

**Session 2017-19**  
**No. 223**



**Monday**  
**11 February 2019**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**  
**(HANSARD)**

# **HOUSE OF LORDS**

## **WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS**

**Written Statements ..... 1**

**Written Answers..... 6**

[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/>

Members who want a printed copy of Written Answers and Written Statements should notify the Printed Paper Office.

This printed edition is a reproduction of the original text of Answers and Statements, which can be found on the internet at <http://www.parliament.uk/writtenanswers/>.

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>
<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>Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health and Social Care
<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
<b>Earl of Courtown</b>	Deputy Chief Whip
<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>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

© Parliamentary Copyright House of Lords 2019

This publication may be reproduced under the terms of the Open Parliament licence,  
which is published at [www.parliament.uk/site-information/copyright/](http://www.parliament.uk/site-information/copyright/)

# Written Statements

Monday, 11 February 2019

## Aggregates Levy Review

[HLWS1280]

**Lord Bates:** My honourable friend the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Robert Jenrick) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Longstanding litigation on the Aggregates Levy has now been concluded, with the litigation against the Government and the European Commission being withdrawn. The Government remains committed to devolving the Aggregates Levy to the Scottish Parliament following the conclusion of this litigation and is working with the Scottish Government to work out the next steps.

The Aggregates Levy has been largely unchanged since its introduction in 2002. The government will now conduct a comprehensive review of the levy over the next year, working closely with the Scottish Government, and consulting the Welsh Government and Northern Ireland Executive throughout. The review will be comprehensive, looking at the latest evidence about the objectives of the levy, its effectiveness in meeting those objectives, and the design of the levy, including the impact of devolution.

The Terms of Reference for the review will be published in Spring 2019 and a working group will be established to inform it. The review will aim to conclude by the end of 2019.

## Competitiveness Pre-Council Statement

[HLWS1285]

**Lord Henley:** The Internal Market and Industry Day of the Competitiveness Council will take place on 18 February 2019 where the Rt Hon. Lord Henley, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, will represent the UK; and the Research and Space Day on 19 February 2019 where Chris Skidmore MP, Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation, will represent the UK.

### *Day one – Internal Market and Industry*

The Internal Market and Industry Day will consider a number of non-legislative items including, a competitiveness check-up focusing on the impact of EU value chain integration on competitiveness. Ministers will be asked to exchange views on the Impact of Artificial Intelligence on EU industry and to adopt Conclusions on the EU's Coordinated Plan on Artificial Intelligence. They will take part in a policy debate on 'Clean Planet for all', the EU's strategic long-term vision for a climate-neutral economy. The non-legislative part of the agenda will finish with a European Semester policy debate on how to deliver key reforms to make the European economy more competitive and resilient in the face of global uncertainty.

Under any other business, there will be updates on the following current legislative proposals: the Company Law Package including a Directive on Digital Tools and Processes and a Directive on the Cross-border Conversions, Mergers and Divisions; the Regulation on Enforcement of Union Harmonisation Legislation on Products; and the Regulation on Promoting Fairness and Transparency for Business Users of Online Intermediation Services.

### *Day two – Research and Space*

The Research and Space Day will begin with a session on the Horizon Europe Package during which the Council will review the progress report and exchange views on the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe - Framework Programme for Research and Innovation for 2021-2027.

Under any other business, the Presidency will provide information on the state of play of the Horizon Europe Package, covering the Framework Programme and its rules for participation and dissemination. The Presidency will then conclude the Council by providing information on the ITER and Euratom Programmes.

## Immigration

[HLWS1279]

**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:

The Government launched a public consultation on 19 July 2018 seeking views on proposals for a Windrush compensation scheme. I am today updating the House on the progress of the Government's response to that consultation. Righting the wrongs experienced by the Windrush generation remains one of my top priorities.

The consultation period was originally intended to last 12 weeks. I made a written statement on 11 October extending the consultation period, on the advice of Martin Forde QC, the independent adviser I appointed to oversee the development of the scheme. I agreed to this extension in order to give all those who would like to respond, the opportunity to do so.

Over 1,000 leaflets advertising the consultation were delivered via volunteers and community groups, and over 2,500 paper copies of the consultation document were distributed. The document was published on gov.uk, and information about the consultation was disseminated via email and social media. Assistance in completing responses was available through a freephone helpline and email address.

During the consultation period twelve focus groups were also held, involving over 300 participants. These took place in Croydon, Birmingham, Cardiff, Newport, Walsall, Woolwich, Leicester, Brixton, Wolverhampton, Reading, Coventry and Telford.

Since the consultation closed on 16 November, we have given very careful consideration to the 1,435 responses that were received from people and organisations, as well as the feedback from the focus groups. These views have been considered in addition to the 650 responses to the Call for Evidence which preceded the consultation. I also have met with Martin Forde QC to discuss his views on the design of the scheme.

I intend to publish the formal Government response to the consultation shortly, which will set out the detailed design of the scheme. I will also publish more detailed rules and guidance about the scheme, and information about how eligible claimants can apply. The compensation scheme will then be opened for claims as soon as possible.

I would like to thank all those who responded to the consultation and who took part in the wider engagement throughout this period. The views and experiences that have been shared have proved invaluable in shaping the Government's policy, ensuring it addresses the matters raised by those affected.

### Informal Foreign Affairs Council

[HLWS1283]

**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 Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs attended the Informal Foreign Affairs Council (Gymnich) on 31 January and 1 February. 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 Bucharest, Romania.

#### *Eastern Partnership*

The discussion of the Eastern Partnership confirmed the importance of the Partnership and how much it had achieved in the last ten years with a need to keep focussing on anti-corruption, rule of law, freedom of movement and values; with cyber, stratcomms, energy security, P2P, CSDP, connectivity all cited as newer areas for future attention.

#### *Venezuela*

Foreign Ministers expressed concern about the situation in Venezuela, and agreed the importance of holding elections. Foreign Ministers recalled their Council Conclusions in May 2018, which stated that the elections were neither free nor fair, and reiterated the need for free and transparent elections respecting the Constitutional rules of Venezuela. The HRVP announced the formation of an International Contact Group for Venezuela, with the first meeting due to take place on 7 February in Montevideo.

#### *China*

Foreign Ministers had a broad discussion about China's growing role in the world including EU-China

cooperation on the JCPoA and Climate Change. There was agreement that the EU's 2016 China Strategy remained relevant and calls for greater EU unity on shared areas of interest. Foreign Ministers also held a discussion on China with candidate countries (Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey).

### Integrated Communities

[HLWS1286]

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

Britain is a great place to live and is made stronger by its diversity. However, the benefits and opportunities of our society are not felt equally by everyone. No community should feel excluded, and everyone should understand and embrace the benefits and opportunities of living in modern Britain.

In March 2018, the Government launched a consultation on the Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper to obtain the views of the public and organisations on its ambitious goal to build integrated communities where people – whatever their background – can live, work, learn and socialise together based on shared rights, responsibilities and opportunities. The consultation ran for 12 weeks in total and closed on 5 June 2018.

I am today publishing the Government's response to this consultation. The consultation process considered the Government's proposed actions as laid out in the Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper and presented a number of questions about the Government's strategy for consultation. There were over 3,400 responses to the consultation, reflecting the high level of interest in building integrated communities. A breakdown of the responses to each of these questions can be found in the Government's response.

The Government has taken the views expressed in the consultation into account when developing our next steps. These are set out in the Integrated Communities Action Plan I am also publishing today. This outlines more than 70 actions across Government to help create strong and integrated communities. This Action Plan will build the capacity of our leaders, strengthen our communities, boost English language proficiency, and give people the infrastructure they need to thrive. The views of communities will continue to be an important factor when implementing these actions.

The Action Plan sets out a framework of national priority actions to promote integration and adopts a localised approach. As the Secretary of State for Communities, one of my priorities is to help build thriving, liveable and resilient places where people get along – from our high streets to our community spaces.

I am placing a copy of both documents in the Libraries of the House.

## Members' Consultation on the Implementation of the Independent Complaints and Grievance Scheme

[HLWS1288]

**Lord McFall of Alcluith:** Today the Privileges and Conduct Committee publishes a consultation document inviting Members of the House to submit their views on some of the changes required to incorporate into the Code of Conduct a new process for investigating allegations of bullying, harassment and sexual misconduct. This builds on the significant work already completed by the Committee and the Sub-Committee on Lords Conduct, and across Parliament, to ensure that we have an effective and appropriate process for dealing with complaints against Members. Members are invited to give their views on the following specific points:

1. the balance of lay members and Lords Members to be appointed to the proposed new Conduct Committee;
2. how the House considers any sanction of Members under the new process, without reopening the substance of an investigation in debate on the floor of the House;
3. whether the names of Members cleared of complaints of bullying, harassment and sexual misconduct should be published (the Committee propose that when a complaint of bullying, harassment or sexual misconduct is being investigated the Member's name will be withheld until the conclusion of the investigation of the case); and
4. longer-term, making the process for investigating and disciplining Members of the House more independent.

The deadline for submissions is Monday 4 March. Further information is on the intranet and in the [consultation document](#). Copies of the consultation document are also available in the Printed Paper Office.

## Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein: EEA-EFTA Citizens' Rights

[HLWS1284]

**Lord Callanan:** The Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, the Rt Hon Stephen Barclay MP, has made the following statement:

The UK has concluded discussions with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein (the 'EEA EFTA states'), on an EEA EFTA citizens' rights agreement that would protect the rights of UK nationals already living in the EEA EFTA states and EEA EFTA nationals already living in the UK in the event of a no deal scenario.

Delivering the deal negotiated with the EU remains the Government's top priority. This has not changed. However, the Government must ensure the UK is prepared for every eventuality. It is the responsible thing to do.

The EEA EFTA citizens' rights agreement would ensure that citizens would be able to continue living broadly as they do today, regardless of the outcome of negotiations with the EU. The arrangements in the agreement closely mirror the arrangements for citizens in

the EEA EFTA separation agreement, published on 20 December 2018. Citizens falling within scope would have broadly the same entitlement to work, study and access public services and benefits as now. The EEA EFTA separation agreement relies on some of the provisions of the Withdrawal Agreement which would not apply in a no deal scenario. In such a scenario, therefore, we would instead bring this no deal citizens' rights agreement into force.

Together, these agreements will protect around 17,000 UK nationals living in these countries and approximately 15,000 nationals from these countries in the UK in any scenario.

I am depositing a copy of the agreement and an explainer in the Libraries of both Houses.

## Private Pensions

[HLWS1287]

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

I am pleased to announce today, two important steps to ensure millions of people have greater security in retirement.

### *A Stronger Pensions Regulator*

Today, the Government has published its response to the consultation "Protecting Defined Benefit Pension Schemes – A Stronger Pensions Regulator". This outlined its approach, as set out in the 2018 White Paper, to strengthen, clarify and streamline the Defined Benefit pension system.

The Government will introduce two new criminal offences to prevent and penalise mismanagement of pension schemes.

The first will target individuals who wilfully or recklessly mishandle pension schemes, endangering workers' pensions, by such things as chronic mismanagement of a business; or allowing huge unsustainable deficits to build up; or taking huge investment risks; or a combination thereof. We will introduce a new custodial sentence of up to seven years' imprisonment or an unlimited fine for this offence. This brings the punishment in line with similar offences in financial services.

The second, which will attract an unlimited fine, will target individuals who fail to comply with a Contribution Notice, which is issued by The Pensions Regulator requiring a specified amount of money to be paid into the pension scheme by that individual. We will also introduce a new civil penalty of up to £1 million for this offence.

We have also provided an update on measures to strengthen the Regulator's information gathering powers, such as enhancing their interview and inspection powers previously announced in the White Paper.

The changes will build on the robust system that is already in place to protect Defined Benefit pension

schemes, further protecting individuals' pensions and ensure greater clarity for employers.

The Government's full response to the Consultation is available [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/protecting-defined-benefit-pension-schemes-a-stronger-pensions-regulator):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/protecting-defined-benefit-pension-schemes-a-stronger-pensions-regulator>

*10 million workers automatically enrolled into pensions*

Today we announce the milestone of 10 million workers having been automatically enrolled into a workplace pension.

Automatic enrolment is transforming the savings culture of this country by normalising workplace pension saving. It is enabling millions of workers to look forward to a more secure future and a better retirement.

Between 2012 and 2017, the proportion of eligible employees saving in a workplace pension rose from 55 per cent to 84 per cent. The private sector has seen the largest increases over this period, with participation rates almost equalising among eligible men and women in 2017. The increase has also been particularly marked among younger workers and those with low earnings. Among eligible employees aged 22 to 29 years, participation increased from 35 per cent to 79 per cent; and 76 per cent of people earning £10-£20 thousand are now saving, a rise of 42 percentage points since 2012.

Employers' support is key to the success of automatic enrolment. In the last two years, thousands of small and micro employers have enrolled eligible workers into a pension for the first time. Automatic enrolment is now business as usual.

In addition, we brought in the first of the planned increases in minimum contribution rates, in April 2018, raising the overall minimum contribution level to 5 per cent. From April 2019, the second planned increase, to a minimum 8 per cent, will enable many workers to save even more.

The government is committed to building on the 10 million milestone to support more workers, no matter what job, to save for a better retirement.

## Review of Drugs: Appointment

[HLWS1281]

**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:

In October, I announced that there would be a major independent review of drug misuse. This will look at a wide range of issues, including the system of support and enforcement around drug misuse, in order to inform our thinking about what more can be done to tackle drug harms. The Review will make sure that we know as much as possible about who drug users are, what they are taking and how often, so that law enforcement agencies can target and prevent the drug-related causes of violent crime effectively. The Review will also look at the health and

social harms associated with drug use, identifying evidence-based approaches to preventing and reducing drug use, as well as where there are any gaps in the evidence about what works.

I am pleased to announce today that I have appointed Professor Dame Carol Black to lead the Review. Dame Carol has a wealth of experience and I am confident that she will bring independence, integrity and a strong focus on analysis and evidence to the Review.

The Review will be held in two parts, with part one focusing on:

- i. the demographics of drug use. This will look at demand, including who uses which types of drugs, together with patterns of, and motivations for, use; and
- ii. the drugs market. This will look at supply into and within the UK and how criminals meet the demand of users.

The scope of the second part will be determined once the first part has reported.

The Review will focus only on England for those matters which are devolved and the UK for those matters which are reserved.

## Rough Sleeping

[HLWS1282]

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

On 31 January, figures for the 2018 Rough Sleeping Count were published and showed a welcome 2% reduction in the number of rough sleepers. Whilst this decrease is encouraging, I know we must maintain our focus on making sure nobody has to spend even a single night sleeping on the streets. This Government is determined to get to the root of the problem, unique to every local authority, and tackle the complex range of reasons why people sleep rough, helping to prevent it from happening in the first place.

*Early Adopters of the Rapid Rehousing Pathway*

In December, we announced the locations of our first 11 Somewhere Safe to Stay hubs, one of four elements that make up the Rapid Rehousing Pathway as announced in the Rough Sleeping Strategy in August.

Today, I am pleased to announce the allocation of funding to a further 42 areas across the country for the three remaining elements of the Rapid Rehousing Pathway – navigators, supported lettings and local lettings agencies.

- Navigators are specialists assigned to rough sleepers, acting as a single point of contact to support people into settled accommodation, helping them access appropriate local services and sustain a safe life away from the streets;
- Local Lettings Agencies work to source, identify, or provide homes and advice for rough sleepers or those at

risk, supporting them into affordable, settled accommodation;

- Supported Lettings support individuals with a history of rough sleeping to help them to sustain their tenancies.

This funding will enable more than 80 navigators to work with up to 1,600 people sleeping rough, provide up to £2.8 million for supported lettings across 17 areas and up to a further £1.25 million for Local Letting Agencies across 9 Areas. We estimate Supported Lettings to support around 600 rough sleepers, with Local Lettings

Agencies expected to make around 1,200 properties available.

Local areas will be able to connect people with the right support and sustainable housing to move them swiftly away from the street and facilitate their journey to recovery, bringing us a step closer to ending rough sleeping for good.

The full list of the 42 areas can be found at: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/rapid-rehousing-pathway-additional-42-early-adopters](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rapid-rehousing-pathway-additional-42-early-adopters)

## Written Answers

Monday, 11 February 2019

### Abdul Raouf Salha

Asked by *Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have discussed, or will discuss, with the government of Israel the shooting by the Israeli Defence Force of Abdul Raouf Salha in Gaza on 4 January, and his subsequent death. [[HL13170](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Whilst we have not raised this specific issue with the Israeli authorities, we regularly raise concerns about the situation in Gaza. We have also raised concerns about Israel's use of live ammunition, and have been clear that Palestinians have the right to peaceful protest. We have also been clear that Israel has the right to protect itself, as it is plain that Hamas and its operatives have exploited protests for their own benefit.

### Animal Welfare: Sentencing

Asked by *Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to introduce legislation to increase the maximum sentence for animal cruelty offences from six months to five years imprisonment before the end of this parliamentary session. [[HL13334](#)]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Government will introduce the necessary legislation to increase the maximum penalty for animal cruelty from 6 months' imprisonment to 5 years' imprisonment, as soon as Parliamentary time allows.

### Antisocial Behaviour

Asked by *Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what actions they are taking to provide protection, support and advice to UK residents and their families from (1) other EU member states, and (2) other countries as a precaution against possible antisocial or unlawful behaviour towards them on or after 29 March. [[HL13360](#)]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** All forms of hate crime are completely unacceptable including antisocial or unlawful behaviour on the grounds of faith or race, this includes protection to those from other EU member states and other countries. This country has one of the strongest legal frameworks in the world to report, record and prosecute hate crime.

In October 2018, the government published a refreshed hate crime action plan setting out the Government's approach to tackling hate crime, ranging from prevention to victim support. A major national communications

campaign was launched in late 2018 to raise awareness about hate crime.

There is no room for complacency. As we prepare to leave the European Union, it is entirely responsible and appropriate we continue to work closely with all of our operational partners, including the police, to ensure we are alive to any issues that may arise.

### Asylum

Asked by *Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether a refugee who has been granted asylum should be allowed to be the subject of an Interpol Red Notice initiated by the country they are seeking asylum from. [[HL13174](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** INTERPOL is a crucial organisation enabling police to police cooperation between 194 member countries.

INTERPOL systems enable member countries to issue Red Notices to seek the location and arrest of persons who are wanted with a view to extradition or other lawful action. Such notices must be made strictly in compliance with INTERPOL's constitution which forbids any intervention or activities of a political, military, religious or racial character. The Government considers very seriously any misuse of INTERPOL notices and strongly supports INTERPOL's efforts to ensure systems are in place that protect individuals' human rights.

It is up to each INTERPOL member country's legal framework as to what action will be taken in respect of an individual who is subject to an INTERPOL Red Notice, alongside a consideration of other relevant factors such as an asylum claim.

Those granted refugee status in the UK are not expected to return to their country of origin in accordance with the UK's obligations under the Refugee Convention. As a matter of policy, the UK will moreover not disclose the existence or status of any asylum claim to the national authorities of their country of origin.

### Childbirth: Incontinence

Asked by *Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many cases of urinary or faecal incontinence as a result of childbirth were recorded in each of the last ten years. [[HL13182](#)]

**Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford:** The data requested are not held centrally.

### China: Ethnic Groups

Asked by *Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the account of Gulbahar Jelilova, a Muslim Uyghur woman, who was reportedly subject to degrading treatment at a re-education camp in China;

and what assessment they have made of the accuracy of estimates cited by the United Nations that up to 1 million ethnic Muslim-minority Uyghurs may be held involuntarily in extralegal detention in Xinjiang. [HL13146]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We are aware of reports of the detention of Gulbahar Jelil (Jelilova) in Xinjiang.

We have serious concerns about the human rights situation in Xinjiang and the Chinese Government's deepening crackdown; including credible reports that over one million Uyghurs have been held in re-education camps, and widespread surveillance and restrictions targeted at ethnic minorities.

During China's Universal Periodic Review at the UN Human Rights Council on 6 November, the UK made a statement which described our concern about the treatment of ethnic minorities in China, including Uyghurs. We issued a specific recommendation, calling on China to implement the recommendations by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on Xinjiang, and to allow the UN to monitor the implementation.

Mr Field raised our concerns about Xinjiang with Vice Minister Guo Yezhou during his visit to China on 22 July 2018. The Foreign Secretary also raised our concerns about the region with Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi during his visit to China on 30 July 2018.

## Contraceptives

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to monitor and record contraceptive use in the UK once the NHS goes paperless in 2020; and if so, whether they will record types of contraceptives being used according to age group. [HL13181]

**Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford:** Contraception supplied in sexual and reproductive health services in England is monitored and recorded nationally through the Sexual and Reproductive Health Activity Data Set, which includes data on age, consultation medium and contraception main method. The data is collected from all sexual and reproductive health services, including some general practitioner (GP) services, and will continue after the National Health Service goes paperless. Data by age is not collected where contraception is supplied by general practice under the GP Contract.

## Display Energy Certificates

*Asked by Lord Stunell*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish the annual returns of Local Weights and Measures Authorities enforcement action on Display Energy Certificates for each year for which figures are

available as set out in the guidance by the then Department for Communities and Local Government, Improving the energy efficiency of our buildings, published in March 2016. [HL13257]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Department does not currently have plans to publish this information. However, Local Authority Weights and Measures Authorities are responsible for this information and may publish it.

*Asked by Lord Stunell*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the current levels of compliance with the statutory Display Energy Certificate regime are sufficient to meet the legal requirements of the EU's Energy Performance of Buildings Directive as transposed into UK legislation. [HL13258]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Data on Display Energy Certificates (DECs) for buildings occupied by public authorities over a certain size threshold and frequently visited by the public can be found at (attached): <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-energy-performance-of-buildings-certificates> (Table DEC1).

The Government does not routinely hold or collect data to identify public buildings that are frequently visited by the public. Therefore, we have not made an assessment of the current levels of compliance.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Table DEC1 [190131 DEC table 1 - HL13258.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-29/HL13258>

## Double Taxation: Israel

*Asked by Lord Warner*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to ensure that the UK-Israel tax protocol signed on 17 January does not apply to trade involving illegal settlements. [HL13187]

**Lord Bates:** The Protocol amends the 1962 convention to improve the conditions for cross-border trade and investment. These benefits are in the interests of the UK economy.

The Protocol does not represent any change to the UK's historic position towards the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements. The UK's position on settlements is clear. They are illegal under international law, present an obstacle to peace, and threaten the physical viability of a two-state solution.

## Electronic Publishing: VAT

Asked by **Lord Bird**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans, if any, they have to assess the amount of VAT paid on e-publications by (1) ministerial departments, and (2) non-ministerial departments, agencies and other public bodies. [HL13153]

**Lord Bates:** HMRC does not hold detailed information on VAT paid on specific products by government departments, public institutions or private entities.

The Government keeps all taxes under review, including VAT on e-publications.

Any amendments to the VAT regime as it applies to physical publications and e-publications must be carefully assessed against policy, economic and fiscal considerations.

## EU Nationals: Immigration

Asked by **Lord Greaves**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have stopped the requirement for those applying for settled status to pay £65 for that application; what arrangements they are making to repay those who have already paid that amount during the pilot scheme or subsequently; and whether those applicants will be refunded automatically without a repayment having to be individually requested. [HL13162]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** As the Prime Minister announced on 21 January, there will be no fee for applications under the EU Settlement Scheme when we roll out the scheme in full by 30 March. Anyone who has applied during the pilot phase, or who does so, will have their fee reimbursed. The Home Office will set out further details in due course.

## Fly-tipping: Prosecutions

Asked by **Baroness Byford**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many successful prosecutions there have been for fly-tipping in each of the last ten years; how many of those prosecutions were a result of fly-tipping on privately-owned land; and in each case, what was the fine imposed. [HL13320]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Defra collects data on the number of fly-tipping incidents and actions taken which is provided by local authorities in England. These data are published annually and may include some private land incidents that are voluntarily reported (although it is not mandatory to do so). Defra does not hold data relating solely to fly-tipping incidents on private land. The tables below show the data held regarding prosecutions and fines for fly-tipping in the last ten years. Details of fine levels for individual cases are not held.

*Local authority prosecutions for fly-tipping in England*

<i>Year</i>	<i>Successful prosecutions</i>	<i>Custodial sentences</i>	<i>Fines</i>	<i>Community service</i>
2008/09	1,944	16	1,497	60
2009/10	2,374	34	1,859	45
2010/11	2,311	7	2,023	35
2011/12	2,786	4	2,487	39
2012/13	2,144	18	1,839	16
2013/14	1,953	10	1,685	19
2014/15	1,771	21	1,492	35
2015/16	2,091	18	1,838	32
2016/17	1,546	28	1,318	26
2017/18	2,186	25	1,938	45

*Level of fines for fly-tipping offences in England resulting from the above prosecutions*

<i>Year</i>	<i>£0 to £50</i>	<i>£51 to £200</i>	<i>£201 to £500</i>	<i>£501 to £1,000</i>	<i>£1,001 to £5,000</i>	<i>£5,001 to £20,000</i>	<i>£20,001 to £50,000</i>	<i>over £50,000</i>
2008/09	185	722	407	114	67	2	0	0
2009/10	274	947	452	110	70	6	0	0
2010/11	172	1104	454	245	50	6	0	0
2011/12	417	1191	565	239	70	5	0	0
2012/13	162	856	547	201	61	12	0	0
2013/14	134	1,028	308	150	62	3	0	0
2014/15	116	804	311	194	58	8	1	0
2015/16	113	817	560	271	72	5	0	0
2016/17	96	1,233	564	151	93	10	1	0
2017/18	83	667	876	173	123	16	0	0

The Environment Agency investigates and prosecutes larger and more serious cases of illegal dumping. Data distinguishing between types of waste crime incidents have been available since 2015. Data for privately-owned land are not shown separately. The table below shows the total successful prosecutions by the Environment Agency for illegal dumping incidents only.

*Environment Agency prosecutions for illegal dumping in England*

<i>Year</i>	<i>Action Date</i>	<i>Sentence</i>	<i>Total Fine</i>
2015	26/03/2015	Fined	£660
06/10/2015	Community Service	£200	
06/10/2015	Community Service	£200	
2016	11/03/2016	Fined	£1,000
2017	09/06/2017	Suspended Sentence	£50,000
09/06/2017	Fined	£50,000	
18/09/2017	Fined	£660	
03/03/2017	Fined	£6,000	
18/09/2017	Community Service	£0	
19/09/2017	Fined	£900	
09/06/2017	Fined	£20,000	
2018	04/10/2018	Fined	£562
24/04/2018	Community Order - Curfew	£0	
10/04/2018	Community Service	£0	
16/10/2018	Community Service	£0	
10/04/2018	Community Service	£0	
31/05/2018	Fined	£5,000	
05/10/2018	Community Service	£0	

### Food: Shortages

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of warnings from UK supermarkets that (1) a no-deal Brexit could threaten UK food security, and (2) that there could be empty shelves at supermarkets due to the difficulties of importing fresh food. [HL13178]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The UK has a high degree of food security, built on access to a range of sources including strong domestic production and imports from other countries. This will continue to be the case whether we leave the EU with or without a deal.

Extensive work to prepare for a 'no deal' scenario has been under way for over two years. The Government has well established ways of working with the food industry on food supply chain issues and we are using these to support preparations for leaving the EU. This includes working with Defra's long established Food Chain Emergency Liaison Group (FCELG), which allows Government and industry to work together to plan for and respond to any food supply disruption. This industry group's membership is drawn from across the agri-food chain sector and includes other relevant government departments, Devolved Administrations and agencies.

Defra will continue to work closely with food industry stakeholders to continue to build shared understanding of the impacts of a 'no deal' scenario on food supply and contingency planning measures being taken by industry. Ongoing close collaboration that currently exists between Government and industry is essential to plan for, respond to, and mitigate any potential disruption.

### Gaza: Demonstrations

*Asked by Lord Warner*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Palestinians who are (1) under, and (2) over 18 have been (a) killed, and (b) injured in the 44 weeks of Friday protests; and how many Israelis have been (i) killed, and (ii) injured in the same period. [HL13190]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Whilst we do not hold this specific information, the recent deaths on both sides of the conflict reflect the need for progress to end the cycle of violence.

### Gaza: Hospitals

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that hospitals in Gaza have been closed due to power shortages; and what steps they are taking to ensure that hospitals are able to function. [HL13186]

**Lord Bates:** The UK continually monitors the humanitarian situation in Gaza and is ready to respond to spikes in humanitarian need. DFID is aware that hospitals in Gaza continue to face power shortages, although the most recent WHO report suggests that hospitals remain open for now.

To help ensure hospitals in Gaza can continue to provide essential services we provided £1.5 million for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) OPTs Appeal in 2018. This funding has helped treat patients in 11 hospitals which are under extreme pressure in Gaza by restocking vital medical supplies including surgical equipment, bandages and medicines, and helping provide physical rehabilitation services for around 4,000 people. We will keep our response under review.

## Genetics

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government who authorised NHS England's scheme to allow people to pay to have their genes sequenced on the condition that they share their data. [HL13175]

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the ethics implications of NHS England's scheme to allow people to pay to have their genes sequenced on the condition that they share their data. [HL13176]

**Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford:** The second Life Sciences Sector Deal, published by the Government in December 2018, announced that Genomics England will undertake development work on a new service to enable volunteers to pay for a personalised report on their unique genetic makeup.

Genomics England are in the early stages of developing the scheme, working with patient groups and the public as well as key partners, including the National Health Service.

It will be developed in line with the founding principles of the NHS and established to the highest ethical standards.

## Giulio Regeni

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent representations they have made to the government of Egypt about its co-operation with the government of Italy's investigation into Giulio Regeni's murder. [HL13292]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We were appalled by the murder of Giulio Regeni in Cairo and we continue to monitor the investigation into his death. As Mr Regeni was an Italian citizen, the Italian Government is taking the lead role on his case. We have consistently raised our concerns, stressing the need for a full and impartial investigation into the circumstances of Mr Regeni's murder with the Egyptian authorities at both Ministerial and official levels. We continue to offer our full support to Italy and urge the Egyptian Government to cooperate fully with the Italian investigators in order to bring Mr Regeni's killers to justice as soon as possible.

## Grenfell Tower: Fires

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people made homeless after the fire at Grenfell Tower are still living (1) in hotels, (2) in other forms of temporary accommodation, and (3) with relatives. [HL13226]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** As of 31 January 2019, the latest figures from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea show that a total of 8 households from Grenfell Tower and Walk remain in emergency accommodation out of the 202 households that required rehousing.

The 8 households currently in emergency accommodation include: 3 households living in hotels, 4 households living in serviced apartments and 1 household who is living with friends and family.

As of 31 January 2019, a total of 17 households from Grenfell Tower and Walk are currently in high-quality temporary accommodation; with a total of 177 households from Grenfell Tower and Walk having now moved into permanent accommodation.

We expect the Council to do whatever is necessary to ensure households can move into permanent homes as swiftly as possible, but to do so sensitively and taking into account individual needs, and are continuing to work closely with the Council to ensure this occurs without unnecessary delay.

## High Rise Flats: Fire Prevention

*Asked by Lord Stunell*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to accelerating the completion of all necessary fire safety remedial work to high rise residential buildings by establishing a scheme for payment from central funds of costs incurred by local authorities who carry out such work on privately owned high rise buildings, pending reimbursement of costs by the building owner. [HL13260]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Where, as part of the enforcement action, local authorities take emergency action themselves to remediate high rise private sector residential building with unsafe ACM cladding then the Housing Act 2004 allows local authorities to recover reasonably incurred expenses, with interest. The Government is committed to supporting local authorities to ensure that such private-sector buildings are remediated, including financial support to take emergency remedial action if that is necessary. Local authorities finding themselves in this position should approach my department to discuss what support may be needed.

## Holiday Accommodation: Greater Manchester

*Asked by Baroness Gardner of Parkes*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of concerns about the growth in short-term letting in Manchester. [HL13285]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Government has not made an assessment of concerns about the growth in short-term letting in Manchester. We believe that it is for local authorities to assess the impact within their area. The Government does however monitor broader trends in

private rented housing through the English Housing Survey.

### Hospitals: Private Sector

*Asked by Baroness Finlay of Llandaff*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to ensure that patients treated in independent healthcare providers' hospitals will receive a uniform standard of care; and what steps they will take to ensure that any recommendations on patient care from medical royal colleges are adopted by such providers. [HL13159]

**Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford:** The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and adult social care in England, and is responsible for ensuring that all health and social care services provide people with safe, effective, compassionate, high quality care; and encouraging services to improve. The CQC uses the same assessment framework of key lines of enquiry and ratings characteristics for its inspections and ratings across all healthcare service types, including both National Health Service and independent sector providers.

Key standards and recommendations on patient care made by medical Royal Colleges are reflected in the CQC's inspection frameworks and guidance for specific healthcare services, and the CQC reports on where providers are following that guidance.

### Internet: Self-harm

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what actions they have taken, prior to the announcement on 27 January that they would consider banning websites promoting self-harm and suicide, to protect young people from harmful online content. [HL13145]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** Government is taking a range of measures to protect children and young people from harmful online content.

Through the Digital Economy Act 2017, the government is introducing a requirement for commercial providers of online pornography to have robust age verification controls in place to prevent children and young people under 18 from accessing pornographic material.

In addition we have worked with Internet Service Providers to introduce a rigorous and comprehensive system of family-friendly content filtering, through which parents can help protect their children from viewing harmful content over home broadband networks.

Through the UK Council for Child Internet Safety we have produced a practical guide for providers of social media and interactive services, in which we set out best practices for preventing children from encountering harmful content.

Furthermore, the Data Protection Act 2018 introduced a new requirement for the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) to produce a statutory code of practice on age-appropriate design. This code will ensure that websites and applications are designed in a way that makes clear what data is being collected on children, how this data is being used, and how both children and parents can stay in control of this data.

Nevertheless there is still more to do, which is why we will shortly be publishing an Online Harms White Paper, which will set out a range of legislative and non-legislative measures detailing how the Government will tackle the full range of online harms and set clear responsibilities for tech companies to keep UK citizens safe.

### Israel: Gaza

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made, or will make, to the government of Israel about the withholding of international donations intended for Gaza. [HL13183]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We regularly urge Israel to go further in easing access restrictions on Gaza. The UK supports the UN Access Coordination Unit, which works with the Israeli Government, the Palestinian Authority and aid agencies to facilitate the transfer of humanitarian goods including some medical equipment and supplies, into Gaza. We are also calling on all donors to fulfil their financial pledges to aid the reconstruction efforts in Gaza without delay.

### Israel: Palestinians

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the (1) government of Israel and (2) FIFA following the hospitalisation of five members of a Palestinian football team after Israeli forces fired tear gas into the Al Khader Stadium in Bethlehem. [HL13266]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We have not raised this specific issue with the Israeli Government or FIFA. In our dialogue with the Israeli authorities we have recognised their legitimate need to deploy security measures to address violence. We encourage them to deploy these in a way which minimises tension and use appropriate force. In instances where there have been accusations of excessive use of force, we have advocated swift, transparent investigations.

### Israel: West Bank

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of

Israel about the number of road closures in the West Bank. [[HL13267](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We remain deeply concerned about restrictions on freedom of movement within the West Bank, including to and from East Jerusalem. Through our Embassy in Tel Aviv we have lobbied the authorities on the issue of movement and access. We continue to work closely with the Quartet and EU partners to call on Israel to ease restrictions on access.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they intend to take to protect Palestinian children in the West Bank from (1) unlawful detention including being detained with no access to legal representation and contact with their parents, and (2) violence and abuse when detained. [[HL13268](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We continue to have strong concerns about reports of ill-treatment of Palestinian minors in Israeli military detention. We remain committed to working with Israel to secure improvements to the practices surrounding children in detention in Israel. We advocate for the mandatory use of audio-visual recording of interrogations, a reduction in the use of single hand ties, alternatives to night arrests and for the Israeli authorities to inform more consistently detained children of their legal rights. I raised the issue of children in detention with Israeli Justice Minister Shaked during my visit to Israel on 11 April 2018. We continue to fund projects providing legal aid to minors and capacity building to local lawyers.

### Israeli Settlements: Palestinians

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the manslaughter charge given to a teenager for the death of Aisha al-Rabi in the West Bank, whether they have held discussions with the government of Israel about the equal treatment in law of Israeli settlers and Palestinians who have committed acts of violence. [[HL13216](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Whilst we have not raised this issue specifically with the Israeli Government, we condemn all violence by settlers against Palestinians and urge the Israeli authorities to thoroughly investigate every instance and bring those responsible to justice. We repeatedly call on Israel to abide by its obligations under international law and have a regular dialogue with Israel on legal issues relating to the occupation.

### Italy: Asylum

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what actions, if any, they are taking to bring Brendan Woodhouse, his crew, and the 47 rescues on their vessel who are

currently detained off the coast of Italy to the UK. [[HL13255](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Sea-Watch 3 disembarked the 47 rescued migrants on board at Catania (Sicily) on 31 January.

### Japan: Whales

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Japan about its decision to resume whaling; and whether they intend to impose sanctions on that government if that practice goes ahead. [[HL13333](#)]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** During Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzō Abe's, visit to the UK on 9 January, the Prime Minister expressed her disappointment at Japan's decision to leave the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and reiterated our opposition to commercial whaling practices.

We are working closely with other likeminded countries to assess the implications of this decision and will be using all appropriate opportunities to urge the government of Japan to rethink its decision.

### Jerusalem: Palestinians

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to protect the rights of those Palestinians in East Jerusalem whose refugee status has been threatened by the withdrawal of funding to UNRWA by the government of the United States. [[HL13185](#)]

**Lord Bates:** We are concerned about the impact on UNRWA's activities whenever unexpected reductions occur. Last year the UK led international efforts to help ensure UNRWA's essential services were maintained, by almost doubling our original core support of £33.5 million to £65.5 million in total, including £5 million for Gaza, and lobbying other donors to step up to ensure the funding burden is shared more evenly across the international community. Both the UK and UNRWA recognise the need for UNRWA to reform to ensure its sustainability and ability to provide essential services to refugees. UNRWA has undertaken significant cost-cutting measures to respond to budget cuts and growing need. We welcome UNRWA's efforts to broaden its donor base and are encouraging partners to step up with more funding and more predictable disbursements. The UK has a multi-year commitment to support UNRWA and we remain firmly committed to supporting UNRWA and Palestinian refugees.

### Jerusalem: Schools

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they taking, if any, in relation to the cancellation of permits

for the operation of UNRWA-run schools for Palestinians in East Jerusalem and their replacement by schools operated by the municipality of Jerusalem. [HL13184]

**Lord Bates:** UK Officials have contacted UNRWA following media reports surrounding the future of UNRWA schools in East Jerusalem. UNRWA stated that they have not received any official indication that there will be any change to their operation in East Jerusalem.

## Liothyronine

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had, or intend to have, with NHS England on ensuring Liothyronine (T3) is prescribed in accordance with NICE guidelines. [HL13166]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to conduct an assessment of the impact of the withdrawal of Liothyronine (T3) on patients as a result of Clinical Commissioning Groups misinterpreting or failing to follow NHS England's guidance on the prescription of that drug. [HL13167]

**Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford:** The Department has had no such discussions with NHS England on ensuring liothyronine is prescribed in accordance with the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidelines, nor does the Department intend to conduct such an assessment.

The Regional Medicines Optimising Committee published its latest guidance on the prescribing of liothyronine in November and we can confirm NHS England is working closely with clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) on the prescribing of liothyronine to support them with the implementation of guidance for CCGs on items which should not be routinely prescribed in primary care.

CCGs are expected to have regard to national guidance, and are responsible for developing their own local approaches to its implementation taking into account local priorities and needs.

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that Liothyronine (T3) is purchased at a cost in line with other EU countries. [HL13168]

**Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford:** All United Kingdom marketing authorisation holders of liothyronine are obliged to ensure that the product complies with the minimum standard as specified in the updated British Pharmacopoeia monograph for liothyronine tablets. Liothyronine on the market in other European Union Member States may not comply with the updated British Pharmacopoeia monograph and therefore would not be considered therapeutically equivalent.

Liothyronine is an unbranded generic medicine. The Department encourages competition between suppliers of unbranded generic medicines to keep prices down. This generally works well and has led to some of the lowest prices in Europe. Concerns about anti-competitive behaviour are a matter for the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) to investigate.

Liothyronine, marketed by Advanz Pharma (formerly Concordia), is currently the subject of an investigation by the CMA. The CMA has provisionally found that the company abused its dominant position to overcharge the National Health Service by millions of pounds for liothyronine tablets. A provisional decision does not necessarily lead to an infringement decision. Where companies have breached competition law, the Department will seek damages and invest that money back into the NHS.

## Literature: Translation Services

*Asked by The Earl of Clancarty*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to ensure ongoing equivalent funding for literary translation after the current Creative Europe funding scheme comes to an end in 2020. [HL13349]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The UK recognises the importance of such funding programmes to the creative and cultural sectors and is committed to continuing cultural collaboration between the UK and EU. Where possible, we will continue to participate in EU programmes where there is mutual benefit to the UK and the EU. Ultimately, this will be determined as part of the future partnership negotiations.

We will continue to support the arts through our funding of Arts Council England and through programmes such as the Cultural Development Fund, which show our ongoing dedication to supporting our thriving cultural sector.

## Local Government Finance

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government by how much local government funding has been reduced since 2010; and what assessment they have made of the effect on vulnerable communities of such reductions. [HL13242]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Since 2010 there have been changes to the financing and functions of local government, and therefore spending power, the measure of funding available to local authorities, is not directly comparable over this period.

Prior to 2013-14, Formula Grant was non-ring fenced money for local government services. It was funded by central government grant and redistributed business rates. From 2013-14, Settlement Funding Assessment became the way central government provided local authorities with non-ring fenced funding for local government services.

Councils will have had access to over £200 billion over the five-year period 2015-16 to 2019-20, and funding for local government will increase in real-terms next year.

As democratically elected organisations, local authorities are independent of central government and are responsible for managing their budgets in line with local priorities. However, the Government expects local authorities to meet the challenge of making savings, while continuing to provide excellent services to local communities. It is for local authorities to conduct their own impact assessments of local decisions on residents, including vulnerable adults and children.

### Local Government: Borrowing

*Asked by Lord Hollick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the total amount of funding made available to local authorities to acquire commercial properties for investment purposes in each of the financial years since and including 2014-15 in (1) England, (2) Wales, (3) Scotland, and (4) Northern Ireland. [HL13392]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** In England, commercial property investments, like any other asset purchases are categorised as capital expenditure. The decision making process for all capital investment and funding including commercial property investments is devolved to each individual local authority. Central Government sets the framework which local authorities must operate within and it is designed to ensure that the capital expenditure plans of local authorities are affordable, prudent and sustainable.

No direct funding is made available to local authorities for commercial asset acquisitions from Central Government. If a local authority chooses to purchase commercial assets they will have to finance it using one of 3 potential sources. These are:

1. Capital receipts - Statute states that funds generated through the sale of assets must be used for the purchase of future assets or for the repayment of debt

2. Direct revenue transfers - Revenue funds can be used to fund capital expenditure

3. Borrowing - If borrowing is used the local authority must ensure that the amount borrowed is affordable by having regard to statutory guidance. This involves ensuring that all debt servicing costs are funded through available revenue resources.

Local authorities are not required to disclose how they have financed each capital investment, therefore, it is not possible to identify the mix sources that have been used to fund commercial property investments.

As local authority financing is a devolved matter, all questions about commercial property investments by local authorities in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland need to be addressed to the devolved administrations.

### Magistrates' Courts: Closures

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their definition of "reasonable access to alternative courts" in relation to the closure of magistrates' courts. [HL13149]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** HM Courts & Tribunals Service considers several factors when assessing the impact of court closures on access to justice, as set out in our estates principles. These include careful consideration of journey times to alternative courts, the challenges of rural access and the needs of vulnerable users.

The consultation 'Fit for the future: transforming the court and tribunal estate' published in January 2018 set out proposals to update our estates principles to take account of the modernisation of our courts and tribunals. We have carefully considered all responses to the consultation and we will publish our consultation response in due course.

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the current criteria for the closure of magistrates' courts. [HL13150]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** All assessments regarding closures of courts are made against the HMCTS estates principles.

These were included in the Fit for the future: transforming the Court and Tribunal Estate consultation and can be accessed at: <https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/transforming-court-tribunal-estate/>

The closure of any court is not taken lightly and only happens following full public consultation and when communities have reasonable access to alternative courts.

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many proposed closures of magistrates' courts have been withdrawn since 2010 following consultation. [HL13151]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** Since 2010, one magistrates' court closure consultation – Cambridge Magistrates' Court (published January 2018) - has been withdrawn.

Following the receipt of new information regarding the likely proceeds of disposal and consideration of the cost of re-provision, the Lord Chancellor concluded that the value for money case had not been made.

### Midland Main Railway Line: Electrification

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to refresh the business case for electrification of the Midland Main Line now that projected costs are significantly lower. [HL13157]

**Baroness Sugg:** We have no plans to refresh the business case for electrification of the full Midland Main Line, as passenger benefits are being provided through other means, including a new fleet of bi-mode trains, allowing passengers to benefit from new trains sooner. Rapid delivery of value for money passenger benefits whilst minimising disruption will always be our priority, and we will continue to work closely with industry to prioritise schemes that deliver this.

## Nuclear Power

*Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the potential contribution that can be made to civil nuclear power generation in the UK of the development of small modular nuclear reactors. [HL13321]

**Lord Henley:** Diversity in our energy mix provides vital insurance against future uncertainty and in ensuring security of supply can be maintained. As part of this, nuclear power as well as other low carbon power technologies have an important role to play in the UK's energy future as we transition to a low carbon economy.

We regularly compare the impact on electricity system costs of deploying technologies, as well as assessing their impact on energy security, decarbonisation and consumer bills. This includes looking at the benefits smaller reactors can provide to the UK energy mix.

Future updates to the analysis will also include considering the findings of the Expert Finance Working Group which was set up to advise Government on how small reactor projects could raise private investment in the UK, and the outputs from the Advanced Modular Reactor (AMR) R&D Programme of which all 8 participants have now submitted their feasibility studies.

*Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have received on the size, in terms of output, of proposals to design and build small modular nuclear reactors in the UK. [HL13323]

**Lord Henley:** Since 2015, the Government has engaged with over 30 small and advanced reactor vendors through initiatives such as the SMR Competition (March 2016 – December 2017) and the ongoing Advanced Modular Reactor (AMR) Feasibility and Development Project.

The sizes of individual reactor modules range from 4MWe – 465 MWe. Many vendors are designing reactors with the intention of multiple modules being deployed together, scaling up the generation output of an installation. This includes proposals for modular reactor power stations with the potential outputs around 1GWe. The reactor technology types range from conventional water-cooled reactors, to 4th generation reactors using novel fuels and coolants, as well as fusion reactor concepts.

*Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proposals they are considering for the provision of power generation in the light of recent discussions on nuclear power generation. [HL13324]

**Lord Henley:** This Government continues to believe that nuclear has an important role to play in the UK's future energy mix, but it must represent good value for taxpayers and consumers. The Wylfa and Moorside projects were not due to be operational until the late 2020s, and there are a range of options for replacing this capacity over that time-frame. Both sites remain potential sites for nuclear new build under the current National Policy Statement, and myself and my officials remain willing to meet with any viable proponents wishing to develop these sites. My rt. hon. Friend the Secretary of State will set out a new approach to financing new nuclear in the planned energy White Paper in due course.

## Overseas Aid

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they collect data on Department for International Development allocations by religion; if not, why not; and if not, whether they have considered the consistency of not collecting such data with the obligations under the Equalities Act 2010 in regard to religion. [HL13381]

**Lord Bates:** DFID does not currently identify or record beneficiaries by their religion; however, our Data Disaggregation Action Plan has set out our increased ambitions to increase the level of disaggregated data we collect, report and use, and to work with the United Nations and others to improve data collection and disaggregation at a global level. Our short-term focus remains on four disaggregates (sex, age, disability status and geography) in the first instance to help us reorient our approach and raise our ambition whilst we work with others in the international system to find and develop tools, methods and guidance on further disaggregation variables.

The UK is firmly committed to ensuring aid reaches the most vulnerable, including those from religious minorities, where they constitute part of that category. In line with the Equality Act 2010, DFID operates by the humanitarian principles of neutrality and impartiality which aim to ensure that no one is excluded or discriminated against on the grounds of race, ethnicity, or religion; and to also ensure that the specific risks facing religious minorities are addressed and that assistance reaches those who need it most.

## Overseas Students: EU Nationals

*Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that nationals of other EU member

states who no longer reside or work in the UK make their student loan repayments. [HL13201]

**Viscount Younger of Leckie:** The terms and conditions of repayment of student loans are set out by the Education (Student Loans) (Repayment) Regulations 2009 (as amended). These regulations make provision for repayment for borrowers resident both in the UK and overseas, including the EU.

The Department for Education continues to work closely with the Student Loans Company (SLC) to ensure a robust overseas repayment strategy. The SLC has arrangements in place to collect repayments from borrowers who move away from the UK and establishes a repayment schedule based on the borrower's income and provides information on the methods of repayment available.

If borrowers based overseas fail to remain in contact with the SLC, the SLC will set up a fixed repayment schedule and place those borrowers in arrears. Borrowers with post-2012 loans who have not remained in contact with the SLC are charged the maximum interest rate of RPI+3% until they get back in touch. Further action, including legal action, can then be taken to secure recovery.

*Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many nationals of other EU member states with student loans outstanding are currently uncontactable; and what estimate they have made of the amount of outstanding loans owed by such people. [HL13202]

**Viscount Younger of Leckie:** The Student Loans Company (SLC) administers student loans for each of the UK government administrations. The information is not held in the requested format, however the SLC publishes data on the number of EU nationals who have been placed in arrears, as they have not provided details of their income. Around 9,600 EU borrowers had not provided details of their income and had been placed in arrears as at 31 April 2018.

Statistics covering loan repayments are published annually by the SLC for each UK government administration as part of the 'Debt and repayment statistics for England 2017-18'. More detailed information on the repayment statuses of home and EU domiciled borrowers, who are liable for repayment, can be found in tables 3A and 3B of the statistics publication (attached).

The Answer includes the following attached material:

hl13202\_Debt\_and\_repayment\_statistics  
[HL13202\_Debt\_and\_repayment\_statistics\_for\_England\_2017-18.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-29/HL13202>

## Palace of Westminster: Paintings

*Asked by Lord Trefgarne*

To ask the Senior Deputy Speaker when the restoration works on the two large Maclise paintings in the Royal Gallery will be completed. [HL13426]

**Lord Laming:** The Senior Deputy Speaker has asked me, as Chairman of the Services Committee, to respond on his behalf. The conservation of the wall paintings 'Trafalgar' and 'Waterloo' will be completed this year. Phase 3 of the programme is currently underway (4-22 Feb inclusive), and subject to permissions, Phase 4 (final phase) will be booked for October 2019 and will complete the conservation treatment. Discussions are ongoing regarding possible future work on adjustments to the lighting of the wall paintings to further improve their presentation.

## Palestinians: Water

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to provide financial support to the water and sewage projects in the West Bank and Gaza Strip that were previously funded by the government of the United States; and if so, what will be the nature of any such support. [HL13265]

**Lord Bates:** DFID is concerned about the withdrawal of US aid funding from the water sector in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs). The shortage of clean water and adequate waste water treatment facilities across the OPTs drives down living standards, poses health and environmental risks, and is a significant barrier to economic growth. However, the UK is not in a position to redirect funding to projects formerly funded by the US.

The UK has already committed to supporting the Palestinian water sector, through DFID's Supporting Economic Empowerment and Development in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (SEED OPTs) programme. UK aid will help reform the water sector and co-finance critical water infrastructure to increase the supply and access of clean water across the OPTs. This includes upgrading Gaza's water carrier network to support the planned Gaza Central Desalination Plant which, once operational, will produce 55 billion litres of safe drinking water annually, benefiting all Gazans.

## Palliative Care

*Asked by Lord Warner*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much the NHS in England has spent in real terms on palliative care in each of the last ten years for which information is available. [HL13188]

*Asked by Lord Warner*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the NHS Constitution entitles people in England to receive

palliative care under the NHS; and who is responsible for ensuring information is available to patients receiving palliative care. [HL13189]

*Asked by Lord Warner*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many beds are available in (1) NHS hospitals, and (2) voluntary sector hospices in England at the latest date for which information is available. [HL13191]

**Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford:** Much of the palliative care patients receive will be provided either in outpatient or community settings, by nurses, community teams or general practitioners as part of general NHS services provision, rather than as an identified palliative care service. In such services, data are either not available or do not identify palliative treatment. In addition, social and voluntary sector organisations can provide additional support to patients at the end of life. Therefore, figures for the total cost of palliative care is not available. Furthermore, the commissioning and configuration of National Health Service palliative care services are a local matter and the Department holds no data on the number of beds available either in hospitals or in hospices.

NHS services include the provision of NHS palliative care. England's NHS Constitution states all patients have the right to be involved in planning and making decisions about their health including end of life care and to be given information and support to enable them to do this.

### Peers: Northern Ireland

*Asked by Lord Maginnis of Drumglass*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Duncan of Springbank on 29 January (HL13010), whether the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland meets Northern Ireland-based peers as a group; if not, why not; and what assessment they have made of the contribution those peers can make using their collective experience of (1) the period since 1994, and (2) the 1998 Belfast Agreement. [HL13230]

**Lord Duncan of Springbank:** The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the whole Ministerial team recognise the huge contribution of this group of Peers. Indeed I have paid tribute to them on the floor of this House so it is a matter of record. The Secretary of State holds meetings to hear views and advice from interested peers and those with experience in NI issues, and will continue to do so. Due to the large volume of engagements that the Secretary of State is obliged to undertake, I, as per my ministerial role, lead on the day to day engagement with peers and therefore regularly meet this group of peers.

### Plants: Research

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to provide open access to the results of plant and seed research. [HL13409]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Government-funded plant and seed research is predominantly commissioned by the Research Councils and Defra. Such research is undertaken by a number of organisations, each of which have different routes for publication.

Since 2005, Research Councils UK have had open access policies that support and provide guidance about publishing on open platforms. This guidance can be found on the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) website. Independent advice commissioned by the Government has reinforced this guidance. Most recently, a report entitled "Open Access to Research 2018; Independent Advice" was published by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in February 2019.

In line with Government policy on transparency, Defra is committed to publishing the reports generated by its research programmes. Final reports from Defra-funded research are quality assured and published on the "Defra Science Search" website.

### Pregnancy: Mental Illness

*Asked by Lord Bird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether perinatal mental illnesses are being adequately identified and treated; whether they have made any assessment of the links between (1) perinatal mental illness and emotional and behavioural problems in children, and (2) perinatal mental illness and intergenerational cycles of poverty; whether, as a result of any such assessment, they intend to take steps to tackle any under-identification of perinatal mental illness; and if so, what steps. [HL13154]

**Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford:** Perinatal mental illness covers a wide range of conditions. Although the Government has made no formal assessment of the links between perinatal mental health and intergenerational poverty, we stated in the Five Year Forward View for Mental Health that if left untreated, it can have significant and long-lasting effects not only on the woman but also on the emotional, social and cognitive development of children.

The Government is committed to improving both the detection and treatment of perinatal mental illness. General practitioners and primary care teams have a crucial role in supporting the identification and treatment of perinatal mental illness, including post-natal depression, and are part of an integrated pathway of services. Support includes monitoring early onset conditions, providing pre-conception counselling and referring women to specialist mental health services, including Improving Access to Psychological Therapies services and specialist perinatal community teams, if necessary.

To date, NHS England and Health Education England has also funded training for over 3,000 staff and professionals in mental health, maternity services and

primary care to better identify and support women with perinatal mental health needs.

We are investing £365 million from 2015/16 to 2020/21 in perinatal mental health services to ensure that by 2020/21 at least 30,000 more women each year are able to access evidence-based specialist mental health care during the perinatal period. This investment is designed to improve access to specialist perinatal mental health services across England, resulting in better outcomes for women and their families.

In addition, the NHS Long Term Plan, includes a commitment for a further 24,000 women to be able to access specialist perinatal mental health care by 2023/24, building on the additional 30,000 women who will access these services each year by 2020/21 under pre-existing plans. Specialist care will also be available from preconception to 24 months after birth, which will provide an extra year of support.

### Prescription Drugs

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what commitments they will make to ensure that the UK's 3.7 million diagnosed diabetics will have access to sufficient stockpiles of medication to avoid potential deaths from diabetic ketoacidosis in the event of a no-deal Brexit. [HL13252]

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they will ensure the supply of radiopharmaceuticals in the event of a no-deal Brexit; and what steps they will take to prevent delays in the treatment of patients with serious conditions. [HL13253]

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to ensure that every prescription for medication can still be redeemed in the event of a no-deal Brexit. [HL13254]

**Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford:** The Department understand that diabetes medicines and medical radiopharmaceuticals are vitally important to many people in this country. Our 'no deal' contingency plans include mitigations for medicines that come to the United Kingdom from or via the European Union or European Economic Area (EEA), including precautionary stockpiling by suppliers and securing alternative shipping routes to ensure the flow of medicines, to ensure that the supply of diabetes medicines, medical radioisotopes and other essential medicines to patients is not disrupted.

In August 2018, the Department wrote to all pharmaceutical companies that supply prescription-only and pharmacy medicines to the UK that come from, or via, the EU/EEA asking them to ensure a minimum of six weeks' additional supply in the UK, over and above existing business-as-usual buffer stocks, by 29 March 2019.

We recognise that certain medicines with short shelf lives, including medical radiopharmaceuticals or medical radioisotopes, cannot be reasonably stockpiled. Where these medicines are imported from the EU or EEA, we have asked that suppliers ensure that they have plans in place in advance plans to air freight these medicines from the EU in the event of a 'no deal' exit.

While the stockpiling medicines and alternative air freight remains a critical part of our 'no deal' medicine supply contingency plans, we are also supplementing these with additional actions.

We are working towards ensuring we have sufficient roll-on, roll-off freight capacity on alternative routes to enable these vital products to continue to move freely in to the UK. Medicines and medical products, including diabetes medicines, will be prioritised on these routes to ensure that the flow of all these products will continue unimpeded after 29 March 2019.

Throughout enacting our plans, we have received very good engagement from industry who share our aims of ensuring that the continuity of supply of medicines and medical products for patients is maintained and able to cope with any potential delays at the border that may arise in the short term in the event of a 'no deal' EU exit.

### Public Procurement Review Service

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Young of Cookham on 22 January (HL12843), how much in interest and compensation was (1) owed, (2) claimed, and (3) paid to those suppliers who received late payments from public bodies following resolution by the Mystery Shopper Service in 2018. [HL13456]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** The Public Procurement Service (PPRS) does not keep a record of the interest claimed on late payments. Interest is claimed by a supplier after a case has been resolved, and not reported back to the PPRS team.

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Young of Cookham on 22 January (HL12843), how many overdue payment cases were reported to the Mystery Shopper Service in 2018; of those, how many were resolved; and of those resolved, how many resulted in successful claims for interest and compensation payments. [HL13457]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** In 2018 there were 75 overdue payment cases reported to the Public Procurement Review Service (PPRS). 58 of these have been resolved, 6 of these are still open and 11 cases were either rejected or collapsed.

The PPRS team does not keep a record of how many suppliers claimed late interest payments.

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance and advice had been provided by the Mystery Shopper Service to small and medium-sized businesses about their statutory entitlement to claim interest and compensation for late payment by public bodies; and what plans they have to provide further guidance and advice via the Public Procurement Review Service. [HL13458]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** The Late Payment Directive guidance explains who is responsible for claiming interest on overdue payments and how interest is calculated. This is published on gov.uk at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/late-payment-directive-user-guide-to-the-recast-directive>

The Public Procurement Review Service (PPRS) refers suppliers to this guidance where appropriate. The supplier will need to initiate the interest payment process with the Contracting Authority. No other advice is provided by PPRS on this and the service is not involved in providing compensation to suppliers.

### **Pupil Exclusions**

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of pupils being suspended from schools for breaching drugs and alcohol rules; what assessment they have made of whether that number has increased since 2010; and if so, what measures they plan to put in place to decrease that number. [HL13243]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** In 2009/10 there were 370 permanent exclusions categorised with the main reason being recorded as 'drug and alcohol related', compared to 565 in 2016/17.

There were 8,765 fixed period exclusions in 2009/10 with the main reason of "drug and alcohol related", compared to 9,075 in 2016/17.

Schools have a statutory power to search for and confiscate prohibited items such as alcohol, and illegal drugs. Where they find other substances, which are not controlled drugs but a teacher believes them to be harmful or detrimental to good order and discipline, these can also be confiscated.

The department has produced the attached advice for schools which makes it clear that school staff can search pupils or their possessions, without consent where there are reasonable grounds to do so. If a pupil refuses to be searched, the school may bar them from the premises.

Ultimately, we support head teachers in using exclusion where this is warranted. It is equally important that the obligations on schools are clear and well understood, to ensure that any exclusion is lawful, reasonable and fair.

The process that head teachers must follow is set out in statutory guidance, which is attached.

In March 2018, the government launched an externally led review of exclusions practice, led by Edward Timpson CBE. The review is exploring how head teachers use exclusion, and why pupils with particular characteristics are more likely to be excluded from school. It is also considering the differences in exclusion rates across primary and secondary schools in England.

The review will report in early 2019. The full terms of reference for the review can be found attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Exclusion\_Statutory\_Guidance  
[Exclusion\_Statutory\_Guidance.pdf]

Review\_of\_School\_Exclusion\_Terms\_of\_Reference  
[Review\_of\_School\_Exclusion\_Terms\_of\_Reference.pdf]

Searching\_Screening\_Confiscation  
[Searching\_screening\_and\_confiscation.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-29/HL13243>

### **Railways**

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what restrictions under current EU regulations there are on (1) passenger, and (2) freight train operators buying and selling train paths. [HL13152]

**Baroness Sugg:** Current EU regulations generally prohibit passenger and freight train operators from buying from and selling to each other train paths allocated by an infrastructure manager. The circumstances are set out in Regulation 19 of the Railways (Access, Management and Licensing of Railway Undertakings) Regulations 2016 (in Great Britain) and Regulation 19 of the Railways Infrastructure (Access, Management and Licensing of Railway Undertakings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 (in Northern Ireland).

### **Railways: Fares**

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect the publication of the report by the Rail Delivery Group on the modernisation of rail fares, following the consultation that closed in autumn 2018. [HL13250]

**Baroness Sugg:** The Rail Delivery Group owns the report on the modernisation of rail fares, which was commissioned and developed independently of the Department. As such, they are responsible for the publication of the report.

### **Road Works**

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance they have issued to local authorities on reducing the

impact of road works on individuals and businesses; and what funding they have made available to support that guidance. [HL13156]

**Baroness Sugg:** Under sections 59 and 60 of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991, highway authorities have a general duty to co-ordinate all street and road works on their networks and statutory undertakers have a general duty to use their best endeavours to co-operate with such actions. A Code of Practice entitled ‘Code of Practice for the Co-ordination of Street Works and Works for Road Purposes and Related Matters’ supports the delivery of these obligations. It can be found at:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/street-works-co-ordination](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/street-works-co-ordination).

The Traffic Management Act 2004 enables highway authorities to manage works proactively on the highway by operating a street works permit scheme, where a permit to undertake works needs to be approved prior to those works taking place. Over 65% of local highway authorities in England operate a permit scheme and the Government has requested that the remaining highway authorities introduce schemes.

The Department is funding the £10m Street Manager project to improve the way that information on works is exchanged and how data is collected and shared. The project will enable better co-ordination and generate data which can be used to inform the public about planned and live works.

### Russia: Cross-Border Cooperation

*Asked by Viscount Waverley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are currently collaborating with the government of Russia on any projects or programmes; and if so, what are those projects or programmes. [HL13314]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The only joint project between the two governments is the UK-Russia Year of Music, which will be delivered by the British Council. The Russian Government is not a partner in any other project activity.

### Ryan Cornelius

*Asked by Lord Clement-Jones*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 12 December 2018 (HL11891), what response they received from the government of the United Arab Emirates about Ryan Cornelius' continued detention. [HL13282]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** As I said in my written answer HL12396 on 4 January, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has sought clarity from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the United Arab Emirates regarding the terms of Mr Ryan Cornelius' continued detention on a number of occasions. We did so again on

24 January. Any response received will be shared with Mr Cornelius' family.

*Asked by Lord Clement-Jones*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 12 December 2018 (HL11891), whether they have raised with the government of the United Arab Emirates (1) the retrospective application of Law 37 to Ryan Cornelius, (2) the principle of double jeopardy following his additional sentence of 20 years in prison, and (3) whether his imprisonment is in breach of the law of the UAE; and if not, why not. [HL13283]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office cannot interfere in another country's processes and must respect their systems, just as we expect them to respect the UK's laws and legal processes.

### Schools: Curriculum

*Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Agnew of Oulton on 17 January (HL Deb, col 323), where the list of "over 3,000 useless subjects" can be found. [HL13318]

*Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Agnew of Oulton on 17 January (HL Deb, col 323), what specialist advice was taken in determining the "over 3,000 useless subjects"; what criteria were used in making that determination; and whether they will publish a full list of the "3000 useless subjects". [HL13319]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** Following a recommendation in Professor Alison Wolf's review of technical education in 2011, the department has made improvements to school performance tables to ensure that they only recognise qualifications that meet stretching quality requirements. As a result, the number of non-GCSE qualifications included in performance tables for 14 to 16 year olds fell from 3,175 in the 2014 tables to 75 in the 2020 tables.

The department assesses qualifications submitted by awarding organisations against published criteria, including requirements for mandatory external assessment and support from employers or from higher education providers. As part of this process, the department seeks advice from independent and expert education advisors when deciding on whether to approve qualifications for inclusion in the technical and applied qualifications performance table lists.

The department publishes the list of those qualifications included in performance tables on an annual basis. The performance table list for 2020, attached, can also be accessed at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-4-qualifications-discount-codes-and-point-scores>.

The department's section 96 list, which is attached, shows all of the qualifications that are approved for teaching to particular age groups and eligible for funding. This list, which can be found on the department's website at the following link: <https://section96.education.gov.uk/>, is a wider list than the list of qualifications included in performance tables as it shows there are 5,338 qualifications approved for funding for 14 to 16 year olds.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL13318\_HL13319\_performance\_table\_list\_for\_2020  
[HL13318\_HL13319\_performance\_table\_list\_for\_2020.xls]

HL13318\_HL13319\_section\_96\_list  
[HL13318\_HL13319\_section\_96\_list.xls]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-31/HL13318>

### Sheikh Ali Salman

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to advocate for the release of Bahraini political opposition leader, Sheikh Ali Salman, following the concern expressed in a statement by the Minister of State for the Middle East on 4 November 2018 and the Bahraini Court of Cassation's decision to uphold his life sentence on 28 January. [HL13338]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The noble Lord has mentioned the Minister for the Middle East's statement on 4 November expressing concerns on the latest sentence. The Minister for the Middle East also raised this with the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to London on 5 November. We continue to raise this case at senior levels with the Government of Bahrain.

### Skipton-Colne Railway Line

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish the feasibility study produced by Steer on (1) the reinstatement of the Colne-Skipton railway line, and (2) other work needed to link the Liverpool Docks to the Yorkshire Coast and Drax. [HL13163]

**Baroness Sugg:** Feasibility work is still in progress. We are now pressing on with further work to make sure that the proposed scheme can be made affordable, will attract sufficient traffic, and is part of the right long-term solution for all Trans-Pennine rail traffic. We will publish when these important issues have been explored and we understand the full picture.

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the scheme for a new freight railway route between Liverpool and Yorkshire, including the reinstatement of the railway between Colne and Skipton, has completed Stage 1 of the Rail Networks Enhancement Pipeline

(RNEP) and is now in Stage 2; and if not, how the work announced by the Secretary of State for Transport on 25 January relates to the RNEP. [HL13164]

**Baroness Sugg:** The study into reinstating the Skipton-Colne rail line as part of a new freight railway route between Liverpool and Yorkshire was only the first step in establishing the feasibility of the project. We are now working to assess further the freight demand and commercial viability of the scheme.

The scheme remains a candidate for subsequent progression to the next 'develop' stage of the Rail Enhancements Pipeline (RNEP) provided the business case is made.

### Social Rented Housing

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the actions of the devolved institutions in the UK in relation to social housing; and what lessons, if any, they have learnt as a result. [HL13223]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My officials hold ongoing constructive discussions with officials from the devolved institutions in relation to social housing and will continue to build on these relationships. This includes discussions held following the publication of the Social Housing Green Paper.

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by Shelter Building for our Future: A vision for social housing, published in January. [HL13225]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** We have noted the report by Shelter's Commissioners and the contribution this has made to the wider conversation around social housing. Our Social Housing Green Paper set out our aims to rebalance the relationship between residents and landlords, tackle stigma and ensure social housing can be both a safety net and a springboard to home ownership.

We are committed to increasing the supply of social housing and have invested over £9 billion into our Affordable Homes Programme to deliver 250,000 affordable homes by 2022, including at least 12,500 for social rent outside of London. A further £2 billion of long term funding has already been committed beyond that as part of a ten year home building programme through to 2028. We're also giving councils extra freedom to build the social homes their communities need and expect. Housing Associations and Local Authorities now need to accelerate delivery and build more affordable homes.

The consultation on our Green Paper, 'A new deal for social housing', closed on 6 November 2018. We are currently analysing responses, along with feedback from the engagement events which we held with social housing residents.

### Social Services

Asked by *Lord Lipsey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to publish their Green Paper on social care. [HL13173]

**Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford:** The Social Care Green Paper remains a priority for this Government and the Department. We will be publishing the Green Paper at the earliest opportunity.

### Surgery: Allergies

Asked by *Baroness Finlay of Llandaff*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of independent healthcare providers who have provided data to the Royal College of Anaesthetists' national audit project on life-threatening allergic reaction during surgery; and what steps, if any, they intend to take to encourage such providers to provide such data. [HL13158]

**Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford:** We have made no assessment of the number of independent healthcare providers who have provided data to the Royal College of Anaesthetists. We encourage transparency and data sharing in the interest of improving care.

Private providers providing National Health Service funded services should meet all of the requirements in respect of information governance that we place on NHS organisations and the quality of services would be monitored through the commissioning contract.

The Paterson Inquiry, which is due to report its conclusions and recommendations in summer 2019, will consider how and when information is shared between the NHS and the independent sector.

### Teachers: Rural Areas

Asked by *Lord Foster of Bath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps were taken to rural proof the Teacher Recruitment and Retention Strategy. [HL13214]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** The Teacher Recruitment and Retention Strategy has been designed to support all schools. The strategy commits to partnering with schools, multi academy trusts, and local authorities in challenging areas to develop local initiatives that support recruitment and retention of teachers. The department is exploring how this could be developed to benefit different communities, including those in rural areas. As we design key reforms, such as the early career framework, we will ensure they meet the needs of all schools, including rural schools.

### Turkey: Political Prisoners

Asked by *Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the call by 50 Nobel prize winners for the ending of the isolation of Abdullah Öcalan and other political prisoners in Turkey; and whether they plan to raise the matter in the Council of Europe and with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. [HL13171]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We are aware of the statement endorsed by 50 Nobel Prize winners in regard to the conditions of Abdullah Öcalan. Embassy officials in Ankara discussed the issue of Abdullah Öcalan's prison conditions with Turkish officials in mid-January. We regularly discuss such issues with European and other like-minded partners.

### UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Asked by *Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made on the design and implementation of their proposed Shared Prosperity Fund. [HL13363]

Asked by *Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to consult on the design and implementation of their proposed Shared Prosperity Fund; and whether the consultation will include the option of allocating the fund on the basis of need rather than population. [HL13364]

Asked by *Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the implementation of their proposed Shared Prosperity Fund will require primary legislation. [HL13365]

Asked by *Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they will take to implement their proposed Shared Prosperity Fund in the event of a no-deal Brexit. [HL13366]

Asked by *Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, when designing and implementing their proposed Shared Prosperity Fund, they intend to (1) match, or (2) exceed the current level of EU Structural Funds allocated to the UK. [HL13368]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The government has made great progress on the development of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), work is continuing across government on the design, priorities and quantum of the fund and final decisions will be made at Spending

Review. The UKSPF will tackle inequalities between communities by raising productivity, especially in those parts of our country whose economies are furthest behind.

Over the past year we have held 25 engagement events across the UK with representatives from a breadth of sectors, in order to aid policy development. We intend to publish the public consultation on the UKSPF shortly, which will provide an opportunity for all interested parties to contribute their views.

We know that places require certainty of funding after we leave the European Union. The draft Withdrawal Agreement guarantees the UK will continue to take part in the 2014-2020 EU programmes until they end. Whilst the government remains committed to securing a good deal on exiting the European Union, we continue to plan for all scenarios, including a no deal. In a no deal scenario the government has guaranteed the full EU 2014-20 programme.

### Universities: Admissions

*Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unconditional offers have been made by universities to school and college leavers in each year since 2010; and in each of those years, what percentage of total offers were unconditional. [HL13147]

*Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which universities allocated places to applicants on an unconditional basis in each year since 2010; and for each of those universities, what percentage of total offers were unconditional in each of those years. [HL13148]

**Viscount Younger of Leckie:** Applicants to full-time undergraduate degrees apply through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). UCAS have published data on the number of unconditional offers and the proportion of offers made that were unconditional since 2010. The data covers offers made to 18 year olds from England, Northern Ireland and Wales.

The table shows the number of unconditional offers made and the proportion of offers made that were unconditional to 18 year old applicants from England, Northern Ireland, and Wales.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of unconditional offers</i>	<i>Proportion of offers made that were unconditional</i>
2010	5,105	0.6%
2011	3,355	0.4%
2012	2,605	0.3%
2013	2,985	0.4%
2014	12,115	1.4%
2015	23,410	2.5%

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of unconditional offers</i>	<i>Proportion of offers made that were unconditional</i>
2016	36,825	3.9%
2017	51,615	5.3%
2018	67,915	7.1%

Source: UCAS End of Cycle reports 2017 and 2018:

<https://www.ucas.com/file/196151/download?token=jzRAy4kS>.

<https://www.ucas.com/file/140406/download?token=pfzLAKRe>.

Notes

i) UCAS defines an unconditional offer as a provider decision to grant a place to an applicant that is not subject to the applicant satisfying academic and/or other criteria. A conditional unconditional offer is an offer made by a provider which was originally conditional, but becomes unconditional if the applicant selects that offer as their firm (first) choice. By definition, conditional unconditional offers that are selected as a firm choice by the applicant become unconditional and are also included in the unconditional offers group. Offer with an unconditional component are defined as an offers showing as having an element of unconditional offer-making, that is, unconditional offers plus conditional unconditional offers that have not been selected as firm (and hence remain conditional unconditional).

ii) Figures provided in the table are based on the offer status at the 30 June application deadline.

iii) Data on conditional unconditional offers, and offers that had an unconditional component have not been included in the table due to data not being published prior to 2013.

Information regarding which universities allocated places to applicants on an unconditional basis and for each of those universities, what percentage of total offers were unconditional in each of those years is not held centrally.

However, on 31 January UCAS published data on unconditional offers by each provider for the first time as part of their 2018 End of Cycle data releases. For each provider, UCAS have published data on the number and proportion of offers that were unconditional, conditional unconditional, and offers that had an unconditional component since 2013. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.ucas.com/data-and-analysis/undergraduate-statistics-and-reports/ucas-undergraduate-end-cycle-reports/2018-ucas-undergraduate-unconditional-offer-making-provider-reports> – then select ‘Individual 2018 provider level unconditional offer-making CSVs’.

The government are concerned by the increase in unconditional offers, and have asked the higher education (HE) regulator, the Office for Students (OfS), to monitor and review how they are being used by HE providers. Where institutions cannot justify the rising numbers being offered we have made clear to the OfS that they should use the full range of powers at their disposal to take action.

### **Universities: Ethnic Groups**

*Asked by Lord Boateng*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what role the Office for Students will play in monitoring the performance of universities in reducing ethnic inequalities in university academic staffing; and what plans they have to require universities to address such inequalities. [HL13346]

**Viscount Younger of Leckie:** The government and the Office for Students (OfS) are focused on addressing inequalities in higher education. Government consulted on the publication of data on senior staff remuneration, including in relation to gender and ethnicity. The OfS retains the power to require the disclosure of such information through its accounts direction.

Higher education institutions are independent and responsible for decisions about who they employ. Universities, like every employer, must ensure they meet their obligations under the Equality Act 2010. On February 1, the government announced measures to tackle ethnic disparities in higher education including encouraging higher education providers to make use of tools such as the Race at Work Charter and the Race Equality Charter to drive forward a step-change in the recruitment and progression of ethnic minority employees.

The government has also consulted on ethnicity pay reporting in order to inform future government policy.

*Asked by Lord Boateng*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the low numbers of university academics and staff from black and minority

ethnic backgrounds on the attainment of black and minority ethnic students. [HL13347]

**Viscount Younger of Leckie:** Higher education institutions are independent and responsible for decisions about who they employ. Universities, like every employer, must ensure they meet their obligations under the Equality Act 2010. Through the Race Disparity Audit, my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister set out her expectation that more must be done to create a workforce that is representative of British society today. On 1 February, the government launched measures to drive change in tackling inequalities between ethnic groups in higher education.

Equality and Diversity in higher education is a priority for government and the Office for Students (OfS). The OfS will use Access and Participation Plans to hold higher education providers to account for disparities in access and attainment of black and ethnic minority students.

This year, for the first time, registered higher education providers will be required to publish data on measures including attainment broken down by ethnicity, gender and socio-economic groups. This will increase transparency on attainment gaps for ethnic minority students, shining a light on those providers that are not performing well.

### **Young Offenders: Females**

*Asked by Lord Bradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many girls under 18 are currently in custody in (1) secure training centres, and (2) secure children's homes in England. [HL13155]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** There are a total of 22 girls under the age of 18 across the youth estate in England. Fourteen of these children are held in Secure Training Centres and the remaining eight are residing at Secure Children's Homes.

These figures are from the most recent published Youth Custody Report for November 2018, published on gov.uk at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-custody-data>

## Index to Statements and Answers

<b>Written Statements.....1</b>	
Aggregates Levy Review .....1	Internet: Self-harm..... 11
Competitiveness Pre-Council Statement .....1	Israel: Gaza ..... 11
Immigration .....1	Israel: Palestinians ..... 11
Informal Foreign Affairs Council.....2	Israel: West Bank..... 11
Integrated Communities .....2	Israeli Settlements: Palestinians ..... 12
Members' Consultation on the Implementation of the Independent Complaints and Grievance Scheme .....3	Italy: Asylum ..... 12
Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein: EEA-EFTA Citizens' Rights .....3	Japan: Whales ..... 12
Private Pensions .....3	Jerusalem: Palestinians ..... 12
Review of Drugs: Appointment.....4	Jerusalem: Schools ..... 12
Rough Sleeping .....4	Liothyronine ..... 13
<b>Written Answers.....6</b>	Literature: Translation Services..... 13
Abdul Raouf Salha .....6	Local Government Finance..... 13
Animal Welfare: Sentencing .....6	Local Government: Borrowing..... 14
Antisocial Behaviour .....6	Magistrates' Courts: Closures ..... 14
Asylum .....6	Midland Main Railway Line: Electrification..... 14
Childbirth: Incontinence .....6	Nuclear Power ..... 15
China: Ethnic Groups .....6	Overseas Aid..... 15
Contraceptives .....7	Overseas Students: EU Nationals ..... 15
Display Energy Certificates.....7	Palace of Westminster: Paintings ..... 16
Double Taxation: Israel .....7	Palestinians: Water ..... 16
Electronic Publishing: VAT .....8	Palliative Care..... 16
EU Nationals: Immigration .....8	Peers: Northern Ireland..... 17
Fly-tipping: Prosecutions.....8	Plants: Research..... 17
Food: Shortages .....9	Pregnancy: Mental Illness..... 17
Gaza: Demonstrations .....9	Prescription Drugs ..... 18
Gaza: Hospitals.....9	Public Procurement Review Service ..... 18
Genetics .....10	Pupil Exclusions ..... 19
Giulio Regeni .....10	Railways ..... 19
Grenfell Tower: Fires .....10	Railways: Fares..... 19
High Rise Flats: Fire Prevention .....10	Road Works ..... 19
Holiday Accommodation: Greater Manchester ..10	Russia: Cross Border Cooperation..... 20
Hospitals: Private Sector .....11	Ryan Cornelius ..... 20
	Schools: Curriculum..... 20
	Sheikh Ali Salman ..... 21
	Skipton-Colne Railway Line ..... 21
	Social Rented Housing ..... 21

## Index to Statements and Answers

Social Services .....	22
Surgery: Allergies.....	22
Teachers: Rural Areas .....	22
Turkey: Political Prisoners .....	22
UK Shared Prosperity Fund.....	22
Universities: Admissions.....	23
Universities: Ethnic Groups .....	24
Young Offenders: Females.....	24