If an Executive is not in place soon, I intend to take measures to ensure good governance and the continued functioning of vital public bodies. This is consistent with my wider political strategy which aims to ensure we take the necessary action in the absence of Northern Ireland Ministers whilst we also continue to remove the obstacles to the restoration of a fully functioning Executive and Assembly.

Existing legislation confers responsibility for the most significant public appointments in Northern Ireland on Northern Ireland Ministers. Therefore, in the absence of Northern Ireland Ministers, new legislation is needed in the autumn to enable certain key Northern Ireland and UK appointments to be made.

This legislation would allow for certain specified appointments normally made by Northern Ireland Ministers to be made by the relevant UK Minister, either the Secretary of State or the Lord Chancellor as appropriate to the appointment being made. I have considered whether each appointment is essential for good governance and public confidence in Northern Ireland and my officials have engaged with the main political parties in Northern Ireland.

Currently, I am of the view that the appointments specified in the legislation would address the most pressing appointments held up by the lack of Northern Ireland Ministers, including the Northern Ireland Policing Board, the Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission and the Probation Board for Northern Ireland. Further consideration is being given to the ongoing ability of Northern Ireland departments to make appointments already conferred on them in legislation. The legislation would also need to address those appointments to key UK Government sponsored bodies

that cannot be made as they require consultation with Northern Ireland Ministers, such as the Chair of the Disclosure and Barring Service. Detailed policy work will continue over the summer on how to achieve this, should legislation be necessary.

Any such legislation would, of course, apply only while there are no Northern Ireland Ministers in place. Once a new Northern Ireland Executive is formed, the responsibility for appointments in Northern Ireland would return to Ministers in that Executive, and UK Ministers would again be required to consult Northern Ireland Ministers prior to making certain UK-wide appointments.

We are continuing to engage closely with the political parties, and the Irish Government as appropriate, to encourage and support work towards an accommodation to restore the Executive. This legislation would contribute towards ensuring good governance in Northern Ireland while the Government redoubles those efforts to restore a locally elected, democratically accountable devolved government.

Schools: Response to the Resolution of the House 25 April 2018

[HLWS845]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: My right honourable friend the Minister of State for School Standards (Nick Gibb) has made the following written ministerial statement.

I would like to respond to the resolution of the House following the opposition day debate on school funding on 25 April.

School funding is at a record high and schools have benefitted from the introduction of the national funding formula, which came into force in April. The new formula is supported by our investment of an additional £1.3 billion in the core schools budget, on top of what was announced at the last spending review.

Core schools funding will rise from almost £41 billion last year, to £42.4 billion this year and £43.5 billion in 2019-20. This means that real terms per pupil funding in 2020 will be more than 50% higher than it was in 2000.

The new national funding formula is an historic reform which means that, for the first time, resources are distributed according to a formula based on the individual needs and characteristics of every school in the country.

The formula recognises the challenges of the very lowest funded schools, by introducing a minimum per pupil funding level. Under the national funding formula, in 2019-20 all secondary schools will attract at least £4,800 per pupil, and all primary schools will attract at least £3,500 per pupil.

Moreover, the formula allocates every local authority more money for every pupil in every school in 2018-19 and 2019-20. Final decisions on local distribution will be taken by local authorities, but under the national funding formula every school is attracting at least 0.5% more per pupil in 2018-19, and 1% more in 2019-20, compared to 2017-18.

We recognise that the introduction of the national funding formula represents a significant change to the way schools are funded. To provide stability for authorities and schools through the transition, we have previously confirmed that in 2018-19 and 2019-20 each local authority will continue to set a local formula, in consultation with local schools.

Many local councils feel that the right thing to do is to replicate the national funding formula locally, and we support and encourage this. However, we recognise that some areas will want to use their local flexibility to introduce a more tailored local formula, for instance because of local changes in characteristics, rapid growth in pupil numbers or the need to invest more in pupils with SEN or disabilities.

After too many years in which the funding system has placed our schools on an unfair playing field, we are finally making the historic move towards fair funding. Alongside the increased investment we are making in schools, this will underpin further improvements in standards and help create a world-class education system, and build a system that allows every child to achieve their potential, no matter their background.

Social Care: Response to the Resolution of the House 25 April 2018

[HLWS842]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: My hon. Friend the Minister of State for Care (Caroline Dinenage) has made the following written statement:

Today I would like to update the House on social care funding following the Opposition day debate of 25 April 2018.

We know that social care services are facing pressures from rising demand for care, and the Government has taken steps to support the sector. That is why we announced an additional £2 billion central Government funding for adult social care in the 2017 Spring Budget. In total, Government has given councils access to up to £9.4 billion additional funding for social care from 2017/18 to 2019/20, including the 2018/19 Local Government Finance settlement announcement of a £150 million adult social care support grant.

The action we have taken means that funding available for social care is increasing by 8% in real terms from 2015/16 to 2019/20.

This funding allows councils to support more people and sustain a diverse care market.

It is also helping to ease pressures on the NHS, including by supporting more people to be discharged from hospital and into care as soon as they are ready.

We have already seen a real difference to services across the country; social care related delayed transfers of care had been rising year-on-year from 2014 up to February 2017, but since taking action last year we have achieved a reduction of 40%. We are taking additional steps to ensure that those areas facing the greatest

challenges improve services at the interface between social care and the NHS.

By passing the Care Act, this Government established a national threshold that defines the care needs that local authorities must meet. This eliminates the postcode lottery of eligibility across England, and means that all councils have statutory duties to look after the vulnerable, elderly and disabled people in their area.

Last year local authorities in England advised over 500,000 people on how to access services to meet their care needs. This includes services provided by leisure, housing, transport and care providers as well as voluntary groups.

According to the Care Quality Commission, 81% of adult social care providers are good or outstanding – testament to the many hardworking and committed professionals working in care to whom we owe a huge debt of gratitude.

But still too many people experience care that is not of the quality we would all want for our own loved ones; and

there is too much variation in quality and outcomes between different services and different parts of the country.

The Department of Health and Social Care is working with the adult social care sector to implement Quality Matters – a shared commitment to take action to achieve high quality adult social care for service users, families, carers and everyone working in the sector.

An ageing society means that we need to reach a longer-term sustainable settlement for social care. This is why the Government will publish a Green Paper on Care and Support to set out our proposals for reform.

The health and social care systems are two sides of the same coin, and decisions on future reforms must therefore be aligned. That is why we will now publish the Green Paper in the autumn, around the same time as the NHS plan. Social care funding will be agreed at the forthcoming spending review, alongside the rest of the local government settlement.

Written Answers

Wednesday, 18 July 2018

Anticoagulants

Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to publish the recommendations from A systematic overview of reviews on the effective, safe and appropriate use of anticoagulation medicines: protocol undertaken by the Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Co-ordinating Centre; and if so, when. [HL9215]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Department commissioned the EPPI-Centre, part of the Institute of Education at University College London, to carry out a systematic overview of reviews on the effective, safe and appropriate use of anticoagulation medicines. The study has completed and the report will be published online very shortly by the EPPI-Centre.

Brexit

Asked by Baroness Deech

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of any attempts by foreign organisations or states to reverse the UK's decision to withdraw from the EU by funding or otherwise supporting domestic organisations. [HL9217]

Lord Young of Cookham: The Government takes the security and integrity of our democratic processes extremely seriously but has not seen evidence of any successful interference in the EU Referendum by any foreign government.

Political parties and referendum campaigners can only accept donations from "permissible donors" which includes individuals on the electoral roll, companies registered in and conducting business in the UK and a number of other UK-registered bodies. Accepting a donation that is not permissible is a criminal offence. The Electoral Commission has powers to fine parties or campaigners who accept impermissible donations. The Government will continue to work to strengthen our democratic processes.

We remain vigilant against attempts to erode trust in our democratic processes and institutions and will defend the UK from all forms of malign foreign state interference.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment, if any, they have made of the functioning of the

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. [HL9297]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority was established in March 2017. It is premature to draw conclusions on the functioning of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority given its infancy. The Government is committed to working closely with all devolution deal areas to deliver our shared local growth ambitions and to implement devolution deal commitments. This includes ongoing engagement with the Mayor, local leaders and officials in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and an annual assessment of progress against key commitments.

Children: Day Care

Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the impact of business rates revaluation on childcare providers, and (2) the provision of 100 per cent business rates applied to childcare providers in Scotland. [HL9248]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: We are investing a record amount into the early years sector, spending approximately £6 billion per year by the period 2019 to 2020. This includes spending £1 billion per year to implement 30 hours of free childcare and to increase the hourly funding rates that we introduced in April 2017. The government has also increased Small Business Rate Relief and provided local authorities with funding to support £300 million of discretionary business rates relief. Local authorities are able to use this to support local nurseries.

The Department for Education's increased level of investment was based on our 'Review of Childcare Costs', which was described as "thorough and wide-ranging" by the National Audit Office. The review, attached, looked at the costs of childcare provision, including business rates. We have commissioned new research from Frontier Economics to provide further data on the current cost of providing childcare, which will include the effect of business rates.

Education is a devolved matter in Scotland. It is therefore for the devolved administration in Scotland to decide and to implement early years education policy in Scotland, including provision of business rates to childcare providers.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Annex_A_for_HL9248_Review_of_Childcare_Costs
[Annex_A_for_HL9248.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-07-04/HL9248>

China: Ethnic Groups

Asked by Baroness Anelay of St Johns

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent discussions they have had with the government of the People's Republic of China about the continued restrictions on Ughur people living in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and that government's building and use of re-education camps there. [HL9208]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are aware of reports of significant numbers of individuals being detained by the Chinese authorities in re-education camps in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, and that Uyghurs are subject to increasing security surveillance.

We remain deeply concerned about restrictions on freedom of religion or belief in China, particularly in Xinjiang. We raised our concerns about the situation in Xinjiang directly with the Chinese authorities at the UK/China Human Rights Dialogue, which last took place in Beijing in June 2017. In addition we issued an item IV statement at the 38th UN Human Rights Council on 27 June 2018 which reiterated our concerns about re-education camps in Xinjiang. We also supported the EU item IV statement at the same session, which expressed a similar concern.

Climate Change

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the extent to which this year's sustained period of dry weather is a symptom of climate change; and whether they will discuss climate change with the President of the United States during his visit to the UK. [HL9221]

Lord Henley: The 2017 Climate Change Risk Assessment projects that the likelihood of hotter and drier summers in the UK will increase with climate change and that heatwave events such as in 2003 are projected to become the norm in the UK by the 2040s. It is not yet possible, however, to say to what extent the recent period of warm and dry weather has been affected by human influence on the climate until a full scientific study has been carried out. This study will be carried out by the Met Office Hadley Centre, as part of the Met Office Hadley Centre Climate Programme, once the full context of the current warm spell is clear. It is expected to report in the autumn.

My rt.hon. Friend the Prime Minister will discuss a number of issues with the President of the United States during his visit to the UK. The Prime Minister has raised the issue of climate change with the President of the United States previously. She has been clear that she believes the Paris Agreement is the right global framework for tackling climate change.

Contraceptives

Asked by Baroness Barker

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether women are able to get repeat prescriptions for oral contraceptives from a GP practice that they are not registered to. [HL9209]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: General practitioner (GP) practices are only required to prescribe any medication for their registered patients. Patients not registered with a GP, or those who prefer not to obtain such services from the practice with whom they are registered, may obtain oral contraceptives through locally commissioned sexual health services.

Asked by Baroness Barker

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps, if any, they are taking to address the variation in cost for different forms of contraceptives available to women. [HL9210]

Asked by Baroness Barker

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the variation in cost of contraceptives discourages health care professionals from offering the full range of contraceptives to women. [HL9211]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: No specific action is being taken to address variation in cost for different forms of contraception. Clinical commissioning groups expect prescribers to take the cost of medicines into account in their prescribing but the first consideration is always choosing the product which best meets the clinical need of the individual patient. Prescribed contraception is available free of charge to women on the National Health Service.

The Department has not conducted a specific assessment of price and health professionals' contraceptive prescribing patterns.

Deportation: Pakistan

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether it is safe to deport families, including children, to Pakistan when there is evidence that they have received death threats due to their religious beliefs; when they last considered whether there is persecution of particular minorities in Pakistan; and what conclusions they reached. [HL9155]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: All claims for international protection are considered in accordance with our international obligations. Claims are considered against any relevant caselaw and the background of the latest available country information. This is based on a careful and objective assessment of the situation in Afghanistan using evidence taken from a range of sources

including media outlets; local, national and international organisations, including human rights organisations; and information from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Our assessment of the situation for certain religious minorities in Pakistan is set out in the relevant country policy and information notes, which are available on the Gov.uk website.

However, the country information forms the objective background against which applications are decided. Crucially, decision makers must still consider the individual facts and merits of a particular case to determine whether or not that person qualifies for asylum. The Government takes its international responsibilities seriously and usually grants protection to those who qualify.

District Heating: Regulation

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to regulate the heat network industry. [[HL9496](#)]

Lord Henley: The Clean Growth Strategy, published in 2017, committed to assessing a heat network future market framework. An industry taskforce, organised by the Association for Decentralised Energy, published a report in January 2018 on options to improve the sector. The CMA is also currently investigating how well the sector delivers for consumers with its final report to be published this summer. My Department will consider the recommendations from both in developing an appropriate future market framework that will deliver benefits and protections for consumers and growth for the sector.

District heating has significant potential to reduce energy bills and carbon. We are investing £320m in the sector through the Heat Networks Investment Project launching in the autumn to ensure consumers benefit from this opportunity and get a fair deal; a number of pilot projects have already received funding.

East Africa: Heroin

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the increase in trading of heroin in Mozambique and throughout East Africa; and whether they plan to discuss this with the governments of those regions. [[HL9225](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: An assessment of the heroin supply route via the Indian Ocean to East and Southern Africa is provided in the *2018 National Strategic Assessment of Serious and Organised Crime* published by the National Crime Agency in May 2018.

The UK continues to enjoy close and longstanding cooperation with the governments and law enforcement agencies of both regions in tackling this threat.

Elections and Referendums

Asked by Lord Rennard

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for modernising legislation concerning elections and referendums. [[HL9349](#)]

Lord Young of Cookham: The Government keeps electoral processes, and whether improvements may be made, under review. We are working with the Law Commission on how best to implement the recommendations of their review of electoral law.

We have identified with the Law Commission and key electoral stakeholders possible means of effecting reform through the drafting of secondary legislation. Work is underway on this by the Law Commission, which is supported by Cabinet Office and the Electoral Commission.

Elections and Referendums: British Nationals Abroad

Asked by Lord Rennard

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to help UK citizens living abroad to cast votes more easily in elections and referendums within the short timeframes for such ballots; and what assessment they have made of whether electronic voting may provide a safe means of those citizens casting votes. [[HL9352](#)]

Lord Young of Cookham: The Government, in the 2010-15 Parliament, legislated to make it easier for overseas electors to vote by post at elections and referendums in the UK. The electoral timetable was lengthened and the restriction on issuing postal votes ahead of the postal vote application deadline removed.

We continue to keep under review the practical operation of the postal voting process and meet with electoral administrators and their suppliers to identify ways to provide a more effective service, including expediting the delivery of postal votes to overseas electors.

The Government currently has no plans to make provision for electronic voting and committed in its 2017 manifesto to retain the traditional method of voting by pencil and paper.

Ethiopia: Eritrea

Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to encourage the government of Ethiopia to implement its declared intention to accept the ruling of the Eritrea Ethiopia Boundary Commission and to secure the re-opening of the border between those countries. [[HL9229](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The joint declaration of 9 July between the leaders of Ethiopia and Eritrea covered

implementation of the boundary commission decision and links between the two countries. As the Minister for Africa said in her statement of 11 July, the UK remains a steadfast partner to the region and stands ready to provide support to both parties as they work through the details necessary to implement the agreement.

Financial Reporting Council: Pay

Asked by Baroness Bowles of Berkhamsted

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Henley on 6 July (HL8896), how many employees of the Financial Reporting Council since 2005 had salaries, including pension contributions and bonuses, greater than the salary of the then Prime Minister; and in each case (1) what their (a) salaries, (b) pension contributions, and (c) bonuses amounted to, (2) who they were approved by, and (3) on what date they were approved. [HL9366]

Lord Henley: We are informed by the Financial Reporting Council that information necessary to answer this question in full is not available. The following table provides the number of current employees of the Financial Reporting Council (FRC), falling within each salary range above £150,000:

<i>FTE Salary Range</i>	<i>Number of Employees</i>
150k – 175k	2
175k – 200k	3
200k – 225k	4
225k – 250k	1
300k – 325k	2
375k – 400k	1

The FRC's Remuneration Committee approves the annual reward structure, including any bonuses awarded to employees. The FRC's annual reports, which are laid before Parliament, provide information about the FRC's remuneration policies. This includes the value of the total bonus pot as a percentage of the salary bill (a maximum of 3% in 2016/2017 where the Total Core Staff and related people costs is stated as £20,613,000), individual salaries and bonuses for executive directors.

The Office for National Statistics concluded in December 2014 that the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) was a public body within central government. The Department for Business Innovation and Skills (as it then was) examined whether there was scope for further review. The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) concluded in 2017 that they should work with the FRC on the application of all relevant guidelines. This includes pay guidance issued by HM Treasury and the Cabinet Office that requires advanced approval from the Chief Secretary of the Treasury for remuneration packages at £150,000 and above.

During the prolonged period in which the status of the FRC as a public body was the subject of or pending review, decisions on the application of the guidelines were taken by Departmental officials under the delegated authority of the responsible departmental Accounting Officer.

FTSE Women Leaders Review

Asked by Baroness Goudie

To ask Her Majesty's Government how often the Hampton-Alexander Review has appeared on a (1) Cabinet Committee, and (2) Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy management meeting agendas in the last two years. [HL9333]

Lord Henley: Diversity and Inclusion in the boardroom and workplace is a hugely important element of building an economy that works for all. The Government is committed to a cohesive society, where everyone - no matter what their background - has the opportunity to enter into and progress at work and achieve on merit.

The Government commissioned and supports the independent, business-led Hampton-Alexander Review to meet its targets of women holding 33% of senior leadership positions and 33% of board positions in FTSE350 companies by 2020.

The Hampton-Alexander Review and other reviews promoting Diversity and Inclusion in the workplace, have featured on the agenda and in wider discussions at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's senior management meetings on at least a monthly basis in the last two years. It has also been discussed over the last eighteen months at the three Minister-led Business Diversity & Inclusion Group meetings chaired by Andrew Griffiths, and by Margot James previously, at Interministerial Group meetings and at a meeting between the Permanent Secretary of BEIS and the Chair of the BEIS Select Committee.

Gardens: Heating

Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the UK is participating in the European Commission's Market Surveillance study of Patio Heaters being undertaken by PROSAFE on behalf of the Commission; when they anticipate the report will be produced; and whether they will make it available. [HL9336]

Lord Henley: The United Kingdom has a comprehensive system of market surveillance. For consumer product safety, this is undertaken primarily by local authority Trading Standards.

The UK is not currently participating in a PROSAFE study on patio heaters. Reports undertaken by PROSAFE on behalf of the Commission are publicly available on the PROSAFE website.

General Practitioners

Asked by **Lord Marlesford**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is (1) the residence qualification, and (2) the personal identification documentation required, from people seeking to register with general practitioners for treatment under the NHS. [HL9241]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: NHS England's policy 'Patient Registration, Standard Operating Principles for Primary Medical Care (General Practice)' states that:

"When applying to become a patient there is no regulatory requirement to prove identity, address, immigration status or the provision of an NHS number in order to register. However, there are practical reasons why a practice might need to be assured that people are who they say they are, or to check where they live, so it can help the process if a patient can provide relevant documents. There is however no contractual requirement to request this nor is establishing an individual's identity the role of General Practice.

Any practice policy to ask for patient ID should be applied in a non-discriminatory fashion. This means the policy should apply to all prospective patients equally."

As there is no requirement under the regulations to produce identity or residence information, the patient must be registered on application unless the practice has reasonable grounds to decline – such as where the patient lives outside of the practice area.

General Practitioners: Expenditure

Asked by **Lord Marlesford**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the total expenditure by the NHS on general practitioner services in each of the last five years. [HL9242]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The investment in general practice in England in cash terms for the years 2012/13-2016/17 is presented in the following table.

Year	Investment in General Practice (millions)
2016/17	£10,203.86
2015/16	£9,696.562
2014/15	£9,173.038
2013/14	£8,830.54
2012/13	£8,459.881

Government: Migrant Workers

Asked by **Viscount Waverley**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many non-UK citizens work in central government; and what estimate they have made of how many non-UK citizens work in local government. [HL9319]

Lord Young of Cookham: All Civil Service organisations must comply with the [Civil Service Nationality Rules](#) which govern the eligibility of individuals to be employed in the Civil Service on the grounds of nationality. The Civil Service does not collate or hold central information on the nationality of civil servants.

Health Services: Foreign Nationals

Asked by **Lord Marlesford**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the outstanding personal financial liability on non-EEA visitors to the UK for treatment received under the NHS in each of the last three years; and what was the total income received for each year in respect of such treatment. [HL9240]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Department does not hold information on the outstanding personal financial liability on non-European Economic Area visitors to the United Kingdom who have treatment received under the National Health Service in the last three years.

Hereditary Peers: By-elections

Asked by **Lord Grocott**

To ask the Senior Deputy Speaker, further to the Written Answer by the Senior Deputy Speaker (Lord McFall of Alcluith) on 3 July (HL8851), what was (1) the number of votes cast for the winning candidate, and (2) the percentage of the electorate who voted, in each case. [HL9279]

Lord McFall of Alcluith: The table below provides the number of votes cast for the winning candidate and the percentage of the electorate who voted in each by-election.

Hereditary Peers By-elections, 1999-2018

Departed Peer	Date of death, retirement or termination	Type of By-election	Elected Peer	Date of election	Number of candidates	Number of electors	Number of transfers of votes	Votes cast for winning candidate	Percentage of electorate who voted
Oxfuird, V.	03-Jan-03	Whole House	Ullswater, V.	27-Mar-03	81	661	42	151	63.99%

<i>Departed Peer</i>	<i>Date of death, retirement or termination</i>	<i>Type of By-election</i>	<i>Elected Peer</i>	<i>Date of election</i>	<i>Number of candidates</i>	<i>Number of electors</i>	<i>Number of transfers of votes</i>	<i>Votes cast for winning candidate</i>	<i>Percentage of electorate who voted</i>
Milner of Leeds, L.	20-Aug-03	Labour	Grantchester, L.	30-Oct-03	11	3	1	2	100%
Vivian, L.	28-Feb-04	Conservative	Trenchard, V.	13-May-04	37	48	10	24	93.75%
Russell, E.	14-Oct-04	Liberal Democrat	Glasgow, E.	13-Jan-05	3	4	1	4	100%
Burnham, L.	01-Jan-05	Conservative	De Mauley, L.	14-Mar-05	36	47	9	21	89.36%
Aberdare, L.	23-Jan-05	Whole House	Eccles, V.	23-Mar-05	36	687	23	168	50.65%
Strange, B.	11-Mar-05	Crossbench	Montgomery of Alamein, V.	23-Jun-05	26	29	5	11	96.55%
Mowbray and Stourton, L.	12-Dec-06	Conservative	Cathcart, E.	07-Mar-07	43	47	6	21	91.48%
Darcy de Knayth, B.	24-Feb-08	Crossbench	Stair, E.	22-May-08	33	29	5	14	89.65%
Bledisloe, V.	12-May-09	Crossbench	Aberdare, L.	14-Jul-09	33	29	4	13	93.10%
Northesk, E.	28-Mar-10	Conservative	Younger of Leckie, V.	23-Jun-10	33	47	2	22	95.74%
Colville of Culross, V.	08-Apr-10	Crossbench	Clancarty, E.	23-Jun-10	24	29	4	13	89.65%
Strabolgi, L.	24-Dec-10	Whole House	Hanworth, V.	23-Mar-11	24	769	1	233	53.83%
Monson, L.	12-Feb-11	Crossbench	Lytton, E.	11-May-11	14	28	4	15	96.42%
Amphill, L.	23-Apr-11	Whole House	Colville of Culross, V.	20-Jul-11	20	769	14	126	40.70%
Onslow, E.	14-May-11	Conservative	Ashton of Hyde, L.	20-Jul-11	21	47	8	23	95.74%
Ferrers, E.	13-Nov-11	Conservative	Ridley, V.	06-Feb-12	27	48	13	24	95.83%
Reay, L.	10-May-13	Whole House	Borwick, L.	17-Jul-13	23	753	16	160	44.35%
Moran, L.	14-Feb-04	Crossbench	Cromwell, L.	09-Apr-14	13	29	4	13	93.10%
Methuen, L.	09-Jul-14	Whole House	Oxford and Asquith, E.	22-Oct-14	15	776	1	155	36.46%
Allenby of Megiddo, V.*	03-Oct-14	Crossbench	Russell of Liverpool, L.	10-Dec-14	18	27	4	13	92.59%
Cobbold, L.*	13-Oct-14	Crossbench	Somerset, D.	10-Dec-14	17	27	4	12	92.59%
Chorley, L.**	17-Nov-14	Crossbench	Thurlow, L.	03-Feb-15	18	28	5	13	92.85%
Saltoun of Abernethy, Ly.**	12-Dec-14	Crossbench	Kinnoull, E.	03-Feb-15	17	28	5	12	92.85%
Tenby, V.	01-May-15	Crossbench	Mountevans, L.	07-Jul-15	19	28	5	10	89.28%
Luke, L.	24-Jun-15	Conservative	Wellington, D.	16-Sep-15	16	48	4	21	85.41%
Montgomery of Alamein, V.	23-Jul-15	Crossbench	Trevethin and Oaksey, L.	20-Oct-15	17	29	5	12	89.65%
Montagu of Beaulieu, L.	31-Aug-15	Conservative	Fairfax of Cameron, L.	24-Nov-15	14	48	10	27	91.66%
Avebury, L.	14-Feb-16	Liberal Democrat	Thurso, V.	19-Apr-16	7	3	1	3	100%
Bridges, L.	18-May-16	Crossbench	Cork and Orrery, E. (Boyle, L.)	12-Jul-16	17	31	6	15	87.09%
Lyell, L.	11-Jan-17	Whole House	Colgrain, L.	27-Mar-17	27	803	25	143	43.08%
Walpole, L.	13-Jun-17	Crossbench	Vaux of Harrowden, L.	19-Jul-17	10	31	1	16	87.09%
Baldwin of	09-May-18	Crossbench	Devon, E.	04-Jul-18	19	31	5	12	83.87%

Bewdley, E.

Glentoran, L.	01-Jun-18	Conservative	(By-election in progress)	18-Jul-18	11	47	(By-election in progress)	(By-election in progress)	(By-election in progress)
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* This involved one by-election for two vacancies

** This involved one by-election for two vacancies

Asked by Lord Rennard

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of hereditary peer by-elections on the reputation of democratic principles in the UK; and whether they intend to support legislation to enable Parliament to end such elections. [[HL9353](#)]

Lord Young of Cookham: The system of by-elections for the excepted hereditary peers is an internal matter for the House of Lords. The Government has made clear through its manifesto that comprehensive reform of the House of Lords is not a legislative priority for this Parliament.

High Speed 2 Railway Line

Asked by Lord Mancroft

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to include fibre ducting along the route of HS2 (Phase One) line to ensure uninterrupted digital connectivity for passengers. [[HL9238](#)]

Baroness Sugg: HS2 (Phase One) is planning to provide uninterrupted digital connectivity for its passengers. The methodology of delivering this service to the train is currently in design phase and is yet to be decided, however the service will make use of a trackside optical fibre network to be installed along the HS2 line of route.

Honours

Asked by Lord Jopling

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many awards of (1) Knights Bachelor, (2) DBE, (3) KBE, and (4) CBE were given to people styled Professor, save for those in the Diplomatic and Overseas lists, in the recent Birthday Honours List; what was the percentage of the total of each award given; and what assessment they have made of whether sufficient consideration is given to those with deserving talent, who are not styled Professor. [[HL9171](#)]

Lord Young of Cookham: In the Birthday Honours List 2018, the following recipients were styled professor: eight Knight Bachelor recipients (38% of recipients at that level), four DBE recipients (36%), no KBE recipients (0%) and 23 CBE recipients (26%). All nominees are assessed against the same criteria. The Cabinet Office always strives to encourage a greater diversity of nominations from the public and carries out outreach work to attract nominations from groups identified as under-represented in the honours system.

Housing

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to update Parliament following the publication of the Housing White Paper on 7 February 2017. [[HL9437](#)]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: Implementing the strategy set out in the Housing White Paper to fix our broken housing market remains a top priority for this Government. That is why at Autumn Budget 2017 we went even further announcing a programme of reform across planning, investment and transforming our delivery capacity. This included further planning reforms and £15.3 billion of additional financial support. We are making good progress and in 2016/17 we delivered 217,000 additional homes, the highest in all but one of the last 30 years.

Immigration

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to re-evaluate their immigration policies to ensure that they do not deliver a "hostile environment". [[HL9311](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The public expects us to enforce immigration laws approved by Parliament as a matter of fairness to those who abide by the rules.

Successive Governments have brought forward measures to tackle illegal migration and prevent the misuse of public services and benefits.

It is right, however, that we understand the impact of those measures; that they are meeting our aim to deter immigration offending, and, vitally, that safeguards are effective in ensuring they are not capturing those who are entitled to access work, benefits and services in the UK. We recognise the need to put in place evaluation to do this, and will consider options in due course. In light of Windrush, we are also reviewing our safeguards.

The Home Office has also announced a Windrush lessons learned review. The review will seek to understand how the Windrush generation became entangled in measures designed for illegal immigrants and why this was not spotted sooner.

LGBT People

Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of the UK population identifies as being LGBT or transgender. [[HL9192](#)]

Lord Young of Cookham: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from John Pullinger CB, National Statistician, to The Lord Stoddart of Swindon, Lord, dated 9 July 2018.

Dear Lord Stoddart,

As National Statistician and Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority, I am replying to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of the UK population identifies as being LGBT or transgender (**HL9192**).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimated that 2% of the UK population aged 16 and over in 2016 identified as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual (LGB). LGB refers to sexual orientation, which is an umbrella concept encompassing sexual identity, attraction and behaviour.

Trans or Transgender are terms used to refer to people whose gender identity differs from their sex assigned at birth.

ONS does not currently collect any information on gender identity on any of our social surveys.

In the 2021 Census Topic Consultation, data users showed a clear requirement for gender identity for policy development and service planning; especially in relation to the provision of health services. In addition, respondents also identified a requirement for the protected characteristic of gender reassignment in relation to fulfilling equality duties under the Equality Act 2010. The Gender Identity topic report[1] on the consultation findings provides further information.

ONS is currently undertaking work, research and testing to inform our position on this topic and help us to determine whether and how best to meet user needs for information on gender identity. Plans and current work are detailed on our website[2].

The Government Equalities Office (GEO) have recently published an LGBT action plan following the Government's national survey of LGBT people. The action plan and results from the survey can be found on their website[3].

Yours sincerely,

John Pullinger

[1]

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/file?uri=/census/censustransformationprogramme/consultations/the2021censusinitialviewoncontentforenglandandwales/topicreport03genderidentity.pdf>

[2]

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/classificationsandstandards/measuringequality/genderidentity>

[3]

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/lgbt-action-plan-2018-improving-the-lives-of-lesbian-gay-bisexual-and-transgender-people>

Medical Equipment: EU Law

Asked by Baroness Walmsley

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to maintain equivalence with the EU Regulation on Medical Devices 2017/745 during the planned

transition period from March 2019 to March 2021. [**HL9247**]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Government is committed to the safe and effective regulation of medical devices in the United Kingdom; we continue to strengthen safety while ensuring patients and the public have fast access to new, innovative devices.

The new EU Devices Regulations entered into force in May 2017. The EU Regulation on Medical Devices 2017/745 will be fully applied from May 2020, during the implementation period agreed with the European Union, and would therefore apply under the terms of the time-limited implementation period.

Under our responsibilities as a Member State, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency continues to work to implement the new Regulations and has met all relevant milestones set out in the legislation.

Natural Gas

Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have reported to the European Commission on the types of gas and corresponding supply pressures of gaseous fuels used in the UK as required by EU Regulation 2016/426; and whether they will place a copy of any such report in the Library of the House. [**HL9426**]

Lord Henley: In accordance with the requirements set out in Article 4 of Regulation 2016/426, the UK Government notified the European Commission of the types of gas and corresponding supply of gaseous fuels used in the UK in October 2017. I will place this information in the Libraries of the House.

NHS: Warehouses

Asked by Baroness Walmsley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of NHS warehousing requirements if frictionless trade with the EU is not maintained following Brexit. [**HL9245**]

Asked by Baroness Walmsley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of warehousing requirements for NHS suppliers if frictionless trade with the EU is not maintained following Brexit. [**HL9246**]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: Patient safety is paramount in our exit negotiations and maintaining continuity of supply of medical products is a key part of ensuring patients continue to receive the safe high-quality care they need on day one of the exit from the European Union exit and thereafter.

The Department is working closely with cross Government agencies to ensure that there is no disruption to the supply of medical products following the United

Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU, regardless of the terms of the withdrawal.

This includes enhancing existing supply chain resilience, scoping out alternative sources of supply and providing means to access critical medical devices at short notice. Warehousing requirements for centrally held stock of medical devices for the National Health Service is continuously reviewed against demand patterns and forecasts which incorporate consideration of external factors, such as exiting the EU, and is integral to contingency planning. Medicines suppliers will be taking a similar approach to their stocks.

Organs: Donors

Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many organ donations were made in England in each of the last five financial years by deceased individuals who were not on the Organ Donor Register. [HL9232]

Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many organ donations were made in England in each of the last five financial years by deceased individuals who were on the Organ Donor Register. [HL9233]

Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government in how many cases in each of the last five financial years families objected to organ donation on the part of a deceased donor who was not on the Organ Donation Register in England. [HL9234]

Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government in how many cases in each of the last five financial years families objected to organ donation on the part of a deceased donor who was on the Organ Donor Register in England. [HL9235]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: NHS Blood and Transplant is responsible for organ donation and transplantation in the UK.

NHS Blood and Transplant have advised that the following table sets out information on the number of organ donors in England who were not registered on the NHS Organ Donor Register (ODR) and the number of donors who were registered.

The table also shows the number of families approached who did not consent to organ donation for eligible donors who had not expressed a wish to donate on the ODR or the donation wish was not known at time of approach. Also shown is the number of families approached who have overridden express consent for donation for potential donors who had expressed a wish to donate on the ODR and it was known at time of approach.

	2013/ 2014	2014/ 2015	2015/ 2016	2016/ 2017	2017/ 2018
Number of deceased organ donors: - who were not registered on the ODR	653	597	640	660	692
- who were registered on the ODR	451	469	504	507	662
Number of families approached but who did not give consent to organ donation for an eligible donor who had not expressed a wish to donate on the ODR or donation wish was not known at time of approach	1,029	1,063	925	928	891
Number of families approached but who have overridden express consent to organ donation for an eligible donor who was on the ODR and this was known at time of approach	85	80	85	67	72

Source: NHS Blood and Transplant, 2018

Note:

All figures are for England.

Prisoners on Remand: West Midlands

Asked by Lord Lisvane

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the maximum distance a defendant, solicitor or member of administrative staff might need to travel within the West Mercia Police area to attend remand cases following the relocation of all such cases to Kidderminster Magistrates Court. [HL9113]

Lord Keen of Elie: The travel times and average mileage were thoroughly researched and taken into account when considering the centralisation of the remand courts in Kidderminster. The detail is provided in the consultation document (page 9) and the response document.

The distance and journey time of a prisoner travelling to attend the remand court from a police station in West Mercia is included in the consultation document. Travel from each of the police stations show a maximum journey time of 58.8 minutes each way (using a route planner).

In addition to the above, prisoners can be transported from anywhere in England or Wales if arrested on a warrant.

HMCTS is unable to provide a maximum travel time for solicitors since it will depend upon where they reside or are based.

There are 6 HMCTS ushers travelling to Kidderminster once or twice per week by train which is a 30-minute train journey.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Consultation Document [HL9113 Consultation Doc..doc]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-06-29/HL9113>

Public Sector: Procurement

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to re-evaluate their outsourcing process when awarding public sector contracts. [HL9404]

Lord Young of Cookham: The Government uses the Green Book to inform transparent, objective and evidence-based sourcing decisions. The framework set out in the Green Book ensures that the policy can be achieved in strategic, commercial, financial and economic terms.

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster recently announced changes to public sector outsourcing and new ways in which public services can be contracted and delivered in his speech to Reform on 25 June 2018.

Railways

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to their call for ideas for market-led proposals for rail projects published on 20 March, how they intend to (1) evaluate, (2) choose, and (3) support any proposals submitted; and what is the timescale for the process. [HL9213]

Baroness Sugg: The market-led proposals guidance published alongside the call for ideas sets out the evaluation criteria the department will use in assessing proposals. This call for ideas is for proposals that are financially credible without government support.

The guidance indicates what sort of support credible proposals might expect from the department. The level of support is commensurate to the maturity of the scheme and could include public statements of support, departmental resources and sponsorship, and planning or parliamentary guidance.

The Department for Transport has committed to responding to proposals in the autumn.

Referendums

Asked by Lord Rennard

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for amending legislation on the conduct of referendums to make sanctions for serious breaches of the law analogous to those for elections. [HL9348]

Lord Young of Cookham: The Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA) regulates political funding and spending at elections and referendums. Breaches of these laws attract both criminal and civil sanctions.

Bespoke Acts of Parliament are brought forward for each referendum and it is usual practice for the conduct rules to apply to many of the offences which are included in the Representation of the People Act 1983.

Social Rented Housing

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many local authorities have produced 500 or more new homes for rent in the last ten years. [HL9380]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: 500 or more additional dwellings were built for rent between 2007 - 08 and 2016 - 17 in 251 out of 326 local authorities. This includes social rent, affordable rent and intermediate rent.

More comprehensive statistics on additional affordable housing provided local authority and private registered providers (housing association) are published in the Department's live tables (attached) at: <http://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-affordable-housing-supply>

Tables 1006C and 1006aC provide figures for 'social rent' and 'affordable rent' by local authority area respectively.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

live table on affordable housing [180713 Copy of Live Table 1006 1009 - HL9380.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-07-10/HL9380>

Social Rented Housing: Construction

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what area of land in public ownership has been released for building social homes in each of the last three years. [HL9382]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: Decisions on affordable housing provision are taken at a local level according to local need. MHCLG does not currently hold data on the amount of social homes planned and built on land sold through the Public Land for Housing Programme.

However, Ordnance Survey has been commissioned to monitor the progress of sites sold through both the 2011-15 and 2015-20 Public Land for Housing Programmes and is gathering information on the planned number of affordable houses. This will be made available in due course.

Social Security Benefits

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to review the benefits system focussing on training and support for staff, and cooperation with Citizens' Advice and credit unions, in order to prevent rent and utility arrears and defaults on Council Tax. [HL9432]

Baroness Buscombe: DWP is committed to making sure that claimants have the right support available to them to help make and maintain a Universal Credit claim and manage their finances. The Department works with local authorities, Citizens Advice and other third sector providers to make sure that this support is in place.

Universal Support provides Universal Credit claimants with additional help to use a computer to make or maintain their claim (Assisted Digital Support), help in managing their monthly Universal Credit payment and possible advice on their finances (Personal Budgeting Support).

We also refer claimants to Citizens Advice and the Money Advice Service for more specialist debt advice and have also worked with the Money Advice Service to develop a Money Manager Tool. The Money Manager is designed for people on Universal Credit to make the most of their money, both when they are waiting for their first Universal Credit payment and when they are getting regular monthly payments, and is available online through the Money Advice Service.

DWP is currently looking at how Universal Support operates and will examine feedback from providers and users before making decisions related to the future and shape of Universal Support.

If people have problems managing their monthly payments, alternative payment arrangements (APAs) are available. These include direct payment of rent to landlords, more frequent-than-monthly Universal Credit payments, and splitting household payments in some cases. Work coaches make claimants aware of APAs. Information is also available through gov.uk, the Universal Credit helpline and Universal Credit at Work and DWP always prioritise vulnerable claimants for APAs.

All DWP staff delivering Universal Credit undergo comprehensive training, which includes information on Universal Support. This training includes support to recognise and help claimants with complex needs, and is delivered through a range of methods, which includes facilitator-led learning and skills practice.

Somerset County Council

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment, if any, they have made of financial management of Somerset County Council. [HL9296]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Department constantly reviews the challenges facing the sector and individual authorities, including any challenges relating to financial management. Local authorities are independent bodies responsible for setting their own budgets, and for the prudent financial planning and management of their resources to deliver the services required to meet local needs. They can receive sector-led support provided by the Local Government Association to address their challenges.

T-levels

Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie

To ask Her Majesty's Government what funding and support will be available to small businesses to enable them to offer T level work placements. [HL9249]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The government is investing funding to support the delivery of T level industry placements through the Industry Placement Capacity and Delivery Fund (for both large and small businesses). Nearly £60 million has so far been allocated to providers in 2018/19 to build new relationships with local employers and put in place the infrastructure to deliver high quality industry placements taking some of the additional costs and burdens away from employers. Institutions can use this additional funding to support employers with the tangible costs relating to delivery. Institutions are expected to prepare their students for the workplace so that they will have a valuable impact to the business.

We have also invested £5 million in the National Apprenticeship Service to provide a single platform for employers to go to for advice and support. This is to be matched with local providers to take the burden off employers. Coupled with the publication of 'how to' guides and standardised templates, the intention is to make the process as simple and straightforward as possible to increase employers engagement.

In the government's consultation response on the implementation of T Levels, we have committed to exploring a range of flexibilities that will support employers across different industries and will continue to consult employers about what further support might be required.

Torbay Council

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with Torbay Council regarding the future status of the local authority. [HL9294]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: Ministers and officials regularly have discussions with local authorities about a wide range of issues, which may include, as when officials met Torbay Council on 1 September 2017, discussions about an authority's status. In the event, following that September 2017 meeting Torbay Council made no proposal to change its current unitary status.

Travellers: Hate Crime

Asked by Baroness Whitaker

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by Goldsmiths, University of London, *Recognise, Report, Resolve*, published in June, about racist hate speech and other abusive incidents targeted at the Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities. [[HL9254](#)]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Government is clear that all forms of hate crime and discrimination are unacceptable. We support efforts to improve hate crime reporting, and in December 2017 we awarded a grant of £55,000 to Herts GATE (Gypsy and Traveller Empowerment), an organisation that works to encourage reporting of hate crime in Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities and has set up *Report Racism GRT*, a third-party hate crime reporting website.

The report *Recognise Report Resolve* draws on material submitted to the *Report Racism GRT* website, and has been produced independently by Herts GATE and Goldsmiths, University of London.

Wales Office: Reviews

Asked by Lord Watts

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many independent reviews the Wales Office has commissioned into its policy or administration over the last year; and what was the total cost of those reviews. [[HL9527](#)]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: None.

Women on Boards Review and FTSE Women Leaders Review

Asked by Baroness Goudie

To ask Her Majesty's Government what budget was allocated to (1) the Davies Review in 2015, and (2) the Hampton-Alexander Review in (a) 2016, (b) 2017, and (c) 2018; and what budget they plan to allocate to the Hampton-Alexander Review in 2019. [[HL9334](#)]

Lord Henley: The noble Lord Davies chaired the government-commissioned, independent and business-led Women on Boards review from 2010 to 2015 to increase the representation of women on FTSE350 company boards to 25% by 2015. His initial report was published in February 2011 and the final report in October 2015. The former department (BIS) provided a small secretariat to support his work. A number of sponsors and stakeholders also contributed to events and the successful publishing of his reports.

The Government commissioned and supports the independent, business-led Hampton-Alexander Review to meet its targets of women holding 33% of senior leadership positions and 33% of board positions in FTSE350 companies by 2020. This succeeded the Davies Review into Women on Boards. It is led by Sir Philip Hampton, Chair of GSK. The late Dame Helen Alexander co-chaired the Review until her death in August 2017. The Review will be supported for the duration by a joint secretariat comprising of officials from BEIS and the Government Equalities Office. KPMG are the Review's corporate sponsors. Like the Davies Review, there is no Government programme budget in addition to the support provided by officials.

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