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

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# Written Statements

Thursday, 29 November 2018

## Agriculture and Fisheries Council

[HLWS1091]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** My Hon. Friend Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (George Eustice) has today made the following statement:

Agriculture and Fisheries Council took place in Brussels on 19 November. I represented the Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, George Eustice MP.

The main focus of Council for fisheries was a Council Regulation for fixing the fishing opportunities for certain deep-sea fish stocks for 2019 and 2020, for which a political agreement was sought. The UK was content with the Commission proposal and intervened to stress the importance of setting fishing opportunities in line with scientific advice. Following a series of trilateral meetings between member states, the Commission and the Presidency, a unanimous political agreement was reached.

The primary focus for agriculture was a policy debate on the Post 2020 CAP reform package, including two legislative proposals: the first on financing, management and monitoring of the CAP; the second on common market organisation (CMO) of agricultural products. On the first legislative proposal, member states welcomed the shift to a performance-based approach, but voiced concern about the burden monitoring and reporting would place on them. On the second item, most member states were content to maintain the status quo, while some member states suggested that new tools should be applied.

An exchange of views was held on the current challenges in the field of plant protection. Member states agreed with the Presidency on the challenges posed by climate change and international trade in preventing the introduction and spread of damaging pests. The UK intervened, pointing out the UK's long term plans and emphasising support for a precautionary approach on imports.

The Commission also informed Council about the present market situation which has been characterised by general stability. On the continuing issue in the sugar market, the Commission announced that it will be convening a high level group to propose action. A number of member states voiced specific concerns over pig meat.

Council held another exchange of views on Task Force Rural Africa (TFRA) which included a presentation of the findings from the body's forthcoming report by the Commission and the chair of the Commission's Task Force Rural Africa. Some member states suggested areas for partnership with a particular focus on delivering UN Sustainable Development Goals.

One item was discussed under 'any other business':

The Commission informed member states about the implementation of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, pointing out the low up-take of funding by member states.

## Defamation and Privacy Costs Protection

[HLWS1096]

**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.

"The Government is committed to controlling the costs of civil litigation while allowing appropriate cases to proceed. Part 2 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Act 2012 reformed the operation of no win no fee conditional fee agreements in order to address the high costs of civil litigation. In particular, section 44 of the LASPO Act provided that the lawyer's success fee would no longer be recoverable from the losing party. This provision came into effect for the majority of cases in April 2013 but was delayed in respect of defamation and privacy claims pending the outcome of the Leveson Inquiry. The then Coalition Government accepted the Leveson recommendation that there should be a costs protection regime in place for defamation and privacy claims, before commencing the LASPO Act conditional fee agreement reforms. It consulted on a draft bespoke costs protection regime in 2013. In the event, there was opposition to the detail of that regime, and the then Coalition Government did not implement the proposal.

Having considered the responses to the consultation, the Government has now decided on a different approach that will further control the costs of these cases and will also give effect to our legal obligations under the *MGN v UK* judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in 2011. In the *MGN* case, the court concluded that the obligation for the defendant to pay a 100% 'success fee' to the claimant was disproportionate, and that the conditional fee agreements regime was therefore in breach of the defendant's rights under Article 10 (freedom of expression) of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Government will therefore now commence section 44 of the LASPO Act in relation to defamation and privacy cases. However, the Government will keep in place, at least for the time being, the existing costs protection regime. This means that after the event insurance premiums will remain recoverable for these cases. After the event insurance covers the risks of having to pay the other side's costs in unsuccessful cases.

This approach - of abolishing recoverability of the conditional fee agreement success fee, but retaining it for the after the event insurance premium - will protect access to justice, since parties with good cases can still benefit from recoverable after the event insurance in respect of adverse costs; after the event insurance discourages weaker cases as these are unlikely to be insured. This

provision will come into force for new cases on 6 April 2019.

The Government has also published today its response to the 2013 consultation, '*Costs protection in defamation and privacy claims: the Government's proposals*'."

## Draft National Policy Statement: Water Resources

[HLWS1092]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** My Hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Environment (Thérèse Coffey) has today made the following statement:

Today I am laying before parliament a draft national policy statement for water resources infrastructure. This is now subject to an eight week consultation. This will guide planning decisions for water resources infrastructure of national significance, making sure we get the infrastructure we need delivered in a timely manner and to a high standard.

The statement sets out government policy on what is needed to secure resilient water supplies to respond to future challenges including climate change, population growth and to better protect the environment. New water resources infrastructure, including reservoirs and water transfers, is needed alongside reducing demand and conserving water, to provide a plentiful supply of water for future generations.

The statement is accompanied by draft habitats and sustainability reports, on which we are also consulting.

The consultation is available on GOV.UK and will close on 31 January 2019. The relevant period for parliamentary scrutiny of the statement will be from 29 November 2018 to 16 May 2019.

## Foreign Affairs Council

[HLWS1093]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** My Right Honourable Friend, the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Sir Alan Duncan), has made the following written Ministerial statement:

My Noble Friend the Minister of State for Defence (The Rt Hon Earl Howe) and I attended the Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) on 19 November. It was chaired by the High Representative and Vice President of the European Union (EU) for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HRVP), Federica Mogherini. The meeting was held in Brussels.

### *Current Affairs*

The Council discussed Iran and confirmed their ongoing full support for the Iran nuclear deal (JCPOA) given that Iran continues to implement the Agreement and notwithstanding the reintroduction of US sanctions on 5 November 2018. Ministers expressed solidarity with those Member States where Iran had carried out unacceptable activities and confirmed their readiness to consider a

targeted appropriate response. Ministers also touched briefly on the outcome of the international conference for Libya hosted by the Italian Government in Palermo on 12-13 November and the situation in Gaza, following the latest escalation of violence.

### *Central Asia*

The Council discussed Central Asia (Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) ahead of the 14th EU-Central Asia ministerial meeting that will take place on 23 November in Brussels. Ministers noted recent significant changes in the region and the new momentum in bilateral and regional cooperation. They expressed a strong interest in stepping up EU engagement in Central Asia on reform and economic development, as well as the promotion of sustainable connectivity and regional conditions for peace and stability in Afghanistan. Adoption of a new EU Strategy on Central Asia is expected in 2019.

### *Bosnia and Herzegovina*

The Council discussed Bosnia and Herzegovina following elections on 7 October. Ministers underlined the importance of forming Governments at all levels as soon as possible to enable political leaders to focus on the reform agenda that was essential in responding to citizens' aspirations. Ministers also agreed that electoral law reform should be undertaken.

### *Yemen*

The Council exchanged views on Yemen, in particular with regard to the EU's political and humanitarian support. Ministers confirmed their strong support for the United Nations (UN) -led process and the UN Special Envoy (UNSE) Martin Griffiths. Ministers agreed to send a clear message to all those involved in the conflict to consolidate de-escalation efforts, cease hostilities and engage in political talks led by Martin Griffiths.

### *Ukraine*

The Council discussed the latest developments in Ukraine, in particular the situation in the Azov Sea and the "elections" in the so-called "Luhansk People's Republic" and "Donetsk People's Republic" on 11 November 2018. Ministers confirmed their commitment to Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, recalled that the EU did not recognise the "elections" of 11 November 2018 and confirmed their readiness to consider appropriate targeted measures in response. They also agreed that full implementation of the Minsk agreements remained essential and highlighted the EU's continued humanitarian engagement in Eastern Ukraine. Ministers touched on the EU's support for the reform process in Ukraine; the EU and Ukraine will have the opportunity to review progress on reforms, bilateral and global cooperation, at the Association Council meeting scheduled for 17 December 2018.

### *Security and defence*

The Council discussed a range of security and defence issues. Ministers welcomed the second tranche of projects under Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) and stressed the importance of agreeing arrangements for third

country access by the end of the year. The Council welcomed the establishment of a civilian Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) Compact, to improve civilian responses to security threats. It agreed to strengthen the role of the Military Planning and Conduct Capability, and to conduct a Coordinated Annual Review on Defence as a standing activity to provide an overview of defence spending, national investment and defence research efforts. The Council also adopted a 'partial general approach' on the European Defence Fund.

#### *EU-NATO cooperation*

Ministers discussed EU-NATO cooperation in the presence of the NATO Secretary-General, including on issues related to hybrid threats and military mobility. The Council underlined the importance of coherence and mutual reinforcement between the EU and NATO. It welcomed the second Joint Declaration on EU-NATO cooperation signed on 10 July 2018.

#### *CSDP operations and missions*

The Council had an exchange of views regarding CSDP operations and missions.

The Council agreed a number of measures without discussion:

- The Council adopted conclusions on Ethiopia;
- The Council adopted conclusions on Sudan;
- The Council adopted conclusions on Afghanistan;
- The Council adopted conclusions on Pakistan;
- The Council adopted conclusions on water diplomacy;
- The Council adopted conclusions on the establishment of a Civilian CSDP Compact;
- The Council adopted an updated list of Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) projects;
- The Council adopted its position (partial general approach) on the European Defence Fund (EDF);
- The Council adopted a new EU Strategy against illicit firearms, small arms and light weapons and ammunition;
- The Council adopted an updated version of the EU Cyber Defence Policy Framework;
- The Council extended the mandate of EUTM Somalia;
- The Council approved annexes for the military requirements within and beyond the EU;
- The Council took note of the report submitted by the Head of the European Defence Agency (EDA);
- The Council adopted the guidelines for the EDA's work in 2019;
- The Council took note of the Single Progress Report on the Development of EU military capabilities in the period from November 2016 to June 2018;
- The Council adopted a decision to promote capacity building in the member states of the League of Arab States;
- The Council adopted a decision concerning support of SEESAC for the implementation of the Regional

Roadmap on combating illicit arms trafficking in the Western Balkans;

- The Council approved the Commission's conclusion of the EURATOM/KEDO Agreement;
- The Council approved the Commission's conclusion of the EURATOM/KEDO Agreement (retroactivity).

### **General Affairs Council (Cohesion)**

[HLWS1090]

**Lord Henley:** A meeting of the General Affairs Council (Cohesion) will be held in Brussels on 30 November 2018.

The General Affairs Council will discuss the legislative package for Cohesion Policy in the next Multiannual Financial Framework. Ministers from Member States will present their positions on the strategic context and priorities set out in the legislative proposals for post-2020, with a view to influencing the Commission's proposals.

The Austrian Presidency will provide an update on non-legislative and legislative items.

### **Grenfell Update**

[HLWS1097]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Rt Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (James Brokenshire), has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Honourable Members will be aware of the on-going Grenfell Tower Inquiry and the harrowing accounts from all those affected by the Grenfell Tower fire. I want to provide the House with an update on the Government's on-going work in response to the tragedy.

#### *Recovery*

Government has committed over £80 million to support the bereaved, survivors and the community following the Grenfell Tower fire. This includes rehousing costs, new mental health services, investment in the Lancaster West Estate, and a community space.

NHS England has also announced that it will provide up to £50 million to fund long term mental and physical health checks and treatment for those affected by the Grenfell Tower fire.

#### *Grenfell Tower Site*

I would like to update the House on progress towards the long term future of the site. The Government has always been committed to working with the community to create a fitting memorial, with the Prime Minister giving her personal commitment that the bereaved, survivors and community will decide what happens to the long term future of the Grenfell Tower site.

As part of this, I made a commitment in August 2018 that the Government would take responsibility for the Grenfell Tower. I would like to update the House on the steps I have taken to put this announcement into effect.



I am pleased to inform the House that the Government will meet the on-going costs of keeping the Tower site safe and secure. This will deliver on my earlier promise to the bereaved, survivors and community that the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) will take no role in making decisions regarding the Grenfell Tower site. Once ownership transfers, Government will make operational decisions, such as those on safety, security and access, until the long term future has been determined by the community.

As we work towards responsibility transferring to Government, I want to reassure the House and the community that the independent Site Management team continue to closely monitor and inspect the Tower and are responsible for ensuring that it is safe and secure.

I recognise that sensitive management of the Tower site, working towards a fitting memorial, is of paramount importance to the bereaved, survivors and the local community. The arrangements that I am putting in place will ensure that Grenfell Tower will continue to be managed effectively and sensitively.

In taking responsibility for Grenfell Tower, I will become responsible for decisions about the Tower site. I would, therefore, like to reassure the House and the community about how I intend to approach decision-making: The principles I commit to include that:

- most importantly, the community will continue to be engaged at each step along the way to a lasting memorial;
- the health and safety of those living, working and at the school in the local area, as well those working on the site, will continue to take priority;
- decisions that I take about the Tower site will be evidence based, informed by the advice of public authorities and technical experts; and that,
- I will consult the Police and the Grenfell Tower Inquiry to ensure that decision-making does not interfere with the path to justice.

The community-led Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission will develop a proposal for what happens to the Grenfell Tower site in the future, and will decide how the memorial site will be owned and managed in the long term. The Minister for Grenfell Victims, the Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP, continues to meet with members of the bereaved, survivors and wider community to discuss the process and the role of community representatives.

#### *Environmental Monitoring*

On 26 October 2018 I announced additional environmental checks will be carried out in and around the Grenfell Tower site to reassure the bereaved, survivors and wider community that any environmental risks to public health will be fully assessed and appropriate action taken.

This is an issue that I take very seriously, and my officials have been working closely with RBKC, the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Environment Agency, NHS England and Public Health

England to plan further environmental sampling of the site, including comprehensive soil analysis to check for any signs of contamination.

The new soil testing programme will take place alongside existing air quality monitoring which has been in place since the fire. So far, the monitoring has consistently shown the risk to people's health from air pollution around the Grenfell Tower site to be low. Public Health England will continue to monitor this and publish the results on a weekly basis - alongside an explanation of the data in terms of potential impacts on health, at the following weblink:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-monitoring-following-the-grenfell-tower-fire](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-monitoring-following-the-grenfell-tower-fire).

An expert multi-agency group which includes the Environment Agency, Public Health England, RBKC and NHS England has been set up to make sure soil surveying around Grenfell Tower is comprehensive and that analysis will be provided to the public. The Minister for Grenfell Victims, the Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP recently chaired the first meeting of this group. As a result we have started procuring the relevant expertise and will appoint independent environmental specialists from a network of leading experts. Their work will be overseen by the multi-agency group.

Once selected, the specialists will proactively engage the community on the design and implementation of the testing process. This will take place in the new year.

Both the Government and the NHS share a resolute commitment to support all those affected by the fire. The NHS has run health drop-in events within the local area for those who are concerned about their health.

The Minister for Grenfell Victims, the Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP, and I are also committed to engaging local residents with the investigation process from start to finish and consultation workshops will begin in January, to inform the scope and locations of the main site investigation and sampling.

#### *Rehousing*

The Government remains committed to ensuring all survivors are permanently rehoused as quickly as possible.

Since my last update to the House in July, based on data provided by RBKC as of 26 November, 44 more households have moved into permanent accommodation bringing the total to 149; and the number of households living in hotels has reduced by 23 to 15. Out of 203 households, there are currently 26 households living in good quality temporary accommodation, 12 in serviced apartments and 1 staying with family and friends. Every household has had an offer of permanent or temporary accommodation, and 201 households (99%) have accepted an offer. 194 of these households have accepted permanent homes, of which 149 have now moved in.

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council continues its efforts to rehouse those who lost their homes in the fire, and improved progress has been made. Whilst I recognise the complexities involved, the overall pace of

rehousing has been too slow, and there remains a small number of households in hotels as we approach 18 months after the fire. I expect the Council to do everything possible to speed up the rehousing process and ensure that the remaining survivors are permanently rehoused as quickly as possible.

It is important that the bereaved, survivors and wider community continue to be supported. My department will continue to work closely with RBKC to this end. I would like to express my thanks to all those involved in supporting the survivors throughout this difficult process.

#### *Building Safety*

As well as the work set out above that the Government has done with its partners in respect of the recovery, we are determined to learn the lessons from the Grenfell Tower fire and bring about a fundamental change to ensure that residents of high-rise buildings are safe and feel safe. That is why we have set in train a programme of work to deliver that change by addressing the issues raised by Dame Judith Hackitt in her Independent review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety.

#### *Ban on the use of combustible materials*

We recognised the strength of feeling on combustible cladding and having consulted, announced a clear ban on the use of combustible materials on the external walls of new buildings over 18m containing flats, as well as new hospitals, residential care premises, dormitories in boarding schools and student accommodation over 18m. Today regulations have been laid to give legal effect to the ban. As part of wider work on fire safety across government, I will work with the Education Secretary to join up our reviews of fire safety guidance. I also welcome the Department for Education's commitment to ensuring schools over 18m built as part of their centrally delivered build programmes will not use combustible materials, in line with the terms of the ban, in the external wall.

#### *Remediation*

As of 31 October 2018, 289 private sector high-rise residential buildings have been identified as having unsafe Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) cladding. We have made good progress in getting remediation completed (in 19 cases); started (in 21 cases); and with plans in place for 98 buildings. These numbers continue to increase, but we are taking decisive action to deal with the remaining buildings where owners are not fulfilling their responsibility to remediate unsafe ACM cladding. That is why, as part of our strong commitment to ensuring that residents of high rise residential buildings are safe and that they feel safe, I am announcing measures to support local authorities to take action where remediation plans are not clear.

I am laying an addendum to the Housing Health and Safety Rating System operating guidance. This addendum provides specific guidance on the assessment of high-rise residential buildings with unsafe cladding. This will help local authorities to make robust hazard assessments and boost their ability to take decisive enforcement action.

Alongside this the Joint Inspection Team, hosted by the Local Government Association, will provide support to local authorities in their assessments and give them confidence to take enforcement action.

I am also writing to local authorities with buildings where the owner refuses to remediate unsafe ACM cladding, to offer them our full support to take enforcement action. This will include financial support where this is necessary for the local authority to carry out emergency remedial work. Where financial support is provided, local authorities will recover the costs from the building owner.

I am determined that building owners will not evade their responsibilities and that local authorities will have all the support they need to ensure that all high-rise buildings with unsafe ACM cladding are made permanently safe for the people who live in them.

### **Local Government: Northamptonshire**

[HLWS1095]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Rt Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (James Brokenshire), has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

In an oral statement on 27 March 2018 (Col 661), my Rt Hon. Friend, the then Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (Sajid Javid), told the House that he had received an independent inspection report on Northamptonshire County Council that found significant failures that could not be satisfactorily addressed within a reasonable timetable. I appointed Commissioners on the 10<sup>th</sup> May to bring stability to Northamptonshire County Council, and I am today publishing the first report from the Commissioners and my response. My Rt Hon. Friend also informed the House that he would be inviting the eight principal councils in Northamptonshire to submit proposals to restructure local government in the county.

On 31 August 2018, I received such a proposal from seven of the eight councils to establish two new unitary councils. The legislation requires that before a proposal for local government reorganisation can be implemented, I must first consult every principal local authority affected by the proposal (except the authority or authorities which made it); and any such other persons as I consider appropriate.

Accordingly, I am today launching a consultation on that proposal. I am consulting all principal councils in Northamptonshire, principal councils neighbouring Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire Chamber of Commerce, South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership, the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner, local health bodies, the University of Northampton, and representatives of the voluntary sector. We also welcome views from any interested persons, including local residents and organisations.

The consultation period will run for eight weeks until 25 January 2019. The consultation document is available

at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-proposed-reorganisation-of-local-government-in-northamptonshire>, and paper copies will also be available in public offices and buildings of the all the Northamptonshire councils.

Once the consultation is concluded, I will then as statute provides decide whether or not to implement, with or without modification, the proposal that the councils have submitted to me. In taking that decision I will have regard to all the representations received from the consultation exercise along with all other relevant information and material available to me.

I am also announcing today that following a request from the eight Northamptonshire councils, I intend as soon as practicable to make and lay before Parliament an Order under the Local Government Act 2000 to postpone district and parish council elections in Northamptonshire due to be held in May 2019 until May 2020. In deciding to make such a postponement I have had regard both to the importance of local elections as the foundation of our local democracy and ensuring the accountability of councils and to the risks of continuing with the May 2019 elections in Northamptonshire given the local circumstances.

These risks are, as the councils have highlighted to me, that if following the consultation I were to decide to implement the councils' proposal and Parliament approves legislation establishing the two new unitary councils from April 2020 with elections in May 2020, district councillors elected in May 2019 would serve for only one year with their council then being abolished. Elections in such circumstances risk confusing voters and would involve significant costs that would be hard to justify. The councils have also stressed the importance of there being certainty by early December 2018 about the May 2019 elections.

Accordingly, I have concluded that irrespective of whatever my future decision might be on the restructuring proposal, the right course is to postpone these elections and make the necessary secondary legislation as soon as practicable. The councils have also requested on the grounds of practicalities that parish council and district council elections continue to be held concurrently and I intend to legislate for this, postponing any May 2019 parish council elections in Northamptonshire to May 2020.

## Prisons

[HLWS1094]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** My honourable friend the Minister of State for Justice (Rory Stewart) has made the following Written Statement.

"At the Justice Select Committee on 26 June, I reaffirmed the Government's commitment to building up to 10,000 modern and decent prison places to replace old, expensive and unsuitable accommodation, modernising parts of our prison estate.

Also at the Committee, I confirmed the intention to launch a competition to appoint a framework of prison operators from which we could select the operator for the new prisons including further prisons following expiry of current private sector contracts.

Today I can announce the launch of the Prison Operator Services framework competition through a notice which will be published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) within the coming days.

Securing a framework of operators should reinvigorate the prison market by encouraging new providers to enter the custodial arena. It will also enable MoJ to more effectively and efficiently manage a pipeline of competition over the next decade. Once part of the framework, operators can choose to compete in shorter 'call off' competitions for the operation of individual prisons.

The first of these call-off competitions will be for the operation of the new build resettlement prisons at Wellingborough and then Glen Parva. These are being built using public capital, with construction expected to begin in late 2018 and late 2019 respectively.

HMPPS will not bid in the competition but will provide a 'public sector benchmark' against which operators' bids will be rigorously assessed. If bids do not meet our expectations in terms of quality and cost, HMPPS will act as the provider.

This competition is not about the difference between the public and private sector. It is about driving quality and innovation across the system. I am clear that through this competition we expect bidders to provide high quality, value for money bids that deliver effective regimes to meet the specific needs of prisoners. Our aim being to help them turn their lives around to prevent reoffending.

This Government remains committed to a role for the private sector in operating custodial services. The competition launched today will seek to build on the innovation and different ways of working that the private sector has previously introduced to the system. The sector has an important role to play, and currently runs some high-performing prisons, as part of a decent and secure prison estate."

We will ensure, through the procurement and contract management processes, that we have sufficient measures in place to have confidence in the delivery and maintenance of the contracted prisons over their lifetime.

A balanced approach to custodial services provision, which includes a mix of public, voluntary and private sector involvement has been shown to introduce improvements and deliver value for money for taxpayers.

The launch of the Prison Operator Services Framework underlines this Government's commitment to reform the prison estate, build much-needed prison places, improve standards of decency across the estate, and reduce reoffending.



# Written Answers

Thursday, 29 November 2018

## Armed Forces: Prosthetics

Asked by **Baroness Hodgson of Abinger**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many members of the British Armed Forces had injuries that required amputee sockets in the last (1) five, (2) 10, and (3) 15 years. [[HL11712](#)]

**Earl Howe:** The following numbers of UK Armed Forces personnel received a prosthetic limb in the last five, 10 and 15 Financial Years (FY):

Period	Number of Personnel Receiving a Prosthetic Limb
FY 2013-14 to 2017-18	47
FY 2008-09 to 2017-18	308
FY 2003-04 to 2017-18	356

This includes both Regular and Reservist Armed Forces personnel, injured in operational and non-operational environments. It does not include those who only received a digit prosthetic or those who had an amputation since leaving the Armed Forces.

## Asia Bibi

Asked by **Lord Pearson of Rannoch**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have refused an application for asylum from Asia Bibi; and if so, why. [[HL11535](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** As the Prime Minister set out on 14 November, the release of Asia Bibi will be very welcome news to her family and to all those who have campaigned in Pakistan and around the world for her release. We welcome the assurances the Government of Pakistan has given on keeping her and her family safe and it is important that all countries seek to uphold the rule of law and afford security and protection for the rights of all citizens irrespective of faith or belief.

It is a longstanding Government policy not to comment on individual cases. In accordance with our duty of confidentiality, we cannot confirm whether an asylum claim has been received or the outcome of such a request. Departing from this policy may put individuals and their family members in danger.

## Asylum: Christianity

Asked by **Lord Pearson of Rannoch**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the UK is a safe place to offer asylum to those being persecuted for their Christian faith. [[HL11536](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We have a proud history of providing protection to those who need it, including those who face persecution in their country for their faith, belief or lack of belief.

The UK is a safe, open and diverse country and has a long tradition of upholding individuals' rights to practise all faiths or none. This is a key part of the UK's values and will not change.

## Aviation

Asked by **Lord Trefgarne**

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to publish their aviation strategy Green Paper. [[HL11537](#)]

**Baroness Sugg:** The Government is intending to publish the Aviation Strategy Green Paper before the end of this year. The green paper publication will begin a 16 week period of consultation.

## Bus Services

Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many of the new metro mayors have made use of the bus franchising powers granted to them by the Bus Services Act 2017. [[HL11534](#)]

**Baroness Sugg:** The Government is not aware of any metro mayors who have implemented a bus franchising scheme and there is no central record of this information. Some Mayoral Combined Authorities may be in the process of preparing a bus franchising scheme, but the Bus Services Act does not require any intervention or approval by central Government as part of this process. Information on this topic could best be obtained by contacting Mayoral Combined Authorities.

## Custody: Children

Asked by **Lord Wigley**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether children of single parent families would fall within the provisions of article 10(1)(e)(iii) of the draft agreement on the withdrawal of the UK from the EU in circumstances where the custody of a child has been disputed. [[HL11699](#)]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** It is the Government's intention to implement this aspect of the Withdrawal Agreement in the UK by way of the EU Settlement Scheme, which will allow EU citizens living in the UK before we leave the EU to apply for status to remain once the UK has left. However, when determining the custody of a child in the UK whether or not the parent is a single parent is not a relevant factor. It will continue to be the case that the court with jurisdiction will decide on custody (with whom the child is to live and when) on the facts of the individual case.

## Gambling

*Asked by Lord Chadlington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much they estimate gambling-related harm cost the NHS in England in (1) 2013, (2) 2014, (3) 2015, (4) 2016, and (5) 2017. [\[HL11606\]](#)

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The Government has made no estimate of the cost of gambling related harm to the National Health Service.

## Gambling: Children

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children under the age of 18 were treated for gambling related health conditions in each year from 2000. [\[HL11584\]](#)

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** Information on the number of children under the age of 18 receiving treatment for gambling related health problems is not held centrally.

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many gambling premises were closed down following findings of underage gambling in each year from 2000. [\[HL11585\]](#)

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** Neither the government nor the Gambling Commission holds this data. Local authorities are responsible for licensing premises.

Whilst Local Authorities are responsible for premises licences, if there are serious failures or widespread vulnerabilities in an operators' policies or procedures to prevent underage gambling, the Gambling Commission may take formal regulatory action in addition to any action being taken on premises licences.

## Home Office: Legislation

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what legislation from the Home Office has been passed into law since 1 June 2010 but is still waiting to be brought into force. [\[HL11532\]](#)

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** 2010/2012 Session:

Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 – law in force except:

- s.121 (not yet in force)
- s.150 (partially in force)
- Schedule 10 (partially in force)

Protection of Freedoms Act 2012– law in force except:

- s.4 (partially in force)
- s.19 (partially in force)
- s.39 (partially in force)
- s.40 (partially in force)

- s.41 (partially in force)
- s.43–46 (partially in force)
- s.46 (partially in force)
- s.53 (not yet in force)
- s.72 (partially in force)
- s.73-74 (not yet in force)
- s.75-76 (partially in force)
- s.78 (partially in force)
- s.115 (partially in force)
- Schedule 1 (partially in force)
- Schedule 3 (not yet in force)
- Schedule 7 (partially in force)
- Schedule 9 (partially in force)
- Schedule 10 (partially in force)

2012/2013 Session

Crime & Courts Act 2013 – law in force except:

- s.15 (partially in force)
- s.17 (partially in force)
- s.20 (partially in force)
- s.26 (partially in force)
- s.34-40 (not yet in force)
- s.41 (partially in force)
- s.42 (partially in force)
- s.44 (partially in force)
- s.49 (partially in force)
- s.50 (partially in force)
- s.55 (partially in force)
- s.56 (partially in force)
- Schedule 8 (partially in force)
- Schedule 13 (partially in force)
- Schedule 15 (partially in force)
- Schedule 16 (partially in force)
- Schedule 20 (partially in force)
- Schedule 23 (not yet in force)

2013/2014 Session

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014 – law in force except:

- s.131 (partially in force)
- s.133 (partially in force)
- s.168 (not yet in force)
- s.181 (partially in force)
- Schedule 11 (partially in force)

Immigration Act 2014 – law in force except:

- s.20-31 (partially in force)
- s.54 (partially in force)
- s.73 (partially in force)
- Schedule 3 (partially in force)
- Schedule 9 (partially in force)

## 2014/2015 Session

Serious Crime Act 2015 – law in force except:

- s.15 (not yet in force)
- s.24-36 (partially in force)
- s.85 (partially in force)
- Schedule 4 (partially in force)

Modern Slavery Act 2015 – law in force except:

- s.48 (partially in force)
- s.50 (not yet in force)
- s.57 (partially in force)
- Schedule 2 (partially in force)

## 2015/16 Session

Immigration Act 2016 - law in force except:

- s.42 (not yet in force)
- s.43 (partially in force)
- s.44 (not yet in force)
- s.68 (not yet in force)
- s.74 (not yet in force)
- Schedule 10 (partially in force)
- Schedule 11 (partially in force)
- Schedule 12 (not yet in force)
- Schedule 13 (not yet in force)

## 2016/17 Session

Investigatory Powers Act 2016 - law in force except:

- s.2 (partially in force)
- s.11-12 (not yet in force)
- s.14 (not yet in force)
- s.61 (partially in force)
- s.62-86 (not yet in force)
- s.102 (partially in force)
- s.106-107 (not yet in force)
- s.108 (partially in force)
- s.111 (partially in force)
- s.115 (partially in force)
- s.117 (partially in force)
- s.123-124 (not yet in force)
- s.125 (partially in force)
- s.128 (partially in force)
- s.129 (partially in force)
- s.229 (partially in force)
- s.231 (partially in force)
- s.242 (not yet in force)
- s.243 (partially in force)
- s.248 (partially in force)
- s.270 (partially in force)
- s.271 (partially in force)
- Schedule 2 (not yet in force)
- Schedules 4-6 (not yet in force)

- Schedule 8 (partially in force)
- Schedule 9 (partially in force)
- Schedule 10 (partially in force)

Policing and Crime Act 2017 – law in force except:

- S.9 (partially in force)
- s.11 (partially in force)
- s.13-24 (partially in force)
- s.28 (partially in force)
- s.29 (partially in force)
- s.31 (partially in force)
- s.34 (partially in force)
- s.46-48 (partially in force)
- s.51 (partially in force)
- s.126 (partially in force)
- s.132 (partially in force)
- s.142 (partially in force)
- s.159-161 (partially in force)
- s.166 (partially in force)
- Schedule 2 (partially in force)
- Schedules 4-7 (partially in force)
- Schedules 13-14 (partially in force)
- Schedule 18 (partially in force)

Criminal Finances Act 2017 – law in force except:

- s.11 (partially in force)
- s.22 (partially in force)
- s.23 (partially in force)
- s.25 (partially in force)
- s.27 (partially in force)
- s.31 (partially in force)
- s.32 (partially in force)
- s.34 (partially in force)
- s.36 (partially in force)
- Schedule 1 (partially in force)
- Schedule 5 (partially in force)

### House of Lords: Catering

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask the Senior Deputy Speaker whether House of Lords catering services are subject to food hygiene inspections by Westminster Health Authority; and if so, (1) what Food Hygiene Rating each Lords catering outlet achieved at their most recent inspection, and (2) whether outlets are required to display a Food Hygiene Rating Sticker. [[HL11759](#)]

**Lord Laming:** The Senior Deputy Speaker has asked me, as Chairman of the Services Committee, to respond on his behalf.

As registered food premises, the House of Lords catering facilities are subject to inspections from Westminster City Council (WCC). At the last inspection

in November 2017, the Environmental Health Officer from WCC Food Safety Team awarded the highest rating of 5 for all House of Lords catering outlets in the Palace of Westminster; Millbank House facilities were inspected in November 2016 and also received a 5 rating. It is a recommendation but not a legal requirement to display the food hygiene rating sticker. The House of Lords rating stickers are currently displayed in the River Restaurant and Millbank House Cafeteria.

### Large Goods Vehicles: Safety

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Sugg on 15 November (HL11194), what proposals they have to require the retrofitting of basic safety equipment, including sideguards, to heavy goods vehicles. [HL11551]

**Baroness Sugg:** Most heavy goods vehicles are already required to be fitted with sideguards when new. The Department has previously considered legislating to require sideguards to be retrofitted to specific heavy goods vehicles, but an impact assessment determined that such a policy intervention would incur disproportionate cost.

Work is now focused on amending the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 to ensure that, where sideguards are required on new vehicles, they are retained and maintained throughout the vehicle's working life. I anticipate these new proposals will be published during 2019.

### Medical Records: Databases

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people used the national data opt-out online service from NHS Digital to (1) opt out, and (2) to opt back in having previously opted out, in October 2018. [HL11568]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The online national data opt-out service was visited by 7,106 people during October 2018. Of these 453 set a new opt-out, and 113 chose to reverse an existing opt-out.

### Medicine: Research

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of work being undertaken to create synthetic cells. [HL11527]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** In 2014 the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) provided £1,213,385 in funding for a research study on creating synthetic cells to support cancer treatments. This is due to conclude in 2018. Additionally, in 2017/18 the NIHR provided £406,071 in clinical research support for 26 studies on the creation or use of synthetic cells in areas such as cancer, dementia and neurodegeneration, paediatrics, diabetes,

hepatology, musculoskeletal disorders, ophthalmology and reproductive health.

Synthetic biology is also an area of strategic interest for UK Research and Innovation, through the Medical Research Council (MRC), the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC).

The MRC has invested £9.5 million, from April 2017 to March 2022, into two programmes at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge. These focus on the incorporation of a range of different amino acids into proteins for novel applications.

The BBSRC and EPSRC have in part funded the Synthetic Yeast genomes (Sc2.0) project collaboration between the University of Edinburgh and Imperial College London, as well as a project at the University of Bristol which is working to create a minimal version of a cell (protocell).

### Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government: Legislation

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what legislation from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, and its predecessor department, has been passed into law since 1 June 2010 but is still waiting to be brought into force. [HL11531]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The table below shows legislation that has been passed since 2010-2018.

<i>Local Government Act 2010</i>	<i>Commenced in full</i>
Localism Act 2011	Commenced apart from ss 27(6)(k), 109(1)(a), 180(4)-(5), Schedule 8 (in part)
Local Government Finance Act 2012	Commenced in full
Prevention of Social Housing Fraud Act 2013	Commenced in full
Growth and Infrastructure Act 2013	Commenced in apart from s 34
Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014	Commenced apart from ss 42 (partially commenced)
Self-build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015	Commenced in full
Infrastructure Act 2015 (Part 5 only)	Commenced apart from s30
Housing and Planning Act 2016	Commenced apart from ss1-8, 57-63, 118-123, 125, 127, 138, 155, 158, 159, 196(2)(b), 199, 207-211, Schedules 7-8, 13 (in part), 18 (in part) and 20
Cities and Local Government (Devolution Act 2016)	Commenced in full
Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017	Commenced apart from ss, 7, 8 (in part), 13, 14, 18 – 28, 39, 40 and Schedule 3 (in part)



<i>Local Government Act 2010</i>	<i>Commenced in full</i>
Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018	Commenced in full
Non-Domestic Rating (Nursery Grounds) Act 2018	Commenced in full
Telecommunications Infrastructure (Relief from Non-Domestic Rates) Act 2018	Commenced in full

Note: list does not include Private Members' Bills supported by the Department and does not refer to Wales-only provisions.

## Prosthetics

*Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many amputee sockets the NHS fitted in (1) 2013, (2) 2014, (3) 2015, (4) 2016, and (5) 2017; and in each year, what was the cost of casting and fitting these. [[HL11642](#)]

*Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average (1) time, and (2) number of appointments between the casting process in the NHS to create an amputee test socket and the final fit of the sockets. [[HL11643](#)]

*Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what types of casting processes the NHS currently use to create amputee test sockets. [[HL11644](#)]

*Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many sockets did not fit amputees following the NHS casting process and needed to be discarded in (1) 2013, (2) 2014, (3) 2015, (4) 2016, and (5) 2017; and how much this cost the NHS in each of those years. [[HL11645](#)]

*Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the last review by the NHS of the provision of amputee sockets, including (1) the cost, and (2) methods of fitting, was carried out. [[HL11646](#)]

*Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many complaints the NHS received about the casting, fitting and provision of amputee sockets in (1) 2013, (2) 2014, (3) 2015, (4) 2016, (5) 2017; and of those, how many were upheld. [[HL11647](#)]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** This information is not collected centrally.

## Refugees: Syria

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether unaccompanied Syrian refugee children now in continental Europe are eligible for the vulnerable person resettlement scheme; and if not, why not. [[HL11570](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) offers a safe and legal route to the UK, prioritising the most vulnerable refugees from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. This means those currently in Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt. The Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) resettles 'at-risk' refugee children and their families from the region.

Resettlement is one part of the UK's response to the refugee crisis and is complemented by the UK's significant humanitarian aid programme and diplomatic efforts to end the Syrian conflict. We believe this approach is the best way to ensure that the UK's help has the greatest impact for the majority of refugees who remain in the region and their host countries, whilst recognising that for some vulnerable people the only solution is to bring them to countries like the UK.

In addition, the Government has committed to relocate 480 unaccompanied children from Europe to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016. Over 220 have already been relocated to the UK and we are working closely with France, Greece and Italy to fill the remaining places as soon as possible.

## Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

*Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made with the introduction of "pot-hole spotter systems". [[HL11521](#)]

**Baroness Sugg:** The Department for Transport announced in January 2017 that it was undertaking an innovative trial on the way potholes are identified and managed.

The Department for Transport is working in partnership with Thurrock, York and Wiltshire councils and two private sector SME's, Soenecs and Gaist, to undertake the pothole spotter trial which allows high-definition cameras to be mounted to refuse collection vehicles to help identify road surface problems before they become potholes.

Data has been collected from the trial and is currently being assessed. A "lessons learned" report will be published by end March 2019.

## Shipbuilding

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Earl Howe on 19 November (HL11342), whether the shipbuilding strategy was based on an assumption that the Solid Support Ships would be built in the UK or overseas. [HL11691]

**Earl Howe:** The National Shipbuilding Strategy was clear that the Fleet Solid Support Ships will be subject to international competition. It makes no assumptions about where the ships will be built.

We have encouraged UK companies to participate in the competition and have been pleased with the positive engagement with UK shipyards and the wider supply chain to date.

For reasons of national security there will be a separate competition, open only to UK companies, to integrate sensitive communications equipment and defensive weapons.

## Social Enterprises: Investment

*Asked by Lord Mawson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the interest rates charged by social investment funds compared to those charged by high street banks. [HL11578]

*Asked by Lord Mawson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment, if any, they have made of (1) the effectiveness of the administrative processes employed by social investment funds, and (2) how they compare to the processes used by high street banks. [HL11579]

*Asked by Lord Mawson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the (1) benefits of social investment funds, and (2) evidence that the monies invested in them are used efficiently and effectively. [HL11580]

*Asked by Lord Mawson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they measure how much money from social investment funds is spent on the poorest communities; and if so, how. [HL11581]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** There are a large number of social investment funds being delivered by many organisations in the financial services and philanthropic sectors. The government has made no such assessment across these varied funds.

## Technology: Companies

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the efforts of technology companies

to improve the gender and racial diversity of their staff. [HL11588]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The UK Digital Strategy set out our commitment to enabling a more diverse digital workforce. As the digital revolution progresses, many more jobs will require digital skills and many more tech roles will be created, both in technology companies and in the general economy. We cannot afford for certain groups of people, including women and people from ethnic minority backgrounds, to be excluded from or unable to progress within these roles.

While there is substantial progress that still needs to be made by technology companies to improve the gender and racial diversity of their staff, there are also significant industry-led initiatives aiming to solve the issue.

Over 290 companies, from international tech giants right through to start-ups, SMEs and charities have already signed the Tech Talent Charter - an industry led initiative, supported by Government. The Charter gives organisations tangible actions and principles they can adopt to change their hiring and retention practices to become more gender-diverse and commits signatories to measuring the diversity profile of their UK employees and to share this data for (anonymous) collective publication in an annual report.

There are also other industry-led programmes doing valuable and innovative work to help more women, ethnic minorities and other under-represented groups into tech, such as the #SheMeansBusiness initiative (by Facebook in collaboration with Enterprise Nation and FSB); the FDM Getting Back to Business programme; Fujitsu UK's work on developing diverse role models within their workforce, and Backstage Capital, which is committed to investing in start-ups with diverse founders.

We are also engaging with the work of organisations such as UK Black Tech and other organisations active in improving ethnic diversity in tech, and have recently convened an industry round table on inclusive technology in partnership with the Royal Academy of Engineers.

Under new Government legislation over 10,000 employers reported their gender pay gaps this year. We are now working with employers to help them understand their gender pay gaps, and support them to put plans in place to tackle gaps. Government is also currently consulting on the Ethnic Pay Gap and consultation responses will inform future government policy on ethnicity pay reporting.

## Vaccination: Research

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they are providing for (1) vaccine research, and (2) the development of cheaper versions of existing vaccines. [HL11528]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) welcomes funding applications for research into any aspect of human health,

including the development of cheaper vaccines. These applications are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made on the basis of the importance of the topic to patients and health and care services, value for money and scientific quality. In all disease areas, the amount of NIHR funding depends on the volume and quality of scientific activity.

The NIHR and the Medical Research Council both have a wide portfolio of research activity in vaccines which cover clinical trials for new vaccines, new technologies, ways of improving uptake and cost effectiveness.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation is an expert advisory group which advises United Kingdom health departments on immunisation. When recommending vaccines, they are required to show that cost-effectiveness criteria are met. This helps to keep vaccine prices down.

## **Warships: Procurement**

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many warships are (1) currently being built, (2) on order but for which building has not started, and (3) planned to be ordered in the next year. [[HL11693](#)]

**Earl Howe:** There are currently two warships in build: HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Glasgow. Two warships are on order with build yet to commence: HMS Cardiff and HMS Belfast.

We plan to award a contract for five Type 31e frigates by December 2019 and a contract for the second batch of five Type 26 frigates in the early 2020s.

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