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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
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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
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
Lord Taylor of Holbeach	Chief Whip
Baroness Vere of Norbiton	Whip
Baroness Williams of Trafford	Minister of State, Home Office and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development
Lord Young of Cookham	Cabinet Office Spokesperson and Whip
Viscount Younger of Leckie	Whip

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Written Statements

Thursday, 18 October 2018

Infected Blood Inquiry

[HLWS991]

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.

On 24th September, I attended the commemoration that preceded the preliminary hearings of the Infected Blood Inquiry, and watched the moving and powerful testimony from those infected and affected by the infected blood scandal. The commemoration brought home the terrible human cost of this tragedy, and emphasised to me the importance of this Inquiry, to get to the truth of what happened, and provide the answers that the people infected and affected so desperately need.

When the public Inquiry was launched in July this year, I deferred making a decision on whether to appoint a panel to sit with Sir Brian until he was able to take the view of core participants. Sir Brian Langstaff wrote to me this week following the preliminary hearings, and has advised me that he has now done so, and there has been no demand for a panel. In the place of single experts, sitting as panellists, Sir Brian is establishing expert groups to provide openness and transparency across a range of truly expert opinion. He recommended that I should not appoint co-determining panel members. I accept his recommendation.

In his letter Sir Brian also called for action in relation to financial and psychological support for the affected and infected. The Government will consider those comments and Sir Brian's recommendations carefully and will respond as soon as possible.

The Cabinet Office takes seriously its role as sponsor to the Infected Blood Inquiry and is determined to do all it can to support the Inquiry with its work. Regrettably, an administrative error earlier this year has come to light, which had delayed the circulation of an instruction to government departments about the retention of records. I can reassure the public that this has resulted in no actual harm, but it is an error for which I apologise to the Inquiry, and most importantly, to the people infected and affected.

The facts are these: Cabinet Office official circulated a Government-wide notice on 3rd April this year, instructing departments to preserve all information relevant to the Infected Blood Inquiry. A further, more comprehensive message was issued to departments by Cabinet Office on 11th June.

However, following a query from the Inquiry about the notice, Cabinet Office officials discovered that the 3rd April email containing the retention notice did not reach its recipients, due to the failure of the collective IT address used. My officials have provided a detailed

explanation to the Inquiry which will be published on the Inquiry's website.

Since the error was discovered, all relevant departments and relevant areas within departments have worked urgently to confirm that they have not destroyed any documents relevant to the Inquiry during the period between 3rd April and 11th June. Because of their size and the complexity of some of the records they hold, HM Courts and Tribunals Service and the Legal Aid Agency are continuing to work to provide this assurance and have committed to doing so as urgently as possible.

The Department of Health and Social Care put in place a moratorium on the destruction of historical records as soon as the Inquiry was announced in July 2017. No material damage has resulted from this administrative error, but I am very sorry it occurred, and I would like to reassure the public that the Cabinet Office will learn the lessons from this to avoid such an error occurring in future.

Modern Slavery: 2018 UK Annual Report

[HLWS989]

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

Today, I am publishing the 2018 UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery. The Report covers the whole of the UK and has been drafted in collaboration with the Northern Ireland Executive, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government. This report sets out an assessment of the scale of modern slavery in the UK, and outlines the actions that have been taken to combat it over the last year.

A copy of the report will be placed in the House Library.

Justice and Home Affairs Post-Council Statement

[HLWS990]

Lord Keen of Elie: My right honourable friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (David Gauke) has made the following Written Statement.

"I attended the Justice and Home Affairs Council for Justice Day on Thursday 11 October in Luxembourg.

The Council reached a General Approach on the Insolvency Restructuring and Second Chance Directive.

During the discussion on E-evidence legislation, Ministers agreed not to include real-time interception within the scope of the Regulation and asked for further work on the extent of the obligation to notify other states when data is sought direct from a service provider. I offered to share UK experience from our bilateral discussions with the US on a data access agreement, which was welcomed by the Commission.

With regard to the draft Conclusions on the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in 2017, 20 Member States, including the UK, supported the Netherlands proposal for the adoption of “Presidency Conclusions” given the lack of consensus for Council Conclusions.

The Director of the Fundamental Rights Agency presented his annual review of the fundamental rights situation in the European Union (EU), noting rising levels of hate crime, including anti-Semitism, and discrimination faced by immigrants and minority groups. He also referred to Roma communities living without basic amenities such as electricity and water. Member States noted these concerns.

The Commission updated Ministers on implementation of the European Public Prosecutor’s Office (EPPO). The European Council will discuss the proposal to extend the EPPO to cross-border terrorism offences.

The discussion on Enhancing Mutual Trust focused on the importance of mutual recognition, whilst noting the importance of an independent judiciary and the rule of law. The UK intervened to recognise the mutual benefits of continued cooperation, and the UK’s commitment to the principle of mutual trust. The Presidency will prepare Conclusions on mutual trust for the December JHA Council.

The Commission presented their Communication on securing free and fair European elections, including protection from personal data misuse and cyber incidents.

The Home Secretary attended Interior day.

The Commission set out ambitious plans for a stronger, more effective European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) including a standing corps of 10,000 officers, which would provide substantial support to Member States in protecting the external border. Member States underlined their support for a stronger Frontex, but expressed concerns about the size of the standing corps, its impact on national authorities and the consequences for Member State competence on border protection.

The Commission briefly presented the new Return Directive recast and Member States discussed accelerated borders procedures, linking the asylum and returns processes, with asylum claims processed as close to the border as possible and, if refused, the failed asylum seeker returned fast and smoothly. Some Member States focused on the need to maximise third country cooperation on returns and readmission of own nationals. Member States were divided on the mandatory nature of the border procedures. Some Member States supported manifestly unfounded claims at the border leading to an entry refusal rather than a returns decision.

Over lunch, Ministers discussed the EU’s comprehensive “whole of route” approach to tackling illegal migration. The Home Secretary focused on strengthening the EU’s response to human traffickers and smugglers advertising online, and boosting our work with African partners on economic development, strategic communications and behavioural insights to prevent migrants from starting dangerous journeys to Europe.

Ministers also discussed the balance between solidarity and responsibility. The Presidency, supported by some Member States, proposed broadening the idea of ‘solidarity’ to avoid compulsory reallocation of refugees to Member States who reject this, but who are content to make substantial contributions to other aspects of migration management, including external partnerships with third countries.

The Council discussed the JHA funding programmes within the next Multi-Annual Financial Framework. The UK will not participate in these programmes as a Member State. The Presidency called on Member States to establish a strong steering structure to ensure the optimal use of funds. Member States supported provisions to step up cooperation with third countries on migration, but raised questions around flexibility and allocations to Member States.

The Presidency updated on progress on the files within the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) package. The Dublin IV proposal, as it links to the issue of solidarity and burden sharing, will be discussed among Leaders at the October European Council."

Draft Parliamentary Buildings (Restoration and Renewal) Bill

[HLWS988]

Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: Today, the Government publishes the Parliamentary Buildings (Restoration and Renewal) Bill in draft, which seeks to establish the statutory bodies that will be responsible for the restoration and renewal works within the Parliamentary estate, giving effect to the resolutions passed by Parliament earlier this year. In addition to Parliament having expressed its view in those resolutions, it will also be given an opportunity to vote on the proposed design, cost and timing of the substantive building works relating to the Palace of Westminster. In developing the draft Bill, the Government has worked closely with the House Authorities.

The Bill will establish the governance structure within which those bodies will operate. The bodies will have the capacity and capability to make strategic decisions on the Restoration and Renewal Programme, so that the Palace of Westminster can be secured as the UK Parliament for future generations.

The Bill establishes a Parliamentary Works Sponsor Body which will have overall responsibility for the Programme and act as a single client on behalf of both Houses. It will also form a Delivery Authority as a company limited by guarantee. The Delivery Authority will formulate proposals in relation to the restoration works, and ensure their operational delivery. The bodies will be independent and able to operate effectively in the commercial sphere, bringing the expertise and capability needed for a project of this scale. This two-tier approach was used to successfully deliver the London Olympics.

The Bill also establishes a Parliamentary Works Estimates Commission which will lay the Sponsor Body’s

estimates before Parliament, and play a role in reviewing the Sponsor Body's expenditure.

The Government agrees with Parliament that there can be no blank cheque for this work and it must represent good value for taxpayers' money. The Bill provides that the Sponsor Body and the Delivery Authority must have regard to value for money when exercising their functions throughout the Programme. The Treasury will be able to review and comment on the annual estimates for the funding of the Programme, and the National Audit Office will be able to undertake audits and value-for-money reviews. Furthermore, the Estimates Commission will have the power to review, comment on, and in certain circumstances reject those annual estimates.

It is important that the views of Parliamentarians on the Programme are taken into account. The Sponsor Body will have a majority of Parliamentarians on its Board, alongside external expertise. Parliamentarians will be fully consulted on the strategic direction of the Programme. The Sponsor Body will be required to return to Parliament for approval to make any significant changes to the approved proposals in respect of the Palace. Parliament will also be given an opportunity to vote on the annual expenditure of the Sponsor Body and the Delivery Authority through the estimates process.

We welcome the forthcoming scrutiny of the draft Bill, to ensure that it achieves its aims of a Restoration and Renewal Programme that is sufficiently independent, and that is transparent and accountable to Parliament.

Written Answers

Thursday, 18 October 2018

Academies

Asked by **Lord Watson of Invergowrie**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the criterion used by the Secretary of State to revoke an Academy Order under section 5D of the Academies Act 2010; which schools have had an Academy Order revoked; and in each case, what were the reasons for the Academy Order being revoked. [HL10597]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The department's statutory 'Schools causing concern' guidance (attached) makes clear that the Secretary of State's power to revoke an academy order will only be used in very exceptional circumstances – for example, where the maintained school is not viable and therefore it is most appropriate for it to close. Details of the 29 schools which have had an academy revoked and the reasons for revocation are set out in the attached table.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL10597_Schools_causing_concern_guidance
[HL10597_Schools_causing_concern_guidance_February_2018.pdf]

HL10597_Table_Academy_revocation
[HL10597_Table_Academy_revocation.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-10-10/HL10597>

Asked by **Lord Watson of Invergowrie**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether provisions in the Education and Adoption Act 2016 to designate schools as coasting will no longer be used to force local authority schools to convert to academies. [HL10599]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State announced on 4 May 2018 that we will only mandate academy conversion, leadership change or re-brokerage of a school on grounds of educational underperformance if Ofsted has judged it as inadequate.

Air Pollution: Airports

Asked by **Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to establish at least one permanent monitoring site for Ultrafine Particles in the vicinity of a major airport as recommended by the Air Quality Expert Group in its report Ultrafine Particles in the UK, published in July. [HL10489]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: In the light of the recommendations made by the Air Quality Expert Group,

we are reviewing a number of options for enhancing the national monitoring network.

The advice and recommendations of the AQEG will be informing the Government's Clean Air Strategy. The draft strategy has recently been consulted on. The strategy will commit to further investment to underpin and improve our evidence base to enable effective targeting of actions to improve outcomes for public health and the environment.

Air Pollution: Pollution Control

Asked by **Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the conclusion of the Air Quality Expert Group in its report Ultrafine Particles in the UK, published in July, that the policies and actions to control ambient PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ will not always control Ultrafine Particles. [HL10490]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: We recognise that interventions for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀) will not always control ultrafine particles. The Air Quality Expert Group report will inform how we take forward and evolve our evidence base in meeting the challenges outlined in our draft Clean Air Strategy.

Atlantic Ocean Islands: Waste Disposal

Asked by **Lord Jones of Cheltenham**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will assist the South Atlantic Overseas Territories to deal with the accumulation of plastic waste and other detritus which has gathered around the islands. [HL10539]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Government is acutely aware of the scourge of plastic pollution across the world and we are taking action both domestically and internationally to tackle this important issue. We are engaging with the UK Overseas Territories to help them develop and implement policies to reduce plastic waste, monitor the build-up of marine waste and clean-up waste as appropriate.

The Overseas Territories Environment and Climate Fund (Darwin Plus) provides, in particular, a mechanism for Overseas Territories to bid for financial support to implement environmental projects within the Territories.

The recently published findings of alarming increases in plastic waste around the UK Overseas Territories in the South Atlantic came from research funded by the UK Government through our Darwin Plus and Blue Belt Programmes.

Brexit

Asked by **Lord Taylor of Warwick**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether there will be an agreement on the withdrawal terms of the UK leaving the European Union; and whether the statement by Jean-

Claude Juncker on 6 October that the chances of a deal have increased has altered that assessment. [HL10515]

Lord Callanan: We have always said we are working hard for a deal this autumn, and that continues at pace. However, there remain big issues to work through, and as the Prime Minister has said, this will require movement on the EU side.

We have been clear that there can be no Withdrawal Agreement without a precise Future Framework.

British Nationals Abroad: EU Countries

Asked by Viscount Waverley

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Brexit negotiations will necessitate any UK citizens who do not reside in the UK, without property in the UK but with property in the EU, to relocate to the UK after Brexit; and if so, whether they have plans to recompense such citizens for any losses incurred as a result. [HL10444]

Lord Callanan: In December 2017, we reached a fair and reciprocal agreement with the EU on the rights of EU citizens in the UK and UK nationals in the EU, as set out in the draft legal text of the Withdrawal Agreement.

The agreement confirms that any UK national resident in the EU by December 2020 will be able to stay and continue living their lives broadly as they do now in their current Member State of residence. This agreement provides UK nationals living in the EU more certainty about residence, healthcare, pensions and other benefits. We are currently implementing this agreement in the UK through the EU Settlement Scheme and are working with Member States to understand how they will do the same.

Should a UK national decide to return to the UK, details on access to services such as healthcare and social security in the UK can be found on gov.uk.

Deportation

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many immigrants were removed in (1) 2010, (2) 2014, and (3) 2017 to (a) Somalia, (b) Afghanistan, and (c) the Democratic Republic of the Congo. [HL10689]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Information on the number of people that have been returned from the UK by nationality, is available in table rt_05 (returns data tables, volume 5) in 'Immigration Statistics, year ending June 2018', available from the GOV.uk website at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/734186/returns-5-jun-2018-tables.ods

Unfortunately the table is too wide to include in the body of the answer; therefore it is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Table HL10689 [Copy of HL 10689 table_v3.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-10-15/HL10689>

Domestic Violence

Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many responses they have received to their consultation Transforming the response to domestic abuse; and when they will publish their response. [HL10485]

Lord Keen of Elie: The joint Home Office and Ministry of Justice consultation *Transforming the Response to Domestic Abuse* was launched on 8 March and ran for 12 weeks until 31 May. During this period, we received over 3,000 responses. We expect to publish a formal Government response later this year.

Eritrea: Human Rights

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have seen any evidence of substantive Human Rights reforms in Eritrea since the most recent report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Eritrea to the thirty-eighth session of the United Nations Human Rights Council. [HL10530]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK has seen no evidence of any human rights reforms in Eritrea since the last session of the United Nations Human Rights Council. The Minister for Africa raised our concerns on the human rights situation with the Eritrean Foreign Minister when they met on 25 September, and expressed our hope for an improvement in light of political developments in the region.

Eritrea: UN Human Rights Council

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the UK intends to vote in support of Eritrea joining the Human Rights Council at the UN General Assembly. [HL10531]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK has a long-standing policy of not revealing our voting intentions for elections at the UN.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government which factors will be considered by the UK when it votes on Eritrea's candidacy for election to the Human Rights Council at the UN General Assembly. [HL10532]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK considers our votes against candidates' human rights records, and their cooperation with the Human Rights Council (HRC). The UK also considers candidates' track record at the HRC, broader Government priorities, standing obligations, and whether a reciprocal deal can be made. Eritrea will take

part in an uncontested election for a seat as one of the Africa Group members in the UN Human Rights Council. The UK has a long-standing policy of not revealing our voting intentions.

Gabon: Human Rights

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their latest assessment of the human rights situation in Gabon. [HL10548]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The human rights situation in Gabon remains a matter of concern with continued allegations of serious and persistent human rights violations and abuses. The non-resident British Ambassador raised the need for progress on good governance, human rights and democratic issues when he met with President Bongo in September.

Immigrants: Detainees

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to prevent any verbal or physical abuse of detainees at immigration detention centres. [HL10688]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government takes detainee welfare very seriously and expects the highest standards from those who manage the detention estate on its behalf.

A comprehensive complaints system ensures that all complaints made by detainees are investigated by the relevant supplier in accordance with published guidance. All allegations of serious misconduct are referred to the Home Office Professional Standards Unit for investigation. If a detainee, or someone on behalf of a detainee, alleges that a member of staff has committed an offence against them the police will automatically be notified, even if the detainee does not wish the matter to be reported or to make a formal complaint. For detainees who are dissatisfied with the way their complaint has been handled, there is an avenue of escalation to the independent Prisons and Probation Ombudsman.

Independent scrutiny makes a vital contribution to assurance that immigration removal centres are secure and humane. The Government will continue to implement action in response to recommendations made by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons and the Independent Monitoring Boards.

Iran: Sanctions

Asked by Lord Campbell of Pittenweem

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent oral and written representations the Prime Minister has made to the President of the United States in relation to his intention to impose sanctions on UK companies doing business in Iran. [HL10464]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Ministers and officials across Government have consistently raised with the US this Government's support for UK companies to continue to trade with Iran. This supports our policy of maintaining the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which is important for our national security, and a central part of our Iran policy. The Prime Minister and President Trump most recently discussed Iran policy when they met at the UN General Assembly in September.

Asked by Lord Campbell of Pittenweem

To ask Her Majesty's Government what oral and written representations (1) the Foreign Secretary, and (2) the Defence Secretary, have made to their opposite numbers in the government of the United States in relation to the intention of the President of the United States to impose sanctions on UK companies doing business in Iran. [HL10465]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Ministers and officials across Government have consistently raised with the US this Government's support for UK companies to continue to trade with Iran, including through regular engagement by the Foreign Secretary and the Chancellor. This supports our policy of maintaining the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which is important for our national security, and a central part of our Iran policy. The Defence Secretary regularly discusses Iran with his US counterpart, and the Foreign Secretary raised US sanctions with Secretary Pompeo at the UN General Assembly and in a phone call on 11 September.

Asked by Lord Campbell of Pittenweem

To ask Her Majesty's Government on how many occasions since the President of the United States announced his intention to impose sanctions on UK companies doing business in Iran the matter has been raised at face to face meetings with officials including the United States Ambassador in London. [HL10466]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: UK ministers and officials have consistently and repeatedly raised with the US this Government's support for UK companies to continue to trade with Iran. This supports our policy of maintaining the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which is important for our national security, and a central part of our Iran policy. British Embassy officials in Washington and officials in London have had weekly discussions with the US on this issue, and a delegation of senior officials visited Washington in September for discussions on Iran.

Israel: Bedouin

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what reply, if any, they received to the letter of 31 July from the Foreign Secretary to the Prime Minister of Israel calling, together with other European countries, for reconsideration of the decision to demolish the village

and school of Khan al-Ahmar; and what further steps they plan to take on this issue. [HL10487]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have yet to receive a response to our joint letter about Khan al-Ahmar, and we continue to call on Israel to abandon demolition plans entirely, and instead provide a transparent route to construction for Palestinians in Area C. Most recently our Ambassador to Israel raised our concerns with the Israeli authorities on 3 October, and the Minister for Middle East and North Africa reiterated our concerns in a meeting with the Israeli Ambassador to the UK on 11 October. We remain in close consultation with likeminded EU partners about what should be done next.

Israel: Gaza

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will make representations to the government of Israel about the reported shelling by Israeli forces of medical facilities in Gaza and the reported targeting of health workers in Gaza by Israeli forces. [HL10521]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We regularly raise issues relating to medical facilities and personnel with the Israeli authorities. We have stressed the need for safe and unimpeded passage for medical personnel. In particular we raise our concerns about medical facilities in Gaza, and medical permits, with the office for the Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT). Our Ambassador to Israel discussed Gaza with COGAT on 17 September. Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv raised our concerns about the targeting of health workers with COGAT on 23 August.

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will make representations to the government of Israel about reported attacks by Israeli forces on children during the Great Return March in Gaza on 28 September. [HL10522]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: On 6 October the Minister for the Middle East and North Africa expressed our concerns about this issue. The UK has repeatedly made clear to Israel our longstanding concerns about the manner in which the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) police protests and the border areas, including use of live ammunition. While we note the IDF has its own investigations processes, we call directly on Israel to carry out a transparent inquiry into the IDF's conduct at the border fence, and to demonstrate how this will achieve a sufficient level of independence.

UNRWA: Jerusalem

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel following the announcement by Nir Barkat, the

Mayor of Jerusalem, that schools, clinics and sports centres, among other services operated by UNRWA in East Jerusalem, will be transferred to Israeli authorities. [HL10518]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have not raised this issue with the Israeli authorities. We understand that the municipality of Jerusalem does not have the legal authority to shut down UNRWA facilities.

Wood-burning Stoves: Air Pollution

Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the conclusions of the Air Quality Expert Group in its report Ultrafine Particles in the UK, published in July, that "emissions from some potentially important sources such as domestic wood burning are very poorly known". [HL10491]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Government recognises that there is a need for us to keep advancing and evolving our evidence base. As part of the Government's Clean Air Strategy we have committed to continued investment in our evidence base to enable the most effective targeting of measures to improve public health and environmental outcomes.

Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to commission research into the contribution made by different types of domestic wood burning stoves to the presence of Ultrafine Particles and other air pollutants in urban areas. [HL10492]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Measuring emissions of particulate matter from wood stoves is a recognised challenge.

The Government's draft Clean Air Strategy identifies a range of actions targeted to reduce emissions from these sources. Defra is working with industry sectors and test houses to review different methods for testing stove emissions to determine what test methods are most reliable.

EU Ecodesign regulations that come into force in 2022 will mean all new stoves will need to meet agreed emissions standards, regardless of where they are used.

Yemen: Military Intervention

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Saudi Arabia concerning a ceasefire in Yemen. [HL10519]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Foreign Secretary met the Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir on 27 September as part of the Yemen Quad at the UN General Assembly in New York. In that meeting, he urged all those present to seize the opportunity for political

progress, and the group underlined their complete support for the UN process led by Special Envoy Martin Griffiths. On 15 March, the UK proposed and coordinated a UN

Security Council Presidential Statement which reiterated the Council's call on the parties to agree on the modalities for a durable cessation of hostilities.

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