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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

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Written Statements

Thursday, 14 February 2019

Building Safety

[HLWS1300]

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.

Since the discovery that a Glass-Reinforced Plastic (GRP) composite fire door from Grenfell Tower marketed as meeting a 30 minute standard failed a test after approximately 15 minutes, Government has led a programme of work to investigate fire door performance across the market in the interest of public safety and reassurance. Today I am updating the House on actions taken.

Following consultation with representatives from the Metropolitan Police, the Government's Chief Scientific Advisors and the National Fire Chiefs' Council, Government's independent Expert Panel advised that, whilst the overall risk to public safety was low, further investigations should be undertaken into other GRP composite fire door manufacturers.

During testing, a sample of GRP composite fire doors from 9 manufacturers failed to meet the required fire performance standard. The sample of fire doors failed for a range of reasons including but not restricted to performance at the glazing unit, letter box and the door frame. There was some evidence of over reliance on written assessments being used in lieu of primary tests for significant changes in hardware and ironmongery, and for the reverse side of the door. These findings clearly indicated broader failings within the industry. Government therefore took further urgent action.

My department wrote to all building control bodies highlighting the need to check that existing building regulations guidance on new GRP composite fire door installations is followed. The guidance sets out the tests which should be performed – including testing on both sides of the door - to meet building regulation requirements.

My department also notified Trading Standards of the test results and local Trading Standards are working with the individual companies concerned.

On 28 July I instructed major GRP composite fire door manufacturers to meet urgently to agree actions to tackle the failings which have been identified. As a result, the following actions have been taken:

- In August 2018 the three companies providing GRP composite fire door blanks in the UK agreed to stop production and sale of any door blanks with immediate effect. This stopped any new GRP composite fire doors from entering the market;

- In August the Association of Composite Door Manufacturers (ACDM) further agreed that all GRP

composite fire doors sold from their members would be removed from the market until they could demonstrate meeting the required standard. This stopped any fire doors from ACDM members already in production leaving factories;

- In August the ACDM established a collaborative testing programme to facilitate manufacturers bringing quality product meeting the required standard back to market. The ACDM provided assurance that all products brought back to market will have the required furnace test report for both sides of the door before being sold.

- The ACDM also agreed that all members of the ACDM will be required to sign up to a third party accreditation scheme carrying out additional checks on their fire doors to drive up quality across the market;

- All GRP composite manufacturers with a failed test are consulting their customers to establish an effective new building safety risk assessment. At least one manufacturer have gone beyond this providing a dedicated telephone helpline for their customers and offering meetings to help customers understand the situation;

- The ACDM is working on an industry-led plan for repair and replacement of affected doors. The ACDM is working closely with my department on their plan to ensure it can be published by industry as soon as possible.

As well as work to encourage industry action, my department has liaised closely with social housing building owners to ensure that they have been kept up to date with the fire doors investigation. To facilitate this, it has established a mechanism for local authorities and housing associations confidentially to share test results from fire door testing to inform building risk assessments and support our investigation.

Manse Masterdor, the manufacturers of the door from Grenfell Tower, went into administration in November 2014 and is therefore not part of the wider industry action outlined above. My department have been working closely with local authorities and housing associations with Manse Masterdor GRP composite fire doors in their buildings regarding replacement of these doors.

In parallel, the Expert Panel has issued guidance for building owners looking to fit or replace fire doors, which can be found on the Building Safety Programme website. The summary results of the GRP composite tests to inform building risk assessment are also now available on the Building Safety Programme website.

I can confirm that the Expert Panel advice remains unchanged and the risk to public safety remains low as even when not meeting full resistance standards fire doors will provide some protection from the spread of fire and are part of a layered fire protection systems within buildings.

The National Fire Chiefs Council continue to advise that, in the event of a fire, people should follow existing fire procedures for the building. Residents should also test their smoke alarms regularly to ensure they work and ensure that their flat front door is fitted with a working

self-closing device. All doors provide some essential protection in a fire if they are properly closed.

I want to reassure Honourable Members that my department is doing all it can as quickly as possible to properly investigate these issues and to make sure that where needed appropriate action will be taken.

On the advice of the Expert Panel, investigations are on-going into the timber fire door industry. Public safety is paramount and I will continue to keep the House updated.

Contingencies Fund Advance

[HLWS1301]

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

"The Ministry of Justice requires an advance to discharge its commitments which are set out in its Supplementary Estimate 2018-19, laid before Parliament on February 11th 2019.

The Ministry of Justice has sought a repayable cash advance from the Contingencies Fund of £840,000,000. Parliamentary approval for additional resources of £840,000,000 will be sought in a Supplementary Estimate for the Ministry of Justice. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £840,000,000 will be met by repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund.

The advance will be repaid upon Royal Assent of the Supply and Appropriation (Anticipation and Adjustments) Bill."

Ebola Response

[HLWS1303]

Lord Bates: My Rt Hon Friend, the Secretary of State for International Development, has today made the following statement:

Six months on from its formal declaration, the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) remains challenging to contain. I am updating the House on how the UK Government is continuing to support the response in DRC, and preparedness in neighbouring countries.

Since my Hon Friend the Minister of Africa's statement on 20 November, elections have taken place in the DRC and a new President inaugurated. Disruption over the election period hindered response activities; as a result, there has been an increase in the number of new Ebola cases reported this year.

As of 12th February, there were 823 confirmed and probable cases. Of these, 517 people have died and 280 recovered. The response, ably led by the DRC authorities with international support directed by the World Health Organisation, has continued to expand and adapt. Approximately 7,000 contacts are currently under surveillance. The experimental vaccine, developed with UK aid following the 2014 West Africa outbreak, has

been administered to over 78,000 people in DRC, including 21,000 health and frontline workers and 16,000 children. Let me pay tribute to all the DRC health workers and international experts who are dealing with this outbreak in very challenging circumstances.

Geographical shifts in the outbreak are testing the capacity of the response. As more health zones are affected and cases move further south, there is an increased likelihood of an outbreak in Goma, the provincial capital on the border with Rwanda. Preparedness work has been underway in Goma, including setting up case surveillance, an Ebola treatment centre and a laboratory.

The DRC government has just released its third Strategic Response Plan, which sets out plans for the next six months. It is quite possible that it will take longer for this outbreak to be fully contained. The UK is supporting the response through both funding and expertise. At the request of the DRC Government I am not announcing specific funding figures, to avoid putting first-line responders at further risk of attack. But let me restate that it is in our national interest to find ways of building resilience to such deadly diseases, preventing their international spread and saving lives. The UK has supported the response since the very start and will continue to do so for as long as it takes to curb the outbreak.

The critical challenge now is to break the chain of transmission in DRC. That means redoubling contact tracing; training and supporting health workers in infection prevention control; continuing the vaccination effort; and working with local communities so they can spot symptoms, report them and seek treatment. WHO is doing a good job in difficult circumstances to lead the international response. It has over 500 people deployed to DRC and is working closely with other parts of the UN system and with international NGOs including MSF, ALIMA and Oxfam to help the people of DRC tackle this deadly disease. Key areas we would like to see strengthened in the international response include leadership, co-ordination and analysis.

This will require sustained support. To date, the UK is one of the largest bilateral donors to the Ebola response in DRC and for regional preparedness efforts in Uganda, Rwanda and South Sudan. Others must now step up and I will be urging our international partners to do so.

In addition to funding, the UK has supported preparations for clinical trials of new therapeutic drugs which have started in Beni. The UK Public Health Rapid Support Team has played a major part in making this work possible. Technical experts have been deployed to eastern DRC, including two senior epidemiologists, a data scientist and a clinical trials specialist.

UK aid has provided WHO with six armoured vehicles to facilitate response work in such insecure operating environments. We are also backing efforts to understand and address the social and cultural dimensions of the outbreak, which in turn supports key interventions such as

ensuring that burials in affected areas are conducted in a safe and dignified way.

There remains a significant risk of transmission to neighbouring countries and measures are being taken to prepare. For example, in Uganda, closest to the current outbreak, the government has already vaccinated over 3,500 health workers in high priority districts. Community sensitisation is also taking place.

In Rwanda, the UK is backing the government's preparedness plans, including the training of health care workers, vaccination planning and the screening of more than 24 million people at Rwanda's borders.

In South Sudan, UK support has led to the installation of an Ebola screening facility at Juba international airport. So far, over one million people at land and air borders have been screened. We are also helping to procure ambulances and sanitation equipment for isolation facilities.

The risk of Ebola to the UK population remains very low. Public Health England continues to monitor the situation daily and review the risk assessment on a two-weekly basis.

The UK is fully committed to containing this outbreak and to our longer-term efforts to combat deadly diseases in sub-Saharan Africa.

Foreign Affairs Council, February 2019

[HLWS1299]

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 will attend the Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) on 18 February. It will be chaired by the High Representative of the European Union (EU) for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HRVP), Federica Mogherini and will take place in Brussels.

Ukraine

Ministers will discuss the EU's response to the Russian attack on Ukrainian vessels in the Black Sea and look ahead to what is likely to be a challenging election year for Ukraine. Ministers will take stock of Ukraine's reform efforts and consider how the EU can provide socio-economic support to the Sea of Azov region. The UK will welcome the EU's readiness to provide economic and humanitarian support to those regions most affected by the ongoing conflict. It will also reiterate the need for a collective and high profile response to Russia's malign influence in Ukraine.

Syria

This discussion will focus on preparations for the upcoming Brussels III conference, 'Supporting the future of Syria and the region', taking place on 13-14 March. The conference will aim to improve humanitarian access

and the protection of civilians in Syria, as well as mobilise humanitarian assistance, including for refugee-hosting countries.

Horn of Africa

Ministers will discuss the political and security situation in the Horn of Africa, including changing regional dynamics following reconciliation between Ethiopia and Eritrea. The UK supports the EU proposal to review future engagement. The Council will also discuss mutual concerns about the Sudanese government's use of violent tactics in response to protests, and the need for wider reforms; as well as the political situation in Somalia, where the EU is urging the Somali government to translate its commitment to progress into tangible results

Council Conclusions

The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on Yemen, EU Human Rights Guidelines on Non-Discrimination in External Action, EU Priorities in UN Human Rights Fora in 2019, climate change diplomacy and in response to the recent European Court of Auditors report on the implementation of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey (FRiT).

General Affairs Council, February 2019

[HLWS1297]

Lord Callanan: I will attend the General Affairs Council in Brussels on 19 February 2019 to represent the UK. Until we leave the European Union, we remain committed to fulfilling our rights and obligations as a full member.

The provisional agenda includes:

Multiannual Financial Framework 2021 - 2027

Ministers and the Commission will discuss progress on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) negotiations with the Presidency.

Preparation of the European Council 21-22 March 2019: Annotated Draft Agenda

The Council will discuss the draft agenda for the March European Council. It is expected to include: Jobs, Growth and Competitiveness; Climate Change; and External Relations.

Towards a sustainable Europe 2030

In January 2019 the Commission released a reflection paper as part of its 2019 Work Programme titled "Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030, on the follow-up to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including on the Paris Agreement on Climate Change". Ministers will discuss this paper ahead of the Sibiu Summit in May, where issues relating to Europe's future will be discussed.

Values of the Union - Hungary / Article 7(1) TEU Reasoned Proposal

Ministers will discuss the Article 7(1) procedure in relation to Hungary.

Rule of Law in Poland / Article 7 (1) TEU Reasoned Proposal

The Commission will provide Ministers with an update on the rule of law in Poland.

Intelligence Oversight

[HLWS1304]

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

On 22 November 2018, the Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament published two reports: its 2017-18 Annual Report; and its report into the terror attacks in 2017, titled 'The 2017 Attacks: What Needs to Change?'. Our thoughts remain with the victims and all those affected by the 2017 attacks in Westminster, Manchester, London Bridge, Finsbury Park and Parsons Green.

Today, the Government is publishing its response to each of these reports. I am separately providing to the ISC a closed response to the redacted recommendations in the 2017 attacks report. I remain grateful to the Intelligence and Security Committee for its continued independent oversight and scrutiny.

Copies of the Government responses have been laid before both Houses.

Justice and Home Affairs Post-Council Statement

[HLWS1302]

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

"The first meeting of EU Interior and Justice Ministers during the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU took place on 7 and 8 February 2019 in Bucharest. The Immigration Minister represented the UK on Interior day. I represented the UK on Justice day.

Interior day focused on counter-terrorism, policing co-operation, the Schengen area, and migration and asylum.

Interior day began with a discussion on the European Parliament's report on the EU's approach to Counter-terrorism. The Immigration Minister welcomed the European Parliament's report in general, and emphasised areas - such as counter-radicalisation, tackling terrorist content online, addressing issues relating to returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters, and Aviation Security - where the UK considers that continued European cooperation is vital in the fight against terrorism. The Immigration Minister also welcomed the Committee's call for close co-operation with the UK after Brexit. A number of Member States agreed, urging immediate Commission and Member State action to prepare contingency plans in case of no-deal, including a mechanism of continued information exchange. Some Member States also noted that Member States retained competence for national security, and noted concern about expanding the

competence of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) at this time.

The policing discussion focused on mechanisms to share experience and expertise on gathering and analysing digital data. The Immigration Minister intervened to support proposals to explore developing means of identifying and sharing best practice on the recovery and analysis of digital information, during the course of the prevention and investigation of criminal activity. Most Member States also supported this work, and were keen for Europol to have a central role.

Over lunch and in the afternoon session, Ministers discussed the functioning of the Schengen border free zone, in the context of some Member States retaining internal borders, and wider migration and asylum issues. As the UK does not participate in the border free zone, the Immigration Minister did not intervene on the Schengen border discussion. There was discussion about the necessity of Schengen internal border controls. Ministers also discussed but did not agree on the possibility of a temporary redistribution mechanism pending reform of the Dublin asylum system.

Justice day began with a discussion on the future of civil judicial cooperation in the EU. The debate marked the twentieth anniversary of the Amsterdam Treaty and of the adoption of the Tampere Programme. Ministers reaffirmed the need to focus on the proper implementation of existing legislation before considering new measures. I emphasised the importance of a future relationship with the EU in this area.

There then followed a lunchtime discussion on gathering electronic evidence in criminal matters. Ministers discussed the mandates for negotiations to establish an agreement on access to electronic evidence (e-evidence) with the US, and with contracting parties to the Budapest Convention. I updated Ministers on progress towards an UK-US agreement under the US CLOUD Act.

Justice day ended with a discussion on the future of judicial cooperation in criminal matters in the EU. Ministers again emphasised the importance of proper implementation of legislation, and ensuring the current acquis works effectively."

Leaving the EU: Nuclear Energy Policy

[HLWS1298]

Lord Henley: My Rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (Greg Clark), has today made the following statement:

Government continues to make progress in putting in place all the necessary measures to ensure that the UK can operate as an independent and responsible nuclear state upon the UK's withdrawal from Euratom and the European Union.

The UK has now concluded all replacement international agreements required to ensure continuity for civil nuclear trade following Exit Day. These include new Nuclear Cooperation Agreements (NCAs) with Australia,

Canada and the US, and Voluntary Offer Agreement and Additional Protocol safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). All of these have passed in Parliament on 19 December.

In addition to the new bilateral NCAs described above, the UK has an existing bilateral NCA with Japan which has been in place since 1998. This agreement will remain in force following the UK's withdrawal from the EU. The UK and Japan are holding formal negotiations to put in place arrangements to reflect the UK's future safeguards arrangements, with both sides confident that appropriate arrangements will be in place for March 2019 if required.

Significant progress has been made in the setting up of a domestic nuclear safeguards regime. Government's new Domestic Safeguards Regulations are now on track to commence on Exit Day, having been debated and passed by both Houses of Parliament as of 22 January 2019.

In addition, the State System of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Material (SSAC) has commenced parallel running alongside Euratom, processing and checking reports received from industry through the Safeguards Information Management and Reporting System (SIMRS) IT system and producing the declarations required to enable the UK to meet its

international obligations. This will provide the opportunity to identify and make any necessary adjustments before 29 March 2019.

Working closely with industry, Government has been putting in place measures to address the issues that may affect the civil nuclear sector in any exit scenario. This includes laying all the necessary Statutory Instruments (SIs) required for any exit scenario, to minimise civil nuclear business disruption and ensure health and safety standards remain robust. The SIs will also ensure that no inoperabilities are retained in domestic law following the UK's departure from the Euratom Treaty.

Today I will be depositing a report in the libraries of both Houses that sets out further details on the overall progress on the Government's implementation of its Euratom Exit strategy, including EU negotiations, domestic operational readiness, legislation and international agreements. The report covers the three-month reporting period from 26th September to 26th December and is the second statutory report under Section 3(4) of the Nuclear Safeguards Act 2018. The next report on Euratom Exit progress is due to be deposited after the start of May 2019.

Written Answers

Thursday, 14 February 2019

Asylum: Children in Care

Asked by *Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that local authorities do not take a disproportionate number of unaccompanied asylum-seekers who are minors. [HL13372]

Asked by *Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what financial support they give to local authorities who are responsible for unaccompanied asylum-seekers who are minors. [HL13373]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The National Transfer Scheme was launched on 1 July 2016 and has been working to ensure a fairer allocation of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) across the UK. A significant number of local authorities have participated in the scheme and enabled the transfer of children away from local authorities with a disproportionate number of UASC in their care.

Since it was launched in July 2016, more than 700 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children have been transferred via the NTS. This is a significant achievement which has seen many local authorities offer placements for children whose best interests are served by transferring to another local authority. The pace and number of transfers has slowed. We will continue to engage with local authorities across the country to encourage further offers and consider options in how best to share the burden.

The government provides funding to local authorities as a contribution to-wards the costs incurred in supporting unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) and young care leavers who were UASC.

For unaccompanied children arriving from 1 July 2016, local authorities can claim £114 per day for those children aged under 16 and £91 per day for those children aged 16 or 17. More information on the funding available to local authorities supporting UASC and former UASC care leavers can be found in the funding instructions published at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children-uasc-grant-instructions>

Burma: Peace Negotiations

Asked by *Baroness Nye*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what financial support they have provided for the peace process in Burma in the current financial year, broken down by each organisation that has received funding, directly or indirectly. [HL13532]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: To date in this current financial year the UK has provided £3,003,398 to support the peace process and wider peacebuilding in Burma. This comprises £1.9 million from the Department for International Development to the Paung Sie Facility which is implemented by the Nordic International Support Foundation to support inter-communal harmony; £383,398 from the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) to Inter Mediate; and £720,000 from CSSF to the Joint Peace Fund whose 11 donors provide funding for the Joint Monitoring Committee for monitoring the 2015 ceasefire agreement and over 30 other peace process-focused projects.

Cannabis: Medical Treatments

Asked by *Lord Wasserman*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applications for licences to cultivate cannabis for medicinal purposes in the UK they have received since 1 January 2016. [HL13376]

Asked by *Lord Wasserman*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many licences for the cultivation of cannabis for medicinal purposes they have (1) granted, and (2) refused since 1 January 2016. [HL13377]

Asked by *Lord Wasserman*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which applicants have been granted a licence to cultivate cannabis for medicinal purposes in the UK since 1 January 2016. [HL13378]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: No licences have been issued to cultivate cannabis for medicinal purposes. Licences are issued to cultivate High THC cannabis for research and/or the extraction of cannabinoids.

Civil Proceedings: Judgements

Asked by *Baroness Quin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with (1) the Bar Council, (2) the Law Society, and (3) other interested organisations about the impact of Brexit on the cross-border enforcement of civil judgments. [HL13337]

Lord Keen of Elie: The Government has engaged regularly with the Law Society, the Bar Council and other interested representatives of the legal profession since the referendum about the impact of Brexit on all aspects of civil judicial cooperation, including the cross-border enforceability of judgments. This has included regular Ministerial meetings and senior official conversations and attending a variety of roundtables and events.

In addition, the Department asked the sector to lead a dedicated group, the Brexit Law Committee, to provide a forum through which the Government and the legal and business sectors could discuss legal and commercial

issues arising out of EU exit. This Committee includes representatives of both the Law Society and the Bar Council, and representatives from other legal organisations, and business groups.

Copyright: EU Law

Asked by The Earl of Clancarty

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to support Articles 14–16 of the EU Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market which contain provisions to improve rights for authors, poets, scriptwriters and other writers. [HL13351]

Lord Henley: Yes, the Government supports Articles 14-16 of the EU Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market.

Copyright: Internet

Asked by The Earl of Clancarty

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take to address copyright infringement on online platforms. [HL13354]

Lord Henley: The UK Government takes the issue of IP infringement seriously and is working with industry and enforcement agencies on a number of initiatives to tackle this problem.

In September 2013 we launched a dedicated online IP crime unit, run by the City of London Police – Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit (PIPCU). It is dedicated to tackling serious and organised online piracy and counterfeiting (affecting digital and physical goods) and protecting legitimate UK businesses. IPO provided funding of around £9 million over the period 2013–2019.

Furthermore in March 2018 the Government published the Creative Industry Sector Deal. As part of this deal the Government committed to work with rights holders and platforms to develop new voluntary agreements, to tackle IP infringement on online platforms.

Defence: Cross Border Cooperation

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that the UK retains strong defence ties with EU member states after Brexit. [HL13538]

Earl Howe: The UK remains steadfastly committed to European Defence and Security. Brexit will not change the UK's commitment.

We will continue to work closely with our European partners bilaterally, including through our network of Defence Attachés and regular meetings and visits, as well as multilaterally, through NATO and other groupings such as the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF) and Northern Group. These forums provide the opportunity to discuss areas of co-operation and common interest. We will

continue to train and exercise with European Allies and partners, not least this summer as part of BALTIC PROTECTOR in the Baltic Sea, the first deployment of the JEF. We will continue to operate together across the globe.

This engagement is underpinned in many cases by Defence agreements. Examples include Treaties with France and Poland, a Joint Vision Statement with Germany, a Statement of Intent with Italy and MOUs and similar arrangements with a number of our partners in Europe.

Dual Nationality: EU Countries

Asked by Lord Inglewood

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of people who are UK (1) citizens, and (2) residents who (a) have, or (b) are entitled to dual nationality of another EU member state. [HL13401]

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

Dear Lord Inglewood,

As National Statistician and Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority, I am replying to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of people who are UK (1) citizens, and (2) residents who (a) have, or (b) are entitled to dual nationality of another EU member state (HL13401).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes estimates of the UK population by country of birth and nationality based on the *Annual Population Survey* (APS)^[1]. The latest estimates are for the year July 2017 to June 2018 and these show the number of British citizens resident in the UK was 59,216,000, with a confidence interval of plus or minus 364,000, and the citizens of other EU member states resident in the UK as 3,723,000, with a confidence interval of plus or minus 91,000 (all figures rounded to the nearest thousand).

In the 2011 census, ONS collected data about dual passport holders which is the closest approximation to dual nationality available. Table 1 below shows the numbers from the census. ONS has no data about entitlement to dual nationality.

Yours sincerely,

John Pullinger

[1]

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/datasets/populationoftheunitedkingdombycountryofbirthandnationality>

Electronic Publishing: VAT

Asked by The Earl of Clancarty

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to bring VAT on digital publications in line with printed

books following the EU's decision to allow all member states to give e-books and audiobooks the same VAT-free status as printed books. [[HL13350](#)]

Lord Bates: The Government keeps all taxes under review, including Value Added Tax (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.

Embryology

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will place a copy of the contingency plans drawn up by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority for the importation of gametes from EU member states following Brexit in the Library of the House. [[HL13429](#)]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: The information on preparedness provided by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority to the Department has been part of the formulation of Government policy and there are no plans to publish this information at this time.

Evening Standard

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they were advised of the change in ownership of Lebedev Holdings and the grant of an option to acquire the Evening Standard and a board seat at that newspaper. [[HL13335](#)]

Lord Keen of Elie: I refer the noble Lord to the answer to WPQ 218767 from 13th February by the Secretary of State.

Falkland Islands: Exports

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on Falkland Islands (1) agriculture, and (2) meat product exports to EU27 markets if World Trade Organisation tariffs were imposed; whether they estimate that there would be an annual loss to that industry; and if so, what they estimate such a loss would be. [[HL13404](#)]

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the profitability of Falkland Islands meat exports to the EU27 if World Trade Organisation tariffs were imposed; and whether they estimate that industry would remain viable. [[HL13405](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The EU's non-preferential import duty on sheep meat is 12.8 per cent, plus a fixed amount, on average, of €155.68 per 100kg, depending on the cut. Implementation of such terms may render this trade no longer profitable. However, the majority of Falkland meat exports go to the UK and the Government will maintain duty-free access to the UK market post-EU Exit for all goods originating in British Overseas Territories, which will ensure the Falkland Islands' meat industry remains viable. The EU does not levy tariffs on raw wool imports.

Gaza: Israel

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 28 January (HL12818), what assessment they have made of the operation of the buffer zone in Gaza and whether the area covered by such a zone needs to be made clearer; and whether they will make representations to the government of Israel to this effect. [[HL13483](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have made no assessment of the buffer zone and have not discussed this issue with the Government of Israel.

Health Professions: Recruitment

Asked by Lord Bradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to complete the recruitment of the additional 20,000 health professionals to support general practitioners, as part of the NHS Long Term Plan. [[HL13437](#)]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: The new general practitioner (GP) contract framework, published on 31 January 2019, set out plans for an Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme in Primary Care Networks. This will provide guaranteed funding for up to an estimated 20,000 additional staff by 2023/24. The funding available will be phased and will meet a recurrent 70% of costs for additional clinical pharmacists, physician associates, first contact physiotherapists and first contact community paramedics; and 100% of the costs of additional social prescribing link workers.

The scheme will be extended gradually, reflecting available supply and funding. Funding from July 2019 will be available for clinical pharmacists and social prescribers only, in 2020 physician associates and first contact physiotherapists will be added and in 2021 first contact community paramedics will be further added to the scheme.

This builds on the extra 3,700 non-GP clinical staff already working in general practice, compared to 2015 and will mean bigger teams of staff, providing a wider range of care options for patients and freeing up more time for GPs to focus on those with more complex needs.

Home Office: Fees and Charges

Asked by Lord Russell of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they anticipate the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration to publish the outcomes of his inspection of the Home Office's charging for services in respect of its asylum, immigration, nationality and customs functions. [HL13370]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration (ICIBI) report on an inspection of the Home Office Borders, Immigration and Citizenship System's policies and practices relating to charging and fees was received on 24 January 2019.

Wherever possible, the Department will lay ICIBI reports before Parliament within 8 weeks of receipt, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Immigration: EU Nationals

Asked by Lord Green of Deddington

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the statement made by the Home Secretary on 28 January on no deal arrangements for EU citizens, what requirements EU citizens who have previously lived in the UK will have to meet to have the right to apply for settlement; what estimate they have made of how many such EU citizens are likely to apply; and on what basis any estimate was made. [HL13362]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: EU citizens who have previously lived in the UK will be eligible to apply under the EU Settlement Scheme, provided that they have maintained their continuity of residence in the UK and meet all the other requirements.

Those who have been continuously resident in the UK for five years or more may be absent from the UK for up to five years without breaking their continuity of residence. Those who have been continuously resident in the UK for less than five years are allowed up to six months' absence in any 12-month period, and one period of absence of up to 12 months for a good reason, such as pregnancy or an overseas posting.

An Impact Assessment (IA) for the EU Settlement Scheme has been produced which includes indicative estimates of volume of applications. The IA is currently under review in light of the announcement made on 21 January 2019 regarding the removal of application fees for the scheme. The IA can be found here: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukia/2018/116/pdfs/ukia_20180116_en.pdf

Import Controls

Asked by Lord Wasserman

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the present rules regarding the importation of controlled

substances into the UK from (1) the European Economic Area, (2) the Republic of Ireland, and (3) the Channel Islands. [HL13379]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Under Section 3 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 the importation and exportation of controlled drugs is prohibited unless under Home Office licence or in accordance with an exception contained within the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001.

Intellectual Property

Asked by The Earl of Clancarty

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the implications for the UK's intellectual property framework of joining the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership. [HL13352]

Lord Henley: The implications of joining the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) on the UK's IP framework will depend on the outcome of accession negotiations. As these accession discussions are yet to begin, there is no final deal to assess against. However, Government officials are considering the costs and benefits to the UK of the existing CPTPP trade agreement provisions and are taking into account stakeholder responses to the Department for International Trade's consultation on CPTPP which closed on 26 October 2018.

Asked by The Earl of Clancarty

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the implications for the UK's intellectual property framework of a free trade deal with the United States. [HL13353]

Lord Henley: The implications of a potential US trade agreement on the UK's IP framework will depend on any final negotiated text. As negotiations are yet to begin, there is no deal to assess against. However, Government officials are considering the costs and benefits to the UK of similar existing trade agreement provisions and are taking into account stakeholder responses to the Department for International Trade's consultation on a potential US trade agreement which closed on 26 October 2018.

Iran: Guided Weapons

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Iran's expansion of its ballistic missile programme threatens the viability of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action; and what diplomacy they are pursuing in response with the governments of both Iran and the United States. [HL13527]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have consistently expressed our deep concerns about Iran's missile programme. The Foreign Secretary raised the issue with

Foreign Minister Zarif in Tehran on 19 November. We have publicly condemned recent Iranian missile activity. On 5 December, the Foreign Secretary issued a statement following Iranian testing of a medium range ballistic missile. We have also highlighted our concerns in joint letters with France and Germany to the UN Secretary General and, with them, we continue to raise the issue with the Iranian government. With the US we maintain regular discussions on shared concerns around Iran's missile programme.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPoA) was intended to address Iran's nuclear capability rather than ballistic missiles. Nevertheless, we maintain that we are better placed to address wider concerns, including about missiles, with the JCPoA in place.

Israel: Palestinians

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 28 January (HL12817), what steps they intend to take to uphold the freedom of the media in the Occupied Territories. [HL13540]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The British Government recognizes that protection of the freedom of the media is an important attribute of human rights. Officials at the British Consulate Jerusalem routinely raise issues of media freedom with the Palestinian Authority, and the Minister for the Middle East and North Africa met Leaders of the Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate in London on 4 July 2018 where they discussed the situation facing Palestinian journalists and the constraints on their work.

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports of Israeli forces shooting at unarmed Palestinian boys on 25 January, resulting in the death of Ayman Hamad; whether they intend to take action in response; if so, what; if not, why not; and whether they have made representations to the government of Israel about that shooting. [HL13541]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are very concerned at the high numbers of Palestinians killed by Israel Defense Forces (IDF) in the West Bank and Gaza. We have raised the issue with the Israeli authorities, encouraging them to carry out transparent investigations into whether the use of live fire has been appropriate.

The UK has repeatedly made clear to Israel our longstanding concerns about the manner in which the IDF polices protests and the border areas, including use of live ammunition. We will continue to do so.

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports of Israeli forces using live rounds against schoolchildren who protested those

forces invading school grounds; whether they intend to take action in response; if so, what; if not, why not; and whether they have made representations on the issue to the government of Israel. [HL13542]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are very concerned at the high numbers of Palestinians killed by Israel Defense Forces (IDF) in the West Bank and Gaza. We have raised the issue with the Israeli authorities, encouraging them to carry out transparent investigations into whether the use of live fire has been appropriate.

The UK has repeatedly made clear to Israel our longstanding concerns about the manner in which the IDF polices protests and the border areas, including use of live ammunition. We will continue to do so.

Israel: Sewage

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the level of sewage pollution in the Mediterranean off the coast of Israel; and what advice they provide to UK tourists who plan to visit Israel about such pollution. [HL13543]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have not raised this specific issue with the Israeli authorities and we do not provide advice to UK tourists about pollution. There remains an urgent need for all the parties to reach an agreement that addresses the underlying causes of conflict in Gaza and to take the necessary steps to ensure Gaza's reconstruction and economic recovery.

Lebanon: Israel

Asked by Lord Shinkwin

To ask Her Majesty's Government what reports, if any, they have received of the construction of cross-border tunnels by Hezbollah militants from Lebanon into Israel. [HL13469]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The British Government is aware of reports of the construction of cross-border tunnels from Lebanon into Israel. The UN Monitoring Mission, UNIFIL, confirmed a violation of UNSCR 1701 to the UN Security Council on 19 December 2018. We urge the newly formed Lebanese Government to take necessary steps to ensure any violations of 1701 are addressed.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Asked by Lord Shinkwin

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the implications for regional stability in the Middle East of an Iranian missile fired in January from Damascus towards northern Israel. [HL13468]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We fully support Israel's right to defend itself. We urge Iran to refrain from actions which will only lead to increased instability in the region.

It is crucial to avoid any further escalations, which would be in no one's interest.

Military Aircraft

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Ministry of Defence intends the Tempest programme to produce a carrier-capable solution. [HL13488]

Earl Howe: The F-35 is at the beginning of its service life and is the most effective and developed aircraft capable of Queen Elizabeth Class (QEC) aircraft carrier operations. The combat air acquisition programme is looking at the replacement of Typhoon's capabilities and any new combat air system will need to be interoperable with the Carrier Enabled Power Projection (CEPP) programme. The concept phase of the acquisition programme will consider QEC basing for any unmanned force multipliers which may form part of the future combat air system.

Occupational Therapy

Asked by Lord Hunt of Chesterton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, and if so how, they will maintain the use of (1) handicrafts, and (2) gardening as occupational therapy interventions for patients recovering from treatment in NHS England hospitals. [HL13394]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: Therapeutic interventions and group programmes for rehabilitation are expected features of rehabilitation for both mental health and physical conditions – handicrafts, as a therapeutic intervention to improve fine coordination, and gardening, and other patient appropriate activity, are recommended by both the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence and the Royal College of Occupational Therapists.

Although the two interventions are not specifically held above others in recovery, handicrafts and gardening are commonly used in therapeutic programmes funded by the National Health Service.

Out-patients: Attendance

Asked by Lord Dobbs

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are conducting research into the (1) causes, and (2) costs of missed appointments in the NHS; and if so, when they expect to publish the results of that research. [HL13359]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: The Department is not currently conducting research into causes, and costs of missed appointments in the National Health Service.

We know, however, that patients may miss appointments for a number of reasons, including mental health and social circumstances. Patients are encouraged

to cancel appointments, so they can be used by someone else. New technologies support providers in reminding patients of their forthcoming appointments to reduce missed appointments, for example, the use of text message reminder systems.

NHS Digital publishes did not attend (DNAs) for outpatient appointments annually. Data is available from 2006-07 to 2017-18. Data shows a year on year decrease in the percentage of DNAs. The equivalent data for the number of missed appointments in general practice is not available.

Information surrounding the cost of missed appointments is not collected centrally.

Parking Offences: Appeals

Asked by Viscount Astor

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the proposals contained within the Parking (Code of Practice) Bill, what plans they have to introduce a single appeals service for the private parking sector. [HL13636]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Government is supportive of the Parking (Code of Practice) Bill, which we believe will get the fairest deal for motorists, operators and landowners. Our current intention is to appoint a single appeals service for the private parking sector, using the powers granted by the Parking (Code of Practice) Bill should it pass in to law.

Road Traffic Offences

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of vehicles that are using British roads without either having paid road tax or having insurance cover, or both, in each of the past ten years. [HL13325]

Baroness Sugg: The following table contains the Department's estimates of the number of unlicensed vehicles in the active vehicle stock in Great Britain. Some years are unavailable as the survey became biennial in 2011.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Thousands of vehicles</i>
2007	522
2008	289
2009	225
2010	307
2011	249
2013	213
2015	531
2017	715

Neither the Department nor its agency DVLA (Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency) hold figures on the number of vehicles using British roads that do not have insurance cover.

Strength in Places Fund

Asked by Lord Trees

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to expedite (1) the decision-making process, and (2) the processing of applications for the UK Research and Innovation Strength in Places initiative. [[HL13375](#)]

Lord Henley: During 2018, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) invited 'expression of interest' bids into Wave 1 of the Strength in Places Fund. All eligible bids were considered by an independent assessment panel, which made recommendations to UKRI. UKRI is currently in the process of finalising the assessment process, and will notify those bids proceeding to the full stage in due course.

Taxation: Self-assessment

Asked by Baroness Neville-Rolfe

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps first-time self-assessed taxpayers must take, including by what date they would need to begin the process, to ensure that they are able to file their tax return by 31 January; and what the penalty is for late submission due to a new applicant's request for a Unique Taxpayers Reference not being processed in time. [[HL13336](#)]

Lord Bates: Customers can register to submit a self-assessment return in several ways, including online at Gov.uk, or by phoning HMRC on 03000 200 3500. After registering, the customer will receive a letter containing their 10 digit Unique Taxpayer Reference (UTR) and information on what they need to do next; this letter can take up to 10 working days to arrive.

If the only reason for a customer filing late is that they are awaiting their UTR then, as long as they file their return within a reasonable time of receiving it, they will not have to pay a penalty.

Terrorism: Northern Ireland

Asked by Lord Hain

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have received a report from the Commissioner for Victims and Survivors for Northern Ireland about the provision of pensions for those who were severely physically injured in the Northern Ireland Troubles; and if so, what steps they intend to take in regard to that issue. [[HL13506](#)]

Lord Duncan of Springbank: The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has commissioned advice on a victims' pension from the Commissioner for Victims and Survivors for Northern Ireland. We have received some initial advice and look forward to receiving further advice

in the near future, following which we will set out next steps.

Tobacco: Packaging

Asked by Lord Palmer

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford on 5 February (HL13025), who are the experts on tobacco control whom they consulted about proposed changes to tobacco packaging. [[HL13534](#)]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: The Department has consulted with a range of experts in tobacco control, including Professor David Hammond of the School of Public Health and Health Systems at the University of Waterloo, Canada; Rob Cunningham, Senior Policy Analyst at the Canadian Cancer Society; and Deborah Arnott, Chief Executive of Action on Smoking and Health. None of the experts consulted have links to the tobacco industry.

UK Audit Standards Independent Review

Asked by Baroness Bowles of Berkhamsted

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Henley on 18 January (HL12950), whether the scope of the review of the standards of auditing in the UK will cover all references to auditor duties in the Companies Act 2006; and whether the review will be resourced with appropriately qualified independent lawyers to consider those duties as set out in that Act. [[HL13348](#)]

Lord Henley: The terms of reference for Sir Donald Brydon's independent review into the effectiveness of audit will be published in due course. The review will look widely at the expectations that users of accounts have of audit and the extent to which those expectations can be satisfied. In his evidence to the House of Commons Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee's 'future of audit' inquiry on 4th February, Sir Donald confirmed that his review would look at auditors' role in relation to company law and the capital maintenance requirements. The review will draw on the necessary skills and expertise.

Wildlife: Conservation

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the governments of (1) China, (2) Vietnam, (3) India, and (4) other countries in Asia about banning the trade in endangered species and their products including (a) elephants, (b) big cats, (c) rhinoceroses, and (d) pangolins. [[HL13332](#)]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The UK is committed to the conservation and protection of wildlife. We work closely with other countries to promote wildlife conservation through our membership of international

agreements such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). CITES is an international agreement between 183 Parties, including China, Vietnam and India, to promote sustainable trade in wildlife and to ensure that no plant or animal species becomes extinct through overtrading.

CITES prohibits nearly all international trade in wild caught specimens of species considered to be threatened with extinction. These Appendix I species include pangolins, most elephant and rhino populations, and some big cat species. Species not currently threatened with extinction, but for which uncontrolled trade would not be sustainable, are included on CITES Appendix II and can only be traded internationally with the correct permits. Permits will only be granted if trade is considered not to be detrimental to the survival of the species.

Domestic trade is regulated by national laws and falls outside the scope of CITES. CITES cannot oblige Parties to prohibit domestic trade but it can encourage them to do so. In 2016 Parties were encouraged to close their domestic ivory markets.

In 2016 Dr Thérèse Coffey MP met the Chinese minister and attended the CITES Conference of the Parties, where she had further meetings including with the Vietnamese minister. The Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP represented the UK government at the 3rd global Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) conference in Hanoi in 2016 and had bilateral meetings with Vietnam and China. Last October the UK hosted the 4th global IWT conference in

London. Sixty-five of the seventy countries which attended, including China, India, Vietnam and the UK, reaffirmed their commitment to counter illegal trade and declared what further action they will be taking. The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP and Dr Thérèse Coffey MP met with a number of countries at the conference including Burma, China, Japan, Indonesia and Nepal.

In 2018, the British Embassy in Beijing ran a highly visible campaign, “End Wildlife Crime”, with public events delivered across China, some in conjunction with the local government authorities, and attended by 19,250 members of the public.

Embassies and High Commissions in many Asian countries play a key role in raising IWT issues with host governments. Officials and ministers discuss IWT with these countries in the margins of international meetings and during visits to the region. Most recently the Rt Hon Mark Field MP discussed IWT with senior members of the Vietnamese Government on a visit to the country.

China has taken positive action on closing its domestic ivory market, co-hosting a session on combatting the ivory trade at the 2018 IWT conference. However, last year China decided to adjust its 1993 legislation to allow the use of farmed tiger and rhino products in traditional medicine; following discussions with the UK and others the Chinese Government is reviewing that decision. We regularly discuss IWT with the Chinese authorities and will continue to raise our concerns with them.

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