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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
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HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

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<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 and Treasury Spokesperson
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
Earl of Courtown	Deputy Chief Whip
Lord Duncan of Springbank	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Northern Ireland Office and Scotland Office
Baroness Fairhead	Minister of State, Department for International Trade
Lord Gardiner of Kimble	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Baroness Goldie	Whip
Lord Henley	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Lord Keen of Elie	Advocate-General for Scotland and Ministry of Justice Spokesperson
Baroness Manzoor	Whip
Baroness Stedman-Scott	Whip
Baroness Sugg	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for International Development
Lord Taylor of Holbeach	Chief Whip
Baroness Vere of Norbiton	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Transport
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, Treasury Spokesperson and Whip
Viscount Younger of Leckie	Whip

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Written Statements

Wednesday, 24 April 2019

Bilateral Loan for Ireland

[HLWS1481]

Lord Young of Cookham: My honourable friend the Economic Secretary to the Treasury (John Glen) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement

I would like to update Parliament on the loan to Ireland.

In December 2010, the UK agreed to provide a bilateral loan of £3.2 billion as part of a €67.5 billion international assistance package for Ireland. The loan was disbursed in 8 tranches. The final tranche was drawn down on 26 September 2013. Ireland has made interest payments on the loan every six months since the first disbursement.

On 15 April, in line with the agreed repayment schedule, HM Treasury received a total payment of £407,843,097.02 from Ireland. This comprises the repayment of £403,370,000 in principal and £4,473,097.02 in accrued interest.

As required under the Loans to Ireland Act 2010, HM Treasury laid a Statutory Report to Parliament on 1 April covering the period from 1 October to 31 March 2019. The Report set out details of future payments up to the final repayment on 26 March 2021. The government continues to expect the loan to be repaid in full and on time.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/791132/Ireland_loan_statutory_report_April_2019_web.pdf

The next Statutory Report will cover the period from 1 April to 30 September 2019. HM Treasury will report fully on all repayments received during this period in the Report.

Business Greenhouse Gas Reporting Guidance and Regulations

[HLWS1478]

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

This written statement confirms that responsibility for business Greenhouse Gas reporting guidance and regulations will transfer from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. This change will be effective immediately.

Contingent Liability: Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science

[HLWS1479]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: My Rt Hon Friend Robert Goodwill (Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) has today made the following statement:

It is normal practice when a Government department proposes to undertake a contingent liability in excess of £300,000 and outside the normal course of business, for the Minister concerned to lay a Departmental Minute before Parliament giving particulars of the liability created and explaining the circumstances. The Department should refrain from incurring the liability until fourteen parliamentary sitting days after the issue of the statement.

This Minute relates to the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), an Executive Agency of Defra, entering into a commercial arrangement with the Kuwait Environment Public Authority (an Authority of the Government of Kuwait) who have asked Cefas to contract with them to provide a marine environment monitoring information system for Kuwait. This is proposed to be a four-year contract of marine science services for which the Kuwaitis will cover all Cefas' costs, c£40m.

The Kuwait Government wishes to enhance its national environmental management capability to world leading standards and is pursuing a strategy of working with the best international government bodies from strategic partner countries. This Kuwaiti Government objective is being delivered under their Environment Monitoring Information System Kuwait (eMISK) programme which spans Marine, Waste, Terrestrial, Air and Subsurface environments. The Kuwait Environment Public Authority have asked Cefas to tender for the Marine programme and this is supported by both countries at Ministerial level, as set out in the inter-government declarations of the Joint Steering Group.

The benefits of this work to both governments are the significant contributions it will make to the long-term health of the Gulf marine environment. It will also engage the next generation of Kuwaiti scientists in bilateral co-operation with the UK, maintain and develop Cefas' international capability, and position both Kuwait and the UK in a leading position in this area of science.

The contractual arrangements between the two parties follow standard Kuwaiti national commercial terms and conditions and include two contingent liabilities relating to a performance bond and liquidated damages claims. These liabilities are limited to a maximum of 20% of the c£40m contract value. Professional indemnity insurance will be purchased, using contract funds, to protect the Department against these risks leaving a residual excess

value of no more than £250,000. Only uninsurable risks remain which would be due to late delivery or third-party claims.

Cefas and Defra have considered the risks of this indemnity and they believe the likelihood of such indemnities being called upon is very low. Agency or Departmental budgets are expected to fund any liability call. If such budgets are insufficient then for any payment would be sought through the normal Supply procedure.

The Treasury has approved the proposal in principle.

If, during the period of fourteen parliamentary sitting days, beginning on the date on which this Minute was laid before Parliament, a member signifies an objection by giving notice of a Parliamentary Question or by otherwise raising the matter in Parliament, final approval to proceed with incurring the liability will be withheld pending an examination of the objection.

EU's European Travel Information Authorisation System

[HLWS1480]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: My rt hon Friend the Minister of State for Immigration (Caroline Nokes) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The Government has decided to opt in to the aspect of the draft Regulation that establishes the conditions for the access of the European Travel Information Authorisation System (ETIAS) to the European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS-TCN), and has decided not to opt out of the aspect of the draft Regulation that establishes the conditions for the access of ETIAS to the Second Schengen Information System (SIS II).

ETIAS is the EU's travel authorisation system that visa-exempt visitors (third country nationals and stateless persons) will have to apply to prior to their entry in the Schengen area. The UK does not participate in ETIAS as it forms part of Schengen border legislation that the UK cannot participate in, but the UK fully supports the EU's efforts to strengthen its external borders of which this forms part.

Under this proposal, an ETIAS Central Unit will access EU information technology systems to support their considerations, specifically ECRIS-TCN and SIS II. Once implemented, the Regulation will allow the EU to revoke a grant of admission to a third country national if a relevant alert is identified from data the UK has uploaded to the ECRIS-TCN or SIS II databases. The European Commission has been working towards 2021 as the date from which ETIAS would become operational, but the date might be extended to 2023.

Whilst there are advantages to the EU from ETIAS having access to UK's data, there are no obvious operational or public protection benefits for the UK given it involves the provision of data to a scheme that the UK does not participate in. However, a significant argument in favour of participating is to prevent the UK's non-

participation from giving rise to issues around UK access to SIS II or ECRIS-TCN in future.

Until the UK leaves the EU we remain a full member, and the Government will continue to consider the application of the UK's opt-in to EU legislation on a case by case basis, with a view to maximising the UK's efforts to collaborate with EU on a security partnership once UK leaves the EU, including on SIS II and ECRIS-TCN.

Office for Nuclear Regulation Corporate Plan

[HLWS1477]

Baroness Buscombe: My honourable Friend The Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work (Justin Tomlinson MP) has made the following Written Statement.

Later today I will lay before this House the Office for Nuclear Regulation Corporate Plan 2019/20. This document will also be published on the ONR website.

I can confirm, in accordance with Schedule 7, Section 25(3) of the Energy Act 2013, that there have been no exclusions to the published documents on the grounds of national security.

Online Pornography: Age Verification

[HLWS1484]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: My Honourable Friend the Minister for Digital and the Creative Industries, (Margot James MP) has made the following Written Statement:

On 17 April 2019, my department announced that age-verification for online pornography will begin on 15 July 2019. This means that commercial providers of online pornography will be required by law to carry out robust age-verification checks on users, to ensure that they are aged 18 or over.

The British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) will be responsible for ensuring compliance with this new regulation. Websites that fail to implement age-verification technology face having payment services withdrawn or may be blocked for UK users.

Adult content is currently far too easy for children to access online. The introduction of mandatory age verification is a world-first, and we have taken the time to balance privacy concerns with the need to protect children from inappropriate content. We want the UK to be the safest place in the world to be online, and these new laws will help us achieve this.

We have also listened carefully to privacy concerns and take the issue of data privacy and security extremely seriously. We are clear that age verification arrangements should only be concerned with verifying age, not identity. In addition to the requirement for all age-verification providers to comply with General Data Protection Regulation standards, the BBFC has created a voluntary certification scheme, the Age-verification Certificate (AVC), which will assess the data security standards of

AV providers. We feel that consumers should be able to choose age verification solutions that meet an even higher privacy standard than is offered by GDPR if they wish to.

The AVC has been developed in cooperation with industry and government. Certified age verification solutions which offer these robust data protection conditions will be certified following an independent assessment and will carry the BBFC's new green 'AV' symbol. Details will also be published on the BBFC's age-verification website, ageverificationregulator.com so consumers can make an informed choice between age-verification providers.

Private Rented Sector

[HLWS1476]

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.

You will have seen that last week I announced reforms to the legislative framework governing how private tenancies can be ended in England to improve security in the private rented sector for both tenants and landlords. This announcement followed my department's recent consultation on 'Overcoming the Barriers to Longer Tenancies'. I also published the government's response to this consultation.

The private rented sector has changed dramatically in the last twenty years, and the sector needs to keep pace with these changes. The number of people who live in the private rented sector has doubled, and it is home to more families with children and older people. These households need stability and security in their home.

The current legislative framework leaves tenants feeling insecure. They can be asked to leave their homes, with as little as two months' notice, without the landlord providing any reason, using eviction proceedings under Section 21 of the Housing Act 1988. This sense of insecurity can profoundly affect the ability of renters to plan for the future, to manage their finances or to put down roots in their local communities.

The government intends to establish a fairer system for both tenants and landlords by legislating to repeal Section 21 of the Housing Act 1988. Bringing an end to so called 'no fault evictions', would mean that a tenant cannot be forced to leave their home unless the landlord can prove a specified ground, such as rent arrears or breach of tenancy agreement. It would provide tenants with more stability and protect them from having to make frequent and short notice moves. It would also empower tenants to challenge their landlord about poor property standards where this occurs, without the worry of being evicted as a result of making a complaint.

The private rented sector must also remain a stable and secure market for landlords to continue to invest in. The legislation I intend to introduce will include measures that provide landlords with additional safeguards to successfully manage their properties. We will strengthen

the existing grounds for eviction available to landlords under Section 8 of the Housing Act 1988. This will allow the landlord to regain their property when they want to sell it or move into it themselves.

It is important that landlords can have confidence that the court system works for them in instances when there is no other option but to seek possession of their property through the courts. That is why this announcement includes improvements to court processes, to make it quicker and smoother for landlords to regain their properties when they have a legitimate reason to do so.

Removing no-fault evictions is a significant step. This announcement is the start of a longer process to introduce these reforms. We want to build a consensus on a package of reforms to improve security for tenants while providing landlords with the confidence that they have the tools they need.

We will launch a consultation on the details of a better system that will work for landlords and tenants. The government will collaborate with and listen to landlords, tenants and others in the private rented sector to develop a new deal for renting. Ministers will also work with other types of housing providers outside of the private rented sector who use these powers and use the consultation to make sure the new system works effectively.

Social Security Benefits Up-rating Order 2019: Lords Debate Corrections

[HLWS1483]

Baroness Buscombe: I would like to correct the following points I made during the Social Security Benefits Up-rating 2019/20 debate on 5 March 2019 and apologise to the House for these inadvertent errors:

- I said that "The Social Security Benefits Up-rating Order 2019 reflects the Government's continuing commitment to: increase the basic and full rate of the new state pensions by the triple lock." I should have said that "The Social Security Benefits Up-rating Order 2019 reflects the Government's continuing commitment to: increase the basic State Pension and the full rate of the new State Pension by the triple lock."
- I said that "The triple lock on the state pension will provide an extra £3.6 billion for pensioners." I should have said that "The triple lock on the state pension will provide an extra £3.06 billion for pensioners."

The transcript to the original debate can be found here: <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Lords/2019-03-05/debates/9CE6BC91-2176-4AFD-A7BC-1F7F70AE7320/SocialSecurityBenefitsUp-RatingOrder2019>

Temporary Transitional Migration Arrangements: UK and Switzerland.

[HLWS1482]

Lord Callanan: The UK and Switzerland have reached an agreement on temporary transitional migration arrangements for workers in the event that the UK leaves

the EU without a deal. These would apply until December 2020.

This agreement is further to the Swiss government's announcement in February 2019, that in a no deal scenario they would create a specific quota of 3,500 work permits for 2019 for UK workers. As part of the transitional migration agreement, Switzerland have also agreed that UK nationals would not need to meet rules regarding skill level, national preference and economic interest which normally apply to third country nationals during the period covered by the agreement. The agreement also includes protections for frontier workers not covered by the UK-Swiss citizens' rights agreement which would allow them to continue cross-border work until 31 December 2020.

The UK has agreed to provide arrangements for Swiss nationals who wish to work in the UK which are at least as favourable as those offered to UK nationals in Switzerland. In the event of no deal, and following the ending of free movement, Swiss and EEA nationals arriving in the UK for the first time would be eligible for European temporary leave to remain. This would allow them to work in the UK for three years.

This agreement will be subject to ratification processes in both states, and will be signed and published in due course. The UK and Switzerland will continue to work closely together on implementing the agreement and will discuss the arrangements which will apply from the end of 2020 in due course.

Further information about the agreement can be found on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

Written Answers

Wednesday, 24 April 2019

Afghanistan: Immigration

Asked by Baroness Coussins

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many former Afghan interpreters to the UK Armed Forces in Afghanistan have been relocated to the UK under the Locally Employed Staff Ex-Gratia Scheme. [HL15092]

Earl Howe: As of 12 April 2019, 438 former Afghan Locally Employed Staff have been relocated to the UK. This figure includes former FCO and DFID staff and a small number who, although not interpreters, were deemed to have served outside the wire on the front line for 12 consecutive months and were made redundant, and were therefore eligible for relocation.

Asked by Baroness Coussins

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many family members of former Afghan interpreters to the UK Armed Forces in Afghanistan have been relocated to the UK under the Locally Employed Staff Ex-Gratia Scheme. [HL15093]

Earl Howe: As of 12 April 2019, 845 family members of former Locally Employed Staff (LES) have been relocated to the UK. This figure includes the family members of former FCO and DFID LES and the family members of a small number who, although not interpreters, were deemed to have served outside the wire on the front line for 12 consecutive months and were made redundant and were therefore eligible for relocation.

Asked by Baroness Coussins

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) Afghan interpreters, and (2) members of their immediate family are currently awaiting (a) a decision on their relocation to the UK under the Locally Employed Staff Ex-Gratia Scheme, and (b) implementation of the decision that they may relocate to the UK under that scheme. [HL15094]

Earl Howe: The Department is currently examining the cases of seven former Locally Employed Staff (LES) to establish their eligibility under the Ex-Gratia Scheme, all of which are expected to be resolved by the end of April.

If the former LES member is found to be eligible then the relocation process can begin immediately. As no decision has been reached, no family details have been obtained and I am therefore unable to give numbers of family members.

There are five former LES and twenty-eight family members waiting to relocate to the UK. Three are scheduled to be relocated within the next three months

and two have requested that their relocation be temporarily suspended for personal reasons.

Asked by Baroness Coussins

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Afghan interpreters who have been relocated to the UK under the Locally Employed Staff Ex-Gratia Scheme are currently waiting for members of their family to be able to join them; for how long they have been waiting; and when they expect the family members to arrive in the UK. [HL15095]

Earl Howe: Under the original terms of the Ex-Gratia Scheme, Former Locally Employed Staff (LES) who were deemed eligible for relocation to the UK were required to bring their family members with them at the same time as they themselves were relocated. For a variety of reasons, not all of them did so. 138 former LES were relocated to the UK on their own, but it is not known how many of them may have left behind family members who were eligible for relocation related to the Ex-Gratia Scheme. To join them subsequently, those family members still in Afghanistan were required to meet applicable Home Office immigration rules independently of the Ex-Gratia Scheme.

The Home Office amended the immigration rules related to the Ex-Gratia Scheme earlier this year and those changes came into effect on 6 April 2019. As of 12 April 2019, the Department has received a single application, though it is estimated that the family members of 30 former LES will be eligible. Applications will be processed as quickly as possible. Ministry of Defence officials expect the majority of family members to arrive within six months of their application.

Agriculture Bill

Asked by Lord Morris of Aberavon

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Young of Cookham on 25 March (HL Deb, col 1612), when they will respond to the concerns raised by the Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee on their approach to delegated powers in the Agriculture Bill, as set out in that Committee's Thirty Fourth Report, published on 17 October 2018 (HL Paper 194). [HL15112]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Defra acknowledges the concerns raised by the Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee. The department is considering all elements of the Committee's Report and how these might be addressed. The Agriculture Bill is to be scheduled for Commons Report Stage in due course.

It is the Government's intention to respond to the Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee, before Commons Report stage, as indicated in our letter to the Committee dated 17 January.

Air Pollution: Children

Asked by The Earl of Listowel

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the (1) short-term, and (2) long-term, risks of air pollution to children's health. [[HL15106](#)]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: Exposure to air pollution has various health effects on children. Short term effects of air pollution include worsening of asthma symptoms, cough, wheezing and shortness of breath. Long-term exposure can cause cardiovascular and respiratory diseases and cancer, leading to reduced life expectancy. Children are more susceptible to the effects of air pollution than adults.

The effects of air pollution on children's health are being studied in a number of research projects. For example, the Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants has started reviewing the evidence on adverse birth outcomes from air pollution. In addition, the Exploration of Health and Lungs in the Environment (EXHALE) programme, funded by the National Institute for Health Research, focuses on air pollution and children's lung health in London.

Asked by The Earl of Listowel

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking, if any, to address the (1) short-term, and (2) long-term, risks of air pollution to children's health. [[HL15107](#)]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: All of the measures set out in the Clean Air Strategy will reduce emissions of pollution, improving public health for children.

In the short term, the Government has a plan to improve air quality and reduce harmful emissions with funding of £3.5 billion, which includes £495 million for local councils to improve air quality. Part of this funding is specifically for local authorities with very high NO₂ emissions to bid for.

Local authorities are best placed to target action to improve local air quality. The Government's air quality grant programme provides funding to local authorities for projects in local communities to tackle air pollution and reduce emissions, which may include action targeting schools. Defra has awarded over £57 million in funding since the air quality grant started in 1997. A further £3 million has been allocated for 2018/19.

In the long term, some of the measures the Government are taking include ending the sale of new diesel and petrol cars and vans by 2040. The Road to Zero strategy sets out new measures to help us achieve our 2040 mission. The Department for Transport has also announced that diesel-fuelled trains will no longer be used by 2040.

Other measures are included in the Clean Air Strategy.

Air Space

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to amend UK airspace regulations after Brexit; and whether any such plans would be affected by a no-deal Brexit. [[HL15170](#)]

Baroness Sugg: The Government is aiming to ensure that UK airspace remains interoperable with neighbouring EU airspace. In the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal, the provisions of the EU airspace and air traffic management regulations would be replicated in national law under the EU Withdrawal Act. The UK would also continue to be a member of the intergovernmental organisation, Eurocontrol, providing a mechanism to coordinate on airspace issues with other European States.

Animal Products: Imports

Asked by Lord Hanningfield

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of animal hunting trophies entering the UK each year. [[HL15101](#)]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Details of the import permits issued by the Animal and Plant Health Agency are available through the CITES Trade Database. In 2017, 57 import permits were issued for game hunting trophies. We do not hold data for species that are not CITES listed as an import permit in that case is not required.

Apprentices: Taxation

Asked by Lord Bird

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the proposal by the retailer Timpsons for a more flexible approach to the apprenticeship levy that does not require the use of pre-approved, often non-specialised, training providers in order to qualify for a grant. [[HL15140](#)]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: Our apprenticeship reforms have put employers in the driving seat, empowering them to design new high-quality standards that give apprentices the skills that employers need. We are replacing old-style apprenticeship frameworks, which employers told us were not equipping apprentices to do the job. There are now over 420 industry-designed standards available for employers to use. We've seen strong uptake of these new standards; during the first half of 2018/19 nearly 60% of apprenticeship starts were on them.

We have introduced the levy to create long-term sustainable investment in high-quality apprenticeship training. Employers are able to choose how to spend their levy, so long as they spend it on apprenticeships. It is important that we maximise the effectiveness of government investment in training and our reforms are

making sure that apprenticeships are delivering the high-quality training that both individuals and employers need.

We have introduced the register of apprenticeship training providers to give employers assurance that the training received by apprentices will be of a high quality. The register ensures that only providers who are appropriately skilled, ready to deliver, and financially stable can access apprenticeship funding. Employers who want to directly deliver apprenticeship training to their own employees can apply to the register, which remains open for applications.

Arctic Council

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are their priorities for the forthcoming Arctic Council ministerial meeting in Finland on 7 May, particularly in relation to their commitment, in the Defence Arctic Strategy, to put the Arctic and the High North central to the security of the UK. [HL15072]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The priority of Her Majesty's Government is to maintain the Arctic as a peaceful and stable region. At the Arctic Council Ministerial meeting in May, we will reaffirm our commitment to support the Arctic Council in its work to promote cooperation and coordination on issues of sustainable development and environmental protection, and to work in partnership with the eight Arctic States and the region's indigenous peoples to that end. The Arctic Council does not discuss security or defence matters. The United Kingdom will be represented at the meeting by a senior official of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, in accordance with our status as an observer.

Armed Forces: Employment Tribunals Service

Asked by Baroness Garden of Frognal

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to legislate to give members of the armed forces full access to employment tribunals. [HL15099]

Earl Howe: Members of the Armed Forces have access to employment tribunals concerning a claim under the Equality Act 2010 in connection with certain allegations of discrimination. An employment tribunal will normally wait for the service complaints process to be finished before hearing any case. We have no current plans to broaden these provisions.

If a Service person has a valid grievance on any other matter relating to their service in the Armed Forces, they may make a service complaint and seek redress. The role of the Service Complaints Ombudsman was created to give complainants who are not satisfied with the outcome or handling of their complaint an independent route to addressing their concerns and to increase the level of independent oversight.

In certain circumstances, if the complainant remains unhappy with either the decision of the Ministry of Defence or the Ombudsman, they may also challenge those decisions by way of Judicial Review.

Arms Trade: Yemen

Asked by Viscount Waverley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports in the Channel 4 Dispatches programme Yemen—Britain's Hidden War that UK contractors have supplied arms that were used in the war in Yemen; what reasons were stated in export licence applications submitted by Saudi Arabia, BAE Systems plc, or any intermediary, for the supply and use of weaponry; and what criteria they use to assess and approve each application. [HL15059]

Baroness Fairhead: All arms supplied by UK companies to Saudi Arabia require an export licence. We assess each export licence application very carefully against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria (the Consolidated Criteria).

The Consolidated Criteria provide a thorough risk assessment framework and require us to think hard about the impact of providing equipment and its capabilities. These are not decisions we take lightly, and we will not license the export of items where to do so would be inconsistent with the Consolidated Criteria.

The key test for assessing military exports to Saudi Arabia is Criterion 2(c) of the Consolidated Criteria – whether there is a clear risk that the exports might be used in the commission of a serious violation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

When considering export licence applications, we take into account a wide range of sources and analyses, including reports from non-governmental organisations and the United Nations, as well as those of a sensitive nature to which these parties do not have access. This provides a comprehensive basis on which Government can take informed decisions about export licence applications.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Asked by Baroness Brady

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that Automatic Number Plate Recognition technology is used only to detect and deter criminal activity rather than to enable the generation of parking fines. [HL15141]

Baroness Sugg: The Government has prohibited the use of CCTV and ANPR for local authority on-street parking enforcement since 2015 under the Deregulation Act 2015 and the Civil Enforcement of Parking Contraventions (England) General (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2015. For reasons of child safety and congestion management, parking restrictions near schools, on red routes, in bus lanes, and at bus stand

clearways are exempt from this ban. As part of its work to improve the safety of cycling, the Government intends to introduce another exemption that will enable the use of approved camera devices for enforcing parking restrictions in mandatory cycle lanes.

Birds: Conservation

Asked by Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer

To ask Her Majesty's Government under what circumstances it is legal to sell wild UK species of birds as caged birds. [HL15108]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: It is an offence to sell, offer for sale, possess or transport for sale or exchange, any live bird unless it is a species listed, as a bird which may be sold, in part 1 of schedule 3 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act. To be legally sold the bird must be bred in captivity and be fitted with a closed leg ring.

The international commercial trade in certain species of wild caught birds also needs to comply with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to which the UK is party and which is implemented in the UK through the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations. This is a multilateral environment agreement which aims to ensure that trade in endangered species does not threaten their survival by controlling international trade in these specimens through a licensing system. CITES prohibits nearly all international trade in wild caught specimens of the most at risk species which are listed on Appendix I. Species that are 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. These permits will only be granted if their trade is considered not to be detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild.

Asked by Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many prosecutions there have been for selling birds caught in the wild in the UK during the last five years. [HL15109]

Lord Keen of Elie: One defendant was proceeded against at magistrates' courts for selling a wild bird, in England and Wales, between 2013 and 2017, this being in 2016.

Court proceedings data for 2018 is planned for publication on 16 May 2019.

Figures for Scotland and Northern Ireland would be matters for the relevant devolved administrations.

Asked by Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they monitor the internet regularly for evidence of a rise in criminal activity with regard to birds caught in the wild; and if so, what has been the result of such monitoring. [HL15110]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The enforcement of all offences, including wildlife offences, is an operational matter for the police.

The police monitor and gather intelligence on online activity relating to crimes against birds and other wildlife to inform their investigations.

Brexit

Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch

To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord Callanan on 1 April (HL14872), whether they will now answer the question originally asked, namely, further to the Written Answer by Lord Callanan on 21 March (HL14601), whether, under the proposed deal, the UK can decide unilaterally to leave the EU. [HL15009]

Lord Callanan: The UK took the unilateral decision to leave the EU when it triggered Article 50 TEU. The proposed deal, when ratified, will see us leave the EU, taking full control of our money, borders and laws.

Asked by Lord Lilley

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether their contingency preparations for the UK leaving the EU without a withdrawal agreement are complete. [HL15182]

Lord Callanan: The Government is continuing to prepare for all scenarios and we have taken appropriate steps to help mitigate the effects of no deal. We have passed critical legislation, signed international agreements, and guaranteed certain EU funding.

We are continuing to communicate with businesses and the public and this will increase as we approach EU Exit until we are confident that contingency planning is no longer needed.

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the possibility that the UK may lose its right to veto EU proposals in the event of a further delay to Brexit. [HL15202]

Lord Callanan: There is no conditionality attached to the Article 50 extension beyond existing Treaty obligations. The Prime Minister set out in her statement to the House of Commons on 11 April that the 10 April European Council (Article 50) conclusions are clear that during an extension the UK will continue to hold full membership rights, as well as be bound by its obligations.

Bus Services: Concessions

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they intend to meet the £652 million funding gap, identified by analysis from the Local Government Association published on 9 February, required to cover the total

costs of the National Concessionary Travel Scheme for bus passengers. [HL15189]

Baroness Sugg: Funding for the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) is provided to local authorities through the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG's) revenue support grant. This funding is not ringfenced, which enables local authorities to make spending decisions that more closely match local needs and circumstances. It is misleading to talk about the grant in isolation when local authorities have access to council tax, business rates and other local income to deliver their local services.

Cattle: Exports

Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many live calves under two months old were exported in each year from 2014 to 2018; and what percentage of the total amount of the calves exported went for slaughter in each of those years. [HL15064]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) issues Export Health Certificates (EHC) for animals and products of animal origin. APHA does not record the age of animals when they are exported. The following information is taken from consignments of Bovine animals exported to the EU in 2016, 2017 and 2018 where a consignment included unweaned animals.

In 2016 a total of 3786 bovine animals were recorded as being exported on a Journey Log containing unweaned animals

In 2017 a total of 6024 bovine animals were recorded as being exported on a Journey Log containing unweaned animals

In 2018 a total of 5425 bovine animals were recorded as being exported on a Journey Log containing unweaned animals

None of the animals were exported directly for slaughter.

This data includes exports from holdings in England, Scotland and Wales. Movements between Northern Ireland (NI) and The Republic of Ireland (RoI) is a devolved matter, data for this can be requested from DAERA.

Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many live cattle were exported in each year from 2014 to 2018; and what percentage of the total amount of cattle exported went for slaughter in each of those years. [HL15066]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The below table shows the number of cattle exported from Great Britain and the percentage of cattle exported for slaughter from Great Britain from 2014 to 2018.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total number of cattle exported</i>	<i>Percentage of cattle exported that went for slaughter</i>
2014	7,539	45.60%
2015	5,212	39.70%
2016	11,070	23.30%
2017	17,960	36.40%
2018	15,183	33.80%
Grand Total	56,964	

Of the 56,964 animals exported from 2014 to 2018, 19,781 were exported directly for slaughter. Of this number, 18,629 were destined for Northern Ireland.

This data includes exports from holdings in England, Scotland and Wales. Movements between Northern Ireland (NI) and The Republic of Ireland (RoI) is a devolved matter, data for this can be requested from DAERA.

China: Ethnic Groups

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Chinese authorities' treatment of Uighurs and other Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang region; whether they raised this issue during the 40th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC); and what discussions were held during the UNHRC session on the establishment of an independent international fact-finding mission to Xinjiang. [HL15073]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: 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 Uyghur Muslims have been held in re-education camps, and reports of widespread surveillance and restrictions targeted at ethnic minorities. Visits to Xinjiang by diplomats from our Embassy in Beijing have corroborated much of this open source reporting.

At the most recent session of the UN Human Rights Council, I raised our concerns about Xinjiang during my opening address. The UK also raised concerns about Xinjiang during our Item 4 National Statement and we were among a group of states to co-sponsor a US-led side event on the topic.

We were aware of calls by non-governmental organisations for the establishment of an independent international fact-finding mission to Xinjiang but no state took this up at the Human Rights Council. We believe that China should grant access to Xinjiang to independent international human rights mechanisms and implement the recommendations of the UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). We reiterated these points both in the formal session of the

Human Rights Council and in the US-led side event through our Permanent Representative in Geneva.

China: Prisoners

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of China about the 1984 regulations in that country which state that organs can be extracted from executed prisoners. [HL14957]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: I am not aware of any discussions between the UK and Chinese governments on this specific point.

China: Transplant Surgery

Asked by Lord Suri

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the decision by the government of Canada in 2018 to make travelling to China for organ transplants illegal for Canadian citizens. [HL14978]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials are currently looking into the measures reportedly introduced or being considered in several other countries, including Canada, relating to travel to China for organ transplants.

Claims Management Services: Regulation

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of sector regulation on closures of financial claims management firms; and of the impact that could have on consumers. [HL14982]

Lord Bates: The government conducted an impact assessment for the transfer of the responsibility of Claims Management Companies (CMCs) regulation from the Claims Management Regulator (CMR) to the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), and the FCA have also assessed the costs to industry.

The number of CMCs has declined for several years, and if this trend continues, compliance costs for the industry will likely reduce. Remaining CMCs will now be required to meet FCA rules and higher standards of conduct. This will increase trust and confidence in the sector, which will benefit consumers and CMCs.

Climate Change

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of the risks and benefits of solar radiation management technology; and what plans they have, if any, to increase funding of research into that technology. [HL15076]

Lord Henley: The Government is continually monitoring the evidence base relating to Solar Radiation

Management technologies (SRM). As set out in our public position statement on geo-engineering, our view is that SRM would produce changes in rainfall patterns and amounts. This would be likely to lead to winners and losers, with some regions suffering detrimental impacts.

The Government is not commissioning further research into SRM, but the World Climate Research Programme's (WCRP's) Geoengineering Model Intercomparison Project (GeoMIP), is investigating the effects which SRM would have on the climate.

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to promote improved global cooperation and governance of research and use of greenhouse gas removal and solar radiation management technologies. [HL15077]

Lord Henley: The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change provides a mechanism for global cooperation to assess research into Greenhouse Gas Removal technologies (GGRs) and Solar Radiation Management (SRM). These technologies are included in the scope of the upcoming 6th Assessment Report, due for publication in 2021.

The UK is a leading member of a number of multi-lateral initiatives focused on accelerating progress, and improving global cooperation, of Carbon Capture, Use and Storage (CCUS) which is an important enabler of some GGRs. This includes the UK co-leading the Carbon Capture Challenge under Mission Innovation and the CCUS Initiative under the Clean Energy Ministerial. The UK also co-hosted, with the International Energy Agency, a Global CCUS Summit in Edinburgh last November bringing together senior energy leaders from governments and industry on how to accelerate global progress on CCUS.

As a leading provider of International Climate Finance, the UK supports developing countries to restore degraded forest landscapes to support local livelihoods and restore carbon stocks as part of their contributions under the Paris Agreement.

We have no plans to increase global cooperation and governance of research on and use of SRM technologies. A resolution on SRM governance was recently put before the UN Environment Assembly by Switzerland, but did not gather enough support from other countries, and the resolution was withdrawn.

Conditions of Employment: Republic of Ireland

Asked by Lord Balfe

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Employment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2018, signed into law by the President of the Republic of Ireland on 25 December 2018 and which came into force on 4 March 2019; and what plans they have, if any, to ensure regulatory alignment

between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland by introducing similar legislation in Northern Ireland. [HL14993]

Lord Duncan of Springbank: Responsibility for employment policy sits with the Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland.

Employment law in Northern Ireland currently meets the commitments in EU legislation and in many cases exceeds EU-required levels of protection. It will be for a Northern Ireland Minister, once the Executive is restored, to make future decisions in respect of employment policy.

Coroners

Asked by Lord Popat

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to ensure that requests to expedite decision-making by coroners on religious grounds are implemented, following the judgment of the Administrative Court in *R (Adath Yisroel Burial Society) v Senior Coroner for Inner North London* (2018 EWHC 969 (Admin)). [HL15012]

Lord Keen of Elie: Coroners are independent judicial office holders and, as such, it would not be appropriate for Ministers to interfere in their decisions.

Following the judgment of the Administrative Court in *R (Adath Yisroel Burial Society) v Senior Coroner for Inner North London* (2018) EWHC 969 (Admin), the Chief Coroner issued guidance to coroners on handling urgent decisions, including those concerning faith issues. The Guidance is a practical guide to assist coroners in situations where:

- a bereaved family has made a request to the coroner for urgent consideration of the death of a loved one and/or early release of the body; or
- the coroner or coroner's officers otherwise become aware of features of a particular death which may justify treating it as especially urgent.

The Guidance provides a summary of the guiding principles and is available at: <https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/guidance-no-28-report-of-death-to-the-coroner-2010517.pdf>

Dermatology: Training

Asked by Lord Clark of Windermere

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with Health Education England on increasing the number of training places for dermatology students. [HL15091]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: The number of medical specialty training places that are available each year in England is set by Health Education England (HEE) and is based on their assessment of service gaps and predicted workforce needs.

There are programmes of work underway as part of the development of a workforce implementation plan, which the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has commissioned Baroness Dido Harding, Chair of NHS Improvement, working closely with Sir David Behan, Chair of Health Education England, to oversee. These programmes will consider detailed proposals to grow the workforce, including consideration of additional staff in speciality fields, build a supportive working culture in the NHS and ensure first rate leadership for National Health Service staff. Baroness Harding will present initial recommendations to the Department in spring 2019.

The Department has not held specific discussions with HEE on increasing the number of training places for dermatology students. There has been a 100% fill rate in dermatology training in England for the past six years.

Dermatologist education and training and recruitment in Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland is a matter for the devolved administrations.

Detainees

Asked by Lord Bach

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their definition of "detainee dignity" in the context of people who are deprived of their liberty. [HL15211]

Lord Keen of Elie: The Ministry of Justice wants our prisons to be places where living conditions and behaviour towards others demonstrate our values of humanity, decency and respect as the basis for a culture of care and rehabilitation.

Developing Countries: Abortion

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the decision by the government of the United States to expand the global gag rule on the delivery of sexual and reproductive health and rights services supported by UK Official Development Assistance. [HL15024]

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any Department for International Development programmes will be affected by the government of the United States' decision to expand the global gag rule on the delivery of sexual and reproductive health and rights services; and if so, which. [HL15025]

Lord Bates: The UK government will continue to lead the world in our long-term support for comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and to help women and girls get the information and services they need to give them control over their own lives and bodies.

Following the reintroduction and expansion of the Mexico City Policy in January 2017, we have kept in close contact with partners to ensure the policy does not

compromise UK-supported comprehensive SRHR programming. The full implications of the now further expanded Mexico City Policy are not yet clear, but we are closely monitoring developments. DFID will consider the implications with our offices and partners and with civil society and with donors.

Developing Countries: Climate Change

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Salisbury

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much they have contributed to International Climate Finance in each year since 2016; what percentage that amount constitutes of the £5.8 billion they pledged to that fund; and whether the full amount pledged will be provided by 2020 as stated in the Paris Agreement. [[HL15044](#)]

Lord Bates: The Department for International Development (DFID), the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) are together responsible for spending the £5.8 billion of International Climate Finance (ICF) pledged by the Government in the period 2016/17 to 2020/21. The funding is earmarked within departmental budgets.

In total these three departments have spent ICF of £1,119 million in 2016/17 and £958 million in 2017/18, representing 36% of the £5.8 billion commitment. The amount spent in 2018/19 is not yet available.

The Government remains committed to delivering the £5.8 billion pledge in full by 2020/21, recognising the vital importance of supporting developing countries to tackle climate change. Each department has plans in place to deploy this funding over the remaining period to achieve the maximum impact possible.

Driving: Licensing

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to introduce graduated driving licences for young drivers. [[HL15163](#)]

Baroness Sugg: The Department's Driver 2020 research project will form part of the evidence base required to understand the implications of implementing graduated driving licensing (GDL). The Department will also monitor the results of GDL in Northern Ireland when the system is introduced.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Asked by Lord Lexden

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to reconsider the requirement that independent educational institutions which establish new sixth forms must wait two years before accepting students from countries outside the EU under the Home Office's Tier 4 visa arrangements. [[HL15105](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: All education institutions which want to recruit international students must demonstrate both a strong record of immigration compliance, by gaining Tier 4 Sponsor status, and a high educational quality, by undergoing an assessment of their educational standards by an independent inspectorate.

This independent educational oversight ensures that only genuine high-quality institutions can sponsor students under the Tier 4 visa arrangements, protecting the UK's international reputation for excellent educational standards.

A private education provider must have been continuously teaching a course of study that meets Tier 4 requirements to UK or EEA students for two years prior to its inspection. This ensures that such providers receive a meaningful inspection of their teaching provision, and that only genuine private education providers can become Tier 4 sponsors.

The two-year requirement does not apply to other types of Tier 4 sponsor, because they are subject to different statutory inspection arrangements. In the case of independent schools, these include consideration of the institution's ability to safeguard children. These requirements ensure that international students continue to receive a high-quality education in the UK.

Environment Agency: Rural Payments Agency

Asked by Lord Colgrain

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Environment Agency computer systems share information with the computer systems of the Rural Payments Agency; and if not, when this might be introduced. [[HL15061](#)]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: At present, there are no direct system-to-system data exchanges between Rural Payments Agency and Environment Agency systems. Defra is committed to sharing data internally within the Department, externally across Government and with any interested party. Both the Rural Payments Agency and the Environment Agency publish datasets on the publicly available Defra Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside website, and within the Defra Spatial Repository and Toolkits which are accessible to all Defra Group organisations. Defra also publishes more than 8,000 datasets, which are publicly available under open licence.

However, both organisations have access to the Defra Customer and Land Database (CLAD) which is due to be replaced in 2019 by a system called CLARIS, which will enable the Environment Agency to have access to Rural Payments Agency land data. Additionally, the Rural Payments Agency periodically provides the Environment Agency with a manual extract of data relating to the ownership of land within Nitrate Vulnerable Zones for cross-compliance purposes.

As part of its wider consolidation and upgrade of IT systems the Defra Group is adopting shared IT platforms, for example cloud email services, document management, customer relationship management and identity management platforms. Agency data will coexist within the same physical platforms which may facilitate data sharing where there is a specific purpose for that data to be shared, and this is done in accordance with regulations such as the Data Protection Act and appropriate interagency data sharing agreements.

Factories

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of Brexit uncertainty on the levels of stockpiling by factories. [[HL14979](#)]

Lord Henley: The Government is aware that factories are stockpiling essential parts to try and minimise disruption in a no deal scenario, and we continue to discuss the situation with businesses and other organisations.

In a previous response I gave the noble Lord to Question HL14120, we outlined a number of steps that we have taken to ensure that both people, and businesses are prepared for EU Exit. Since then, some of these steps – that manage issues such as stockpiling – have evolved, as follows:

- HMRC have now written three times to the 145,000 VAT-registered UK businesses who currently trade only with the EU, setting out the actions they need to take, and the changes they need to be prepared for in the event of no deal
- We have advised hundreds of ports, traders, pharmaceutical firms and other organisations that use the border about potential disruption, so that they can engage proactively with their supply chains
- We have published a leaflet for SMEs, that contains advice on actions to take, provides sources of support, and outlines the changes that may affect businesses when the UK leaves the EU

The public information campaign pages on Gov.UK provide all up to date material on the considerations of EU exit for businesses, and the practical steps that they will need to take in preparation.

Financial Services

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to provide clarity surrounding new sales rules for UK asset managers in the event of a no-deal Brexit. [[HL14980](#)]

Lord Bates: The Treasury is in frequent contact with firms regarding their contingency planning for EU exit. UK asset managers that are using the EU “passport” to serve clients in the EEA have undertaken and will

continue to carry out contingency plans with respect to their operations in the EEA in order to be ready for a no deal scenario. Some European countries have introduced measures to ensure that UK asset managers will continue to be able to service EEA clients.

The Government has undertaken the necessary work to ensure that we have a stable and functioning domestic framework for asset managers at the point of leaving the EU without a deal. This includes establishing the ‘temporary marketing permissions regime’ which enables EEA funds to continue to be able to market into the UK for up to 3 years. These measures have been welcomed across the UK asset management industry.

Foxes

Asked by Lord Hanningfield

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of foxes killed each year in the UK, broken down by means of killing; and what advice they have provided, if any, on the disposal or sale of fox carcasses and skins. [[HL15102](#)]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Government's policy is that individuals should be free to manage wildlife within the law. The decision on whether or not to control foxes lies with the owner or occupier of the property where the problem occurs.

As a result, the Government does not collect data on the number of foxes killed or how they are killed. However, in 2000 the Burns Report estimated that 400,000 foxes die each year in Britain – on roads, shot or through natural causes.

The Government would always encourage those considering taking management action to try preventative strategies to deter foxes. However, we recognise it may be necessary to cull individual animals who are causing persistent problems. Natural England provides detailed advice on the humane and legal management of foxes to help owners and occupiers protect their property from damage.

Gaza: Children

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the study by the Norwegian Refugee Council on the mental health of children living in Gaza, published on 25 March. [[HL15020](#)]

Lord Bates: DFID has not made its own assessment of the study by the Norwegian Refugee Council on the mental health of children in Gaza, published on 25 March 2019, but have previously reviewed the UNICEF Overseas Development Institute December 2016 report and use it to feed into our analysis on the situation of people with disabilities. DFID is planning to commission a comprehensive assessment of needs and existing effective interventions which address the long-term needs of people living with disabilities in Gaza.

Gaza: Demonstrations

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the grounds for their abstention from the vote on the motion endorsing the Report of the detailed findings of the independent international Commission of inquiry on the protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, published on 18 March, at the Fortieth Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council on 22 March. [HL15124]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Our abstention followed from our position in May 2018, when we abstained on the resolution that created the Commission of Inquiry into the Gaza protests. Our expectation is that accountability must be pursued impartially, fairly, and in a balanced manner. We could not therefore support a resolution that failed to call explicitly for an investigation into the action of non-state actors such as Hamas. It is a source of great concern that, between 30 March 2018 and 31 March 2019, over 29,000 Palestinians have been injured and 195 Palestinians have been killed during the Gaza protests. So while we are clear that Israel has the right to self-defence, and that Hamas operatives have cynically exploited these protests, we have also expressed to Israel our serious concerns about the use of live ammunition and excessive force by the Israel Defence Forces. We continue to fully support an independent and transparent investigation into the deadly events in Gaza. Our decision to abstain alongside Denmark, Croatia, Italy and Japan, reflects this balanced approach.

Gaza: Hospitals

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they are providing, if any, to the al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City. [HL14939]

Lord Bates: The UK is not providing support to the al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City. The UK continually monitors the humanitarian situation in Gaza and we are aware of the significant strain on the health sector. We have recently announced that we will be providing £2 million to the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) Appeal to contribute to the delivery of urgently needed surgical equipment, medicines, wound dressing kits, prosthetic limbs and post-surgery physiotherapy. It will also provide physical rehabilitation services for up to 3,000 disabled people. The UK's commitment to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) currently provides vital health services for around 3 million Palestinian refugees and provides over 800,000 Palestinian refugees in the West Bank and East Jerusalem access to basic healthcare. The UK remains deeply engaged on the challenges facing Gaza's health sector and we will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Glyphosate

Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effects of using glyphosate as part of wider integrated pest management systems. [HL15238]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Glyphosate is approved for use as a herbicide following a thorough scientific assessment which showed that it is not expected to harm people or to have unacceptable effects on the environment. Each authorised glyphosate product has specific conditions of authorisation which are set out on the product label. There are also general rules on the safe storage and use of pesticides.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) aims to design farming systems to minimise the need for pesticides, including herbicides, and to make use of alternative approaches such as tailored crop husbandry and the use of natural predators. The 25 Year Environment Plan includes a Government commitment to put IPM at the heart of a holistic approach, by developing and implementing policies that encourage and support sustainable crop protection with the minimum use of pesticides.

Integrated weed management combines complementary weed control methods such as grazing, herbicide application and land fallowing. Following cereal harvest, cultivations are often used with well-timed glyphosate applications to manage grass weed populations prior to drilling the next cereal crop. This strategy, together with delaying drilling, can reduce the reliance on herbicides within the next crop. It can also reduce the risk of resistance development to any herbicides used subsequently. The use of complementary weed control methods in alternation with or instead of glyphosate is addressed on product labels. The Government also participates in the UK Weed Resistance Action Group, which has produced recent guidance on managing the risk of glyphosate resistance, and recommends a number of IPM methods when using or considering using glyphosate. These principles are relevant to the use of glyphosate in agriculture and horticulture, but also in amenity situations.

Government Departments: Contracts

Asked by Baroness Smith of Gilmerehill

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the adequacy of their vetting procedures when awarding contracts for Government support services. [HL15166]

Lord Young of Cookham: Her Majesty's Government requires that National Security Vetting is conducted to the same standard for all employees in sensitive roles, including those working for government support services. Vetting is conducted centrally by United Kingdom Security Vetting (UKSV). Vetting policy, which sits with

the Cabinet Office, applies equally to government personnel and private-sector employees on government contracts.

Cabinet Office encourages all government departments to uphold a set of minimum personnel security standards and these may be applicable for certain industry roles. 'Support services' is a broad category and could include everything from cleaning and catering to IT provision, security and administration. In that context different roles will have very different requirements and approaches are flexed depending on the risk. It is the responsibility of individual government departments to determine their security needs for each contract that they enter into. The requirement for vetting will be decided based on a given role's access to sensitive assets, facilities or materials.

The procedures by which a private-sector company or contractor can gain a vetting clearance are currently designed to prioritise security as opposed to ubiquity; individuals must be able to demonstrate they will be working on an active government contract before being granted a clearance. This ensures tighter control of who is cleared, for what purpose and for how long.

A comprehensive, cross-government review of National Security Vetting is underway. This will examine potential reforms in vetting for the private-sector – including how we can improve the timeliness of security clearance and reduce the administrative burden of it for small and medium enterprises.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the risks and benefits of greenhouse gas removal technology; and what plans they have, if any, to increase funding of research into that technology. [[HL15075](#)]

Lord Henley: The Government is continually monitoring the evidence base relating to Greenhouse Gas Removal technologies (GGRs). Additionally it commissioned a review by the Royal Society and Royal Academy of Engineering on GGRs, published in September 2018, which includes specific assessment of the risks and benefits of the different GGR options.

BEIS is co-funding an £8.6 million GGR research programme with UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) which will continue until 2021. In addition, projects for some GGR approaches are in scope for both our £20 million Carbon Capture and Utilisation Demonstration (CCUD) Programme and £24 million Call for Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage (CCUS) Innovation. The details of these successful CCUS and CCUD projects will be announced in due course.

BEIS has held constructive discussions with UKRI about the possibility of new research funding for GGR demonstrators.

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of the recommendation in the report by the Royal Society and Royal Academy of Engineering Greenhouse gas removal, published in September 2018, to incentivise demonstrators and early stage deployment to enable development of greenhouse gas removal methods. [[HL15078](#)]

Lord Henley: We agree with the need for further research, development and demonstration of early-stage greenhouse gas removal methods, as well as the need to look how best to incentivise responsible deployment. The Department is addressing these recommendations by conducting a more detailed study of different policy options for incentivising removals, and through constructive discussions with the UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) about the possibility of new research funding for demonstrators in the near future.

BEIS is co-funding an £8.6 million GGR research programme with UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) which will continue until 2021. In addition, projects for some GGR approaches are in scope for both our £20 million Carbon Capture and Utilisation Demonstration (CCUD) Programme and £24 million Call for Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage (CCUS) Innovation. The details of these successful CCUS and CCUD projects will be announced in due course.

High Speed 2 Railway Line

Asked by Lord Framlingham

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the notice to proceed with the HS2 project has been delayed. [[HL14997](#)]

Asked by Lord Framlingham

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the contracts for carrying out the major construction works for HS2 will be signed. [[HL14998](#)]

Asked by Lord Framlingham

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to start work on bridges and tunnels on the HS2 project. [[HL14999](#)]

Asked by Lord Framlingham

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to reports that HS2 will cost twice its original estimate, what steps they are taking to conduct an urgent review of its costs to date; and whether they will publish the results of that review. [[HL15000](#)]

Baroness Sugg: The HS2 Phase One Main Civil Contracts were signed in July 2017 and Phase One design development and enabling works are continuing to progress. Notice to Proceed is the formal contractual process which enables each Phase One supplier to move from design and development to construction.

HS2 Ltd has advised the Government that it intends for Notice to Proceed to take place later in 2019 to allow it to finalise costs and plans with its contracted suppliers. Full construction of bridges and tunnels will commence following award of Notice to Proceed. Essential works to prepare the route for this stage are well underway, with over 60 active sites, including major works at Euston, Old Oak Common, Curzon Street and Washwood Heath.

Expenditure on HS2 to date is set out in the Annual Report and Accounts of HS2 Ltd and the Department for Transport. The Government has committed to update Parliament on HS2's progress at least once a year.

The Phase One Full Business Case, planned for publication later in 2019, will include an updated estimate of cost and schedule and an accompanying assessment of benefits.

Highway Code

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given, as part of their review of the Highway Code, to changing from the current position where all road users are deemed to have equal responsibility to a hierarchy of responsibility so those categories of users who cause the greatest harm have the greatest responsibility for reducing the dangers that they pose to others. [[HL15005](#)]

Baroness Sugg: On 22 November 2018, the Government published a two-year action plan and response to the Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy (CWIS) Safety Review Call for Evidence. This made clear its commitment to the hierarchy of road users.

Included within CWIS SR action plan is a commitment to review the guidance in The Highway Code to improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians. We are currently agreeing the scope and delivery of this review, and would expect the hierarchy of road users to fall within scope. The review will be conducted in consultation with the Department's stakeholders, according to its usual practice.

Hong Kong: Human Rights

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have raised with the government of China (1) the jailing of political protestors, (2) restrictions on free speech, (3) the abduction of booksellers who supply titles critical of China's rulers, (4) the banning of a political party, and (5) the expulsion of a senior Financial Times journalist, Victor Mallet, in Hong Kong. [[HL15136](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The British Government takes extremely seriously our longstanding duty to uphold the implementation of the Sino-British Joint Declaration. We will continue to monitor closely events in Hong Kong, speaking publicly on issues of concern. We have

raised a number of concerns with the Chinese and Hong Kong SAR Governments, including the banning of the Hong Kong National Party, the refusal of Victor Mallet's visa renewal, the abduction of the booksellers, and wider concerns about the erosion of rights and freedoms, including the right to free speech, guaranteed by the Joint Declaration. The Six Monthly Reports to Parliament contain a detailed analysis of developments, and clearly sets out where we have concerns.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact that the new national anthem law in China, which applies at the high-speed rail terminus in Hong Kong, and which has made it an offence to insult China's national anthem, while failing to define such insults, will have on the human rights of Hong Kong citizens; and what assessment they have made of the implications of (1) the new Chinese national security law, and (2) proposals to change Hong Kong's extradition laws to enable extradition from Hong Kong to the mainland. [[HL15137](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We believe that it is fitting to show respect to any National Anthem. Whether it is necessary to enforce such respect with legislation is a matter for the Chinese and Hong Kong SAR Governments to decide. In Hong Kong freedom of speech is guaranteed under the Sino-British Joint Declaration, and it is vital that such freedoms are fully respected

Article 23 of the Hong Kong Basic Law requires that Hong Kong enact laws relating to national security. We are not, however, aware of any plans to enact such legislation at the present time

We are aware of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government's proposals to change the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance and the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Ordinance. We have noted the concerns voiced by legal and business representative organisations and civil society groups in Hong Kong about both the content and the short consultation period allowed for the proposed changes. We have raised a number of issues with the Hong Kong Government, including the implications for both our joint security cooperation and our bilateral extradition treaty and the potential consequences for the UK business community and for UK citizens living in or travelling through Hong Kong. We will continue to seek clarity from the authorities on these points and to make clear that we would welcome a longer consultation period to allow the issues we and others have raised to be dealt with in a comprehensive way that maintains public and business confidence. It remains the British Government's view that, for Hong Kong's future success, it is essential that Hong Kong enjoys, and is seen to enjoy, the full measure of its high degree of autonomy and rule of law as set out in the Joint Declaration and enshrined in the Basic Law, in keeping with the commitment to 'One Country, Two Systems'.

Housing: Construction

Asked by Lord Turnbull

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether their proposed Future Homes Standard to mandate the end of fossil-fuelled heating systems in all new houses after 2025 will also cover fossil-fuelled cookers and hobs; and what assessment they have made of what alternative technologies or fuels will be used in their place. [HL15083]

Asked by Lord Turnbull

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact that their proposed Future Homes Standard will have on (1) the cost of building new homes, and (2) people's fuel bills. [HL15084]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Future Homes Standard will require all new build homes to have low carbon heating. Cooking appliances are not controlled under the Building Regulations, however, we expect that many developers will choose not to install new gas connections in developments adopting the Future Homes Standard. There are a range of alternatives, including modern electric and induction hobs, which are cleaner and safer to use than gas, cheaper to install and maintain, and better for the environment.

The Future Homes Standard is about building homes that are affordable to buy, affordable to run, and help to meet our climate change commitments. We will set out further details as part of our 2019 consultation on the energy efficiency requirements of the Building Regulations.

Housing: Older People

Asked by Baroness Greengross

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will publish guidance for local authorities under the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 on the provision of specialist housing for older people. [HL15145]

Asked by Baroness Greengross

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consultation they have carried out with (1) local authorities, and (2) others, including providers of specialist housing for older people, about guidance to local authorities under the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 on the provision of specialist housing for older people. [HL15146]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: In the revised National Planning Policy Framework, published in July 2018, we strengthened policy to create a clear expectation that all local authorities have policies in place for addressing the housing needs of older people. We will publish further planning guidance, to assist councils to put these policies in place, in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Act commitment. We have undertaken extensive engagement in relation to the guidance. This includes

discussions with a range of local authorities, charities, house builder representatives, and providers of specialist housing for older people, to identify and discuss the key issues. We will publish the guidance in due course.

Immigration Controls

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what restrictions are in place to prevent people who incite hatred against minority groups from travelling to the UK; and what plans they have, if any, to introduce new restrictions. [HL15088]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Secretary has the power to exclude from the UK individuals who engage in unacceptable behaviour, including those who express or encourage views which may foster hatred and lead to inter-community violence in the UK.

The Immigration Rules also provide for the refusal of entry clearance or leave to enter at the border if someone's character, conduct or associations mean it is undesirable to grant them entry to the United Kingdom.

There are no plans to introduce further powers to prevent people who incite hatred against minority groups from travelling to the UK.

Immigration: EU Nationals

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact that a lack of understanding of the settled status scheme could have on the ability of EU citizens to rent properties in the UK. [HL15122]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government has made clear that the current arrangements for landlords conducting checks on EU nationals, involving the use of national passports and identity cards, will not change prior to introduction of the future skills-based immigration system.

The Home Office has engaged with a wide range of groups on the design of the EU Settlement Scheme. We will continue to engage widely as we develop and implement other aspects of the future system. Updated guidance for landlords will be published shortly.

Prior to the full launch of the EU Settlement Scheme on Saturday March 30, the Home Office launched a new nationwide marketing campaign to encourage EU citizens to apply to the scheme.

We are using all available channels to reach our audiences. No one will be left behind which is why we are working in partnership with vulnerable group representatives, local authorities and other experts to make sure we reach everyone.

Imports: Israeli Settlements

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Fairhead on 2 April (HL14807), what is their definition for the boundaries of (1) territories brought under Israeli administration since 1967, and (2) the Occupied Palestinian Territories. [[HL15126](#)]

Baroness Fairhead: It has been the position of the UK Government since 1967 that, in line with relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, the Occupied Palestinian Territories (the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza) are not lawfully part of the State of Israel.

The UK does not recognise Israeli settlements as part of Israel. 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.

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Fairhead on 2 April (HL14807), what steps they are taking to ensure that products from Israeli settlements in the Occupied Territories of Palestine are identified as such and are not re-labelled as Israeli, when exported via Israel. [[HL15128](#)]

Baroness Fairhead: As referenced in my Written Answer on 2 April (HL14807), products produced in the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs) are not entitled to benefit from preferential tariff treatment under the EU-Israel Trade Agreements. These areas are set out in a list of postcodes, which will be hosted on gov.uk, alongside a notice to importers. Tariff preferences will be implemented by UK customs authorities.

We will also continue to implement the EU's interpretive notice on the indication of origin of products from Israel settlements. These guidelines are an important step to ensure correct and coherent implementation of EU consumer protection and labelling legislation.

Independent Industrial Strategy Council

*Asked by **Lord Fox***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many times the Industrial Strategy Council has met. [[HL14995](#)]

*Asked by **Lord Fox***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish the minutes of each meeting of the Industrial Strategy Council. [[HL14996](#)]

Lord Henley: The Industrial Strategy Council held its inaugural meeting on 1 November 2018 and the second meeting took place on 27 February 2019. Its next meetings are scheduled for 26 June 2019 and 3 October

2019 and will be held in Belfast and Manchester respectively. The minutes from every Council meeting will be published on the Council's website which is currently being developed and will be operational by the Summer.

Internet: Radicalism

*Asked by **Baroness Smith of Gilmorehill***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to introduce legislation to create a new regulatory framework to ensure that online platforms take action to prevent extremist content. [[HL15165](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: On 8 April, the Government published the Online Harms White Paper, which sets out our plans for world-leading legislation to make the UK the safest place in the world to go online. Companies will be held to account for tackling a comprehensive set of online harms, including terrorist and extremist content.

We intend to establish in law a new duty of care on companies towards their users, overseen by an independent regulator. This regulator will set clear safety standards, backed up by mandatory reporting requirements and effective enforcement powers.

The Government is consulting on a number of proposals in the White Paper and will bring forward legislation as soon as parliamentary time allows.

Interserve

*Asked by **Baroness Smith of Gilmorehill***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the Cabinet Office designation of Interserve as a high risk supplier in June 2018, how that designation was communicated to all Government departments and agencies. [[HL15197](#)]

Lord Young of Cookham: As stated in the Strategic Supplier Risk Management Policy that applied in June 2018, the Government does not publish whether or not a strategic supplier is designated as high risk. This Policy was withdrawn and replaced with a new approach to the monitoring and management of strategic suppliers through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the government and each of its strategic suppliers.

Investment

*Asked by **Lord Taylor of Warwick***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports suggesting that Brexit may have cost the UK approximately 2.4 per cent of GDP due to a fall in investment. [[HL14981](#)]

Lord Bates: Despite the uncertainty around Brexit, the economy remains resilient. We are currently enjoying the longest unbroken quarterly growth streak of any G7

nation, employment is at a record high and regular wages are growing at their fastest pace in over a decade. The government's priority is to continue to press the case for an orderly Brexit that delivers on the result of the referendum and ends the uncertainty facing businesses and consumers.

Iraq: Reconstruction

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the progress of (1) material, and (2) social, reconstruction in Iraq. [[HL14936](#)]

Lord Bates: The fight against Daesh led to widespread damage to infrastructure, housing and communities across Iraq. The World Bank has estimated the cost of material reconstruction to be at least £67 billion. An unquantifiable but equally serious social cost has simultaneously been exacted on Iraqi society.

The UN has spearheaded stabilisation efforts with its Funding Facility for Stabilisation (FFS), which helps stabilise areas liberated from Daesh by repairing infrastructure and vital facilities such as hospitals and schools. To date, almost 1400 projects have been completed by the FFS. The FFS has been the largest recipient of the UK's own stabilisation funding in Iraq.

There are also numerous examples of International Community-led activities focused on social cohesion and reconciliation. The FFS works to build cohesion amongst communities as the displaced return to their homes. Alongside this, the UK has spent £2.68 million targeting community safety and reintegration projects in Salah-al-Din and Nineveh.

The UK and International Community will continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Iraq as it rebuilds post-Daesh. However, as the immediate crisis recedes, only the Government of Iraq has the mandate, tools and capacity to take the primary role in driving systematic, long-term reconstruction across the country.

Islamic State: Crimes against Humanity

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 8 April (HL14768), whether the individuals they assessed as no longer being of national security concern were prosecuted for participation or complicity in Daesh atrocities; and if not, why not. [[HL15132](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: I cannot comment on individual cases. Decisions about investigation and prosecution are taken independently of Government by the police and Crown Prosecution Service on a case by case basis.

Any individual who has travelled overseas to engage in conflict will be subject to investigation, and where there is evidence that crimes have been committed, they should expect to face prosecution.

Israel: Palestinians

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 3 April (HL14802), what (1) steps they have taken, and (2) representations they have made, to the government of Israel about changing and improving the detention practices used by that government in relation to Palestinian children since the publication of the report by a delegation of British lawyers on the treatment of Palestinian children under Israeli military law Children in Military Custody in June 2012; whether they intend to take further steps, involving international organisations, in regard to the detention practices that government uses; if so, what; and if not, why not. [[HL15172](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The treatment of Palestinian children in Israeli military detention remains an important concern for the UK. While welcoming the positive steps that Israel has taken since the last review in 2012, we continue to call upon Israel to improve its practices in line with international law and obligations. Officials at our Embassy in Tel Aviv raised our concerns about children in detention with the Israeli authorities on 18 March 2019 and reiterated the UK's offer of expert discussions on the issue. We also raised the issue in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Annual Human Rights Report, and on the international stage, including at the UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review of Israel in January 2018.

Israel: West Bank

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they will make to the government of Israel about reports of the continued demolition of homes and animal shelters by Israel in Area C of the West Bank under the pretext of a lack of planning permission. [[HL15125](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have repeatedly made clear to the Israeli authorities our serious concern at the increase in demolitions of Palestinian properties in Area C of the West Bank. We call on them to cease the policy of demolitions and to provide a clear, transparent route to construction for Palestinians in Area C.

Jaguar Land Rover

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of Jaguar Land Rover's decision to shut down production short-term due to Brexit. [[HL15123](#)]

Lord Henley: We cannot comment on commercial decisions made by individual companies. However, the Government has a long-standing relationship and regular

dialogue, with all major UK car manufacturers including Jaguar Land Rover, on a range of issues including EU Exit.

Jaguar Land Rover is a hugely important company for the UK. The company remains committed to its UK operations and is continuing to invest in this country.

Leaving the EU with a deal that supports the future of British industry remains the Government's top priority.

We are determined to ensure that the UK continues to be one of the most competitive locations in the world for automotive and other advanced manufacturing.

Jamal Khashoggi

*Asked by **Baroness Helic***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what actions they have taken, if any, as part of their global campaign on media freedom to address the disappearance and murder of the Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi. [[HL15103](#)]

*Asked by **Baroness Helic***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, as part of their global campaign on media freedom, to offer advice to the government of Saudi Arabia. [[HL15104](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The death of Jamal Khashoggi brought the issue of media freedom into sharp focus. The UK's condemnation of the killing of Jamal Khashoggi has been made clear to the Saudi authorities at the highest levels. 2018 was the deadliest year for journalists, with 99 killed, 348 detained and 60 taken hostage by non-state groups. As part of the global media freedom campaign, the Foreign Secretary and his Special Envoy on Media Freedom, Amal Clooney, will establish a panel of legal experts who will examine legal and policy initiatives that states, including Saudi Arabia, can adopt to improve media freedom.

Languages: Education

*Asked by **Baroness Smith of Gilmorehill***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to promote the teaching of modern languages in schools in England. [[HL14977](#)]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: There are a number of initiatives in place to promote the teaching of modern languages in schools in England. The reformed national curriculum makes it compulsory for pupils in maintained schools to be taught a foreign language in key stage 2 and 3, and academies are required by their funding agents to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum. The government has introduced the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) performance measure, which includes languages and the proportion of GCSE entries from pupils in state-funded schools in a modern foreign language (MFL) has increased from 40% in 2010 to 46% in 2018.

Recruiting MFL teachers is a priority. Generous financial incentives are offered for languages teaching, including scholarships in modern foreign languages worth £28,000, and tax-free bursaries, typically worth up to £26,000. We are also working in partnership with Spain's Ministry of Education and Vocational Training to deliver Spain's Visiting Teachers programme. This will provide schools with access to a pool of qualified teachers from Spain who are able to teach MFL. For the 2019/20 academic year, the programme will be open to secondary schools and primary schools.

The Teacher Subject Specialism Training programme aims to improve the subject knowledge of non-specialist teachers and returning teachers in MFL and to increase the number of hours taught.

We have also recently launched the new Teacher Recruitment and Retention Strategy, which will attract new teachers to all subjects, including MFLs.

A £4.8 million MFL Pedagogy Pilot commenced in December 2018. It is managed by the newly appointed MFL Centre for Excellence and is run through 9 school-led hubs, to improve uptake and attainment in languages at key stages 3 and 4. We have also launched a pilot project in MFL undergraduate mentoring for secondary school pupils to drive up participation in the subject, specifically targeting areas of high disadvantage to extend access to languages for all pupils.

League of Arab States

*Asked by **The Marquess of Lothian***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the proceedings of the 30th Arab League Summit, held in Tunis on 31 March; and what action, if any, they intend to take as a result. [[HL15070](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are aware that Tunisia hosted the 30th Arab League Summit in Tunis on 31 March. We note the Summit Declaration's call for greater cooperation and unity between Arab League member states, in order to achieve enhanced security and prosperity in the region. The UK continues to engage with Arab League member states and the Arab League secretariat on a wide range of bilateral and regional issues.

Legal Profession: Equality

*Asked by **Lord Taylor of Warwick***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking, if any, to increase diversity at UK law firms. [[HL15121](#)]

Lord Keen of Elie: The legal profession in England and Wales is independent of Government. Statutory responsibility for encouraging an independent, strong, diverse and effective legal profession sits with the approved regulators, overseen by the oversight regulator, the Legal Services Board. Ministry of Justice Ministers take every opportunity to encourage the sector to ensure it

more closely represents the diverse society it serves through ongoing engagement with the regulators and the legal profession.

Libya: Freezing of Assets

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Italy about reports that €1.2 billion frozen Libyan assets were recently transferred to Libya. [[HL14940](#)]

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have drawn the attention of the United Nations and the European Union to reports that Belgium and Italy have released frozen Libyan assets without the permission of the UN Security Council. [[HL14941](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are aware of these reports and regularly discuss Libya sanctions measures and their implementation with our EU partners and UN Security Council members, as part of our support for UN-led efforts to bring greater stability to the country.

Lloyds Bank: Fees and Charges

Asked by Lord Balfie

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the way in which Lloyds Bank have introduced changes to the structure of charges for unplanned overdrafts; what assessment they have made of the appropriateness of the timing of those changes; and what assessment they have made of the impact of those changes on customers. [[HL14992](#)]

Lord Bates: Overdraft pricing is a commercial decision for firms, therefore HM Treasury does not make assessments of individual firms' prices, the strategies for announcing those prices or the impact of those changes on customers.

In December 2018 the Financial Conduct Authority published a consultation on interventions in the overdraft market. This consultation has now closed and the final remedies are due to be published in June this year.

Local Government: Audit

Asked by Lord Lucas

To ask Her Majesty's Government what rules apply to the setting of a level of materiality in local authority audits; who enforces those rules; and whether a level of materiality in excess of ten per cent of a council's annual turnover is unusual. [[HL15248](#)]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: Local authority auditors are required to comply with International Auditing Standards (IAS) when they set materiality thresholds for local authority audits. IAS 320 states that the auditor's determination of materiality is a matter of

professional judgement and it explains that misstatements, including omissions, are considered to be material if they, individually or in the aggregate, could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements

It is not our role to make a judgement on whether the materiality level set by an auditor is unusual or not. However, when setting the materiality level, the auditor should ensure their judgement is justified transparently including a demonstration of how they have designed their audit work to suit the structure and operations of local authorities

If a person wants to make a complaint about the work of an auditor, in the first instance they should complain directly to the senior audit partner using the firm's complaint processes. Auditors are obligated to consider all complaints. Following that, if the complaint is not resolved, further escalation can be made to the auditor's Responsible Supervisory Body (RSB).

London Capital and Finance: Individual Savings Accounts

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government what investigations they have initiated into the authorisation by the Financial Conduct Authority for London Capital and Finance to offer ISA investments. [[HL14968](#)]

Lord Bates: On 1 April, the Economic Secretary announced that he will use powers under the Financial Services Act 2012 to direct the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) to launch an investigation into the events at London Capital & Finance and the circumstances surrounding them. This followed a request from the FCA Chair, Charles Randell, to the Economic Secretary to launch such an investigation.

Approval to act as an ISA manager is granted by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). When considering an application, HMRC undertakes checks to ensure that applicants hold the appropriate regulatory permissions from the FCA.

Once approval is granted, ISA managers must administer the ISA scheme in accordance with the ISA legislation. HMRC has a range of powers to tackle non-compliance with the rules, including withdrawing permission to act as an ISA manager, voiding non-compliant ISAs and reclaiming any incorrectly paid tax relief.

M4: Speed Limits

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Sugg on 4 April ([HL14781](#)), what estimate they have made of the (1) cost, and (2) time delay, to an individual motorist as a result of the 50mph speed limit on the M4 road works between Junctions 3 and 12; and what they

estimate the comparable cost of a minute's delay for an individual travelling on an intercity train to be. [HL15138]

Baroness Sugg: Highways England does not hold data in the format requested. The Economic Assessment Report provides a high-level estimate of the user delay costs, as provided in my answer of 4 April.

The Department for Transport also has guidance on economic appraisal of the impacts of unplanned rail delays and temporary timetables associated with engineering work. Estimates will vary based on demand levels, purpose of trips and rail fares.

Middle East: British Nationals Abroad

Asked by Baroness Berridge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the humanitarian conditions for British children living in refugee camps in Syria or in territory that was formerly part of the sovereign states of Syria or Iraq. [HL14932]

Lord Bates: The UK remains deeply concerned about the humanitarian situation throughout the region, including for vulnerable groups such as women and children. We are aware of a significant number of minors residing in refugee and internally displaced persons camps in former Daesh held areas.

Limited access and harsh winter conditions continue to exacerbate humanitarian need. Access to food, sanitation, healthcare, shelter and education remain core concerns in the international response. In 2018/19, we provided over £40 million to address basic-life saving needs in North East Syria. Since 2014, DFID has committed over £250 million in humanitarian support to Iraq, providing a vital lifeline of emergency food, shelter, medical care and clean water.

Military Aircraft: Procurement

Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to purchase and deploy optionally manned aircraft for the armed services. [HL15222]

Earl Howe: The UK has no formal plans to purchase optionally manned aircraft. Air programmes, such as the Combat Air Acquisition Programme (CAAP) which aims to replace Typhoon's capabilities from 2040 onwards, are assessing the potential benefits of such solutions across a range of applications.

Military Bases

Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made in implementing the Better Defence Estate Strategy, published in 2016. [HL15224]

Earl Howe: I refer the noble Lord to the oral statement given in the House of Commons by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Defence Personnel and Veterans (Tobias Ellwood) on 28 February 2019 (Official Report, column 540) that provided an update on the work undertaken through the Defence Estate Optimisation Programme.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Defence Estate Optimisation Programme
[20190228_Defence_Estate-Optimisation_Programme.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-04-11/HL15224>

Ministers: Resignations

Asked by Lord Tebbit

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many ministers, including Government Whips, have resigned since the 2017 General Election. [HL15050]

Lord Young of Cookham: I refer my noble friend to my answer of 4 December 2018 [HL 11735], since when nine ministers have resigned from the Government.

The number of ministers appointed to Her Majesty's Government, and the roles to which they are appointed, will vary from time to time. Since 4 December, nine ministers have joined the Government.

Mohammad Ali Dar Adwan

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel following the killing of Mohammad Ali Dar Adwan in Qalandiya refugee camp by Israeli forces and reports of the subsequent mistreatment of the body leading to violent clashes with local residents. [HL15129]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are aware of the case in question. We have regularly lobbied the Israeli authorities to avoid civilian casualties, to ensure that any actions they take are proportionate and to adhere to international humanitarian law.

Music: Education

Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the timeline for the review of the National Plan for Music Education, which currently runs until 2020. [HL15217]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: We have begun preparatory work on the refresh of the National Plan for Music Education, which will be published by 2020.

We are grateful to the many music stakeholders who have already submitted reports and proposals, and are reviewing these closely. A further public announcement will be made soon, setting out our plans to ensure that

everyone with an interest in music has the opportunity to contribute.

The government believes that music is an important subject and that all pupils should receive a high quality music education, at least up to age 14. That is why the subject is compulsory in the national curriculum and why the government is providing funding of over £300 million for music education hubs between 2016 and 2020. The national curriculum does not apply in academies, but all state-funded schools have to provide a broad and balanced curriculum.

In order to ensure all pupils are able to enjoy a high quality music education, we are also developing and publishing a non-statutory model music curriculum for key stages 1 to 3. This will expand on the statutory programmes of study and act as a benchmark for all schools.

Nassima Al-Sadah

*Asked by **Baroness Sheehan***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Saudi Arabia about the continued solitary confinement of female campaigner Nassima Al-Sadah, and about the fact that although originally detained with the 11 women who were brought to trial in Riyadh on 13 March, she has not been charged with a crime; and what response they have received to any such representations. [[HL15117](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are closely following the case of Nassima Al-Sadah and other women's rights defenders. We continue to raise our concerns with the Saudi authorities about the alleged mistreatment of women's rights activists in detention. The UK, along with other embassies in Saudi Arabia, requested and were denied access to the trials of women's rights defenders that took place on 13 and 27 March.

National Education Union: Internet

*Asked by **Lord Storey***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the accuracy of the information provided by [schoolcuts.org.uk](#), maintained by the National Education Union. [[HL15118](#)]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: Following criticism by the UK Statistics Authority, School Cuts have recently amended their website. The campaign compares data on schools' budgets published by the Department for Education with an estimate of cost pressures on schools since 2015-16. This is used to create a cumulative figure, covering 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19, which is presented as a single figure representing 'cuts' that schools have faced.

Our record has been to prioritise school funding, while taking difficult decisions on public spending elsewhere. Core funding for schools and high needs has risen to

£43.5 billion this year – its highest ever level in cash terms, and since 2017, the national funding formula has given every local authority more money for every pupil, while allocating the biggest increases to the schools that have been most underfunded. We do recognise that schools have faced cost pressures, and have an extensive programme to help schools make the most of the funding available to them.

Nitrous Oxide

*Asked by **Lord Vaux of Harrowden***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the proportion of nitrous oxide sold for catering purposes but used for recreational purposes; whether they consider the recreational use of nitrous oxide to be harmful or to be a gateway drug amongst young people; and whether they have any plans to tighten the rules relating to the supply of nitrous oxide. [[HL15173](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government has not made an assessment of the proportion of nitrous oxide sold for catering purposes and subsequently diverted into the illicit market.

The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs considered nitrous oxide in 2015 and concluded that there is evidence that the use of nitrous oxide, other than in line with designated guidance and for the purposes other than for which it was manufactured, can cause harm. Evidence is not available on whether nitrous oxide is a gateway drug to other harmful substances.

Under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 those who supply nitrous oxide for recreational use, or who are reckless as to whether it will be used for its psychoactive effect, are subject to a maximum sentence of seven years' imprisonment.

In 2017/18, there were 95 seizures of nitrous oxide by police forces in England and Wales. Since the PSA came into force in 2016, over 300 retailers across the United Kingdom have either closed down or are no longer selling psychoactive substances; police have arrested suppliers; and action by the National Crime Agency has resulted in the removal of psychoactive substances being sold by UK based websites. In 2016, there were a total of 28 convictions in England and Wales under the PSA and seven people jailed under the new powers. This rose to 152 convictions in 2017 with 62 people immediately sent to custody.

The Government has no plans to change the law further in relation to this substance.

In relation to drug misuse more broadly, on 8 February, the Government announced the appointment of Professor Dame Carol Black to lead a wide-ranging review of drugs. In its initial stage it will look at who drug users are, what they are taking and how often to build the most in-depth and comprehensive picture of this issue to date. The review, which will build on existing government

strategies to combat drugs, serious violence and serious and organised crime, will examine the harms that drugs cause and the best ways to prevent drug-taking.

North Korea: Smuggling

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking following the evidence gathered by HMS Montrose regarding fuel tankers illegally smuggling petrol to North Korea. [[HL14924](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have passed on evidence gathered by HMS Montrose on illegal North Korean ship to ship transfers of fuel to the UN Panel of Experts. The Panel is mandated to gather, examine and analyse information provided by States on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions, as well as information on incidents of non-compliance.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking following the findings of the UN Panel of Experts on North Korea in March that "Ports and airports in North Korea were being used for rampant violations" of UN Security Council resolutions and sanctions, involving at least 89 calls by fuel tankers at North Korean ports involving illegal imports of oil, coal, and bulk cash. [[HL14925](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We keep a close track of North Korean sanctions implementation and respond robustly when there is evidence of sanctions breaches. We are active in working with and lobbying, where necessary, international partners to ensure that all relevant UN Security Council resolutions in respect of North Korea are fully and effectively implemented.

Nuclear Fusion

Asked by Lord Goodlad

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support the realisation of the potential benefits of fusion energy for the UK economy. [[HL14947](#)]

Lord Henley: The Government is determined to realise the potential benefits of fusion energy for the UK by maintaining the UK's status as the best place for fusion R&D. On 27 March 2019, the UK and the European Commission signed a new contract extension until the end of 2020 for the Joint European Torus (JET) facility, a fusion research reactor operated by the UK Atomic Energy Authority, the UK's publicly funded, world-leading fusion research laboratory. This action is independent of the wider EU exit negotiations and safeguards the facility and over 500 high-skilled jobs at UKAEA's Oxfordshire site.

The government continues to support UKAEA, undertaking several recent investments and initiatives. In the 2018 Budget, the Chancellor announced £20m in the 19/20 financial year for UKAEA to begin development of

a new UK based Nuclear Fusion reactor, STEP (Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production), paving the way for new UK-developed fusion power and technology. In autumn 2018, UKAEA completed a £50m upgrade to the UK's domestic fusion research reactor, the Mega-Amp Spherical Tokamak. UKAEA are also developing a new £86m National Fusion Technology Platform, building new fusion R&D facilities to secure the UK around £1 billion in international contracts and, over the longer term, put the UK in a strong position to exploit the commercialisation of fusion energy.

Offensive Weapons: Sales

Asked by Baroness Brady

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to prevent the online sale of machetes in the UK. [[HL15143](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: In 2016, the Government agreed a set of commitments with major retailers to prevent the underage sales of knives, including machetes, in their stores and online. This also covered staff training, the display and packaging of knives. A number of major retailers have signed up to this, including Tesco, eBay UK, Lidl UK, Amazon UK, Wilko, Argos, Asda, Poundland, Morrisons, Sainsbury's, John Lewis, Waitrose, Boots, the Co-op, B&Q, Aldi, TKMaxx and Debenhams. We continue to work with retailers to strengthen the agreement, including in relation to the display of these products in stores.

It is an offence to sell articles with a blade, which includes machetes, to a person under 18, whether that be face to face or online. In addition, the Offensive Weapons Bill will further strengthen the law, with specific new knives offences, including making it an offence to possess certain offensive weapons in private, and stopping bladed products being sent to residential addresses after they are bought online unless the seller has made arrangements with a delivery person or company not to hand that item over to a person under 18 at that address.

This means that businesses will still be able to sell and dispatch bladed products, which could include machetes, to residential addresses, but they will need to have the necessary arrangements in place to ensure that their products are not delivered into the hands of anyone aged under 18.

Organised Crime: Rural Areas

Asked by Lord Birt

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 21 January (HL12535), what assessment they have made of the key trends in organised acquisitive crime in rural areas, in terms of (1) the volume, and (2) the different categories of such crime. [[HL15089](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) continues to show that, for

those crimes covered by the CSEW, people in rural areas are less likely to be the victims of crime than those in urban areas. Property crime tables published by the Office for National Statistics on 28 February this year show that, according to CSEW interviews in the year to March 2018, people living in rural areas were less likely to be the victims of: bicycle theft, domestic burglary, other household theft, robbery, personal theft and vehicle-related theft.

Details can be found at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/focusonpropertycrimeappendixtables>

Pakistan: Minority Groups

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to reconsider their policy of disregarding the status of Pakistan's minorities in determining and allocating development aid. [HL15027]

Lord Bates: UK aid prioritises support for the poorest and most excluded people and communities in Pakistan regardless of race, religion, social background or nationality. Our investment will not only assist Pakistan to become a more prosperous country that will help millions of its citizens living in poverty, but will also improve stability and security in Pakistan, the region, and beyond.

Pakistan: Shanty Towns

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government when their officials working in Pakistan last visited the shanty towns on the periphery of Islamabad to report on the conditions in which the residents live; and whether they are collecting data on the percentage of people from Pakistan's minorities living in such areas. [HL15026]

Lord Bates: UK aid prioritises support for the poorest and most excluded people and communities in Pakistan. Thus, whilst we recognise that there are poor people living in Islamabad, UK aid is focussed in the provinces with the highest number of poor people and on strengthening capacity of those provinces to deliver basic services to their populations.

DFID strive to visit as many programme locations as possible to gather feedback from communities, including minority communities. DFID Pakistan also has projects that work directly with minorities and aims to tackle the drivers underpinning intolerance and discrimination, through promoting greater understanding between communities.

DFID Pakistan is striving to better disaggregate its results through a data disaggregation action plan which focuses on 4 key areas: sex, age, disability and geography. This will improve our understanding of those who benefit from our programmes. We do not currently have plans to

collect data on religion as we recognise the risks associated with potentially revealing such sensitive information for religious minorities.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any development funds are directed towards the rebuilding and provision of running water or electricity to Islamabad's shanty towns; and if not, why not. [HL15028]

Lord Bates: The UK's work in Pakistan is focused on peace and stability, making democracy work, jobs and growth and providing basic services.

UK aid prioritises support for the poorest and most excluded people and communities in Pakistan, thus DFID Pakistan's bilateral programmes focus on provinces with the highest numbers of poor people and on strengthening the capacity of those provinces to deliver basic services to their populations. This includes supporting the provision of electricity and engaging with the governments regarding adequate water provision.

While we recognise that there are poor people living in Islamabad, without access to electricity or running water, they cannot be our focus. We expect the Islamabad Capital Development Authority to support them with support received at national level from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

Personal Care Services: Industrial Health and Safety

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that the toxic waste that comes from hairdressing salons in England in the form of peroxides and dyestuff is dealt with safely. [HL15119]

Baroness Buscombe: The safe use of peroxides and dyestuff by hairdressers falls within the policy remit of the Health and Safety Executive and the relevant health and safety legislation is enforced by local authority inspectors. The disposal of hazardous waste is enforced by the Environment Agency.

Most products used in the hairdressing sector are considered to be 'cosmetics' and to be deemed safe for human use they must comply with Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009 on Cosmetic Products (recast) which are enforced by Trading Standards under The Cosmetic Products Enforcement Regulations 2013.

Under the Registration Evaluation Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals Regulations (REACH) 2006 suppliers of hazardous substances must provide users of those substances with a Safety Data Sheet (SDS). The SDS contains the information necessary to enable users to carry out a risk assessment as required by the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) 2002 including how the product can be used, stored and disposed of safely.

Peter Chester

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what investigations they have carried out into the reasons for the delays that have affected the parole application and prison category of Peter Chester, currently held at HMP Full Sutton; what steps, if any, they are taking to prevent delays for life sentence prisoners who remain detained after the end of their judicial tariffs; and whether they take into account, when making parole decisions, whether hearsay evidence has prejudiced a case. [HL15181]

Lord Keen of Elie: Peter Chester is currently placed in closed conditions pending a further review of his detention and his suitability for open conditions by the independent Parole Board which has commenced in line with current legislation.

The Parole Board has confirmed that there is no longer a backlog when it comes to listing oral hearings for life and IPP sentence prisoners. The law provides that life sentenced prisoners are entitled to have their detention reviewed by the independent Parole Board every two years. The evidence that is considered and the weight that is given to that evidence are matters solely for the independent Parole Board.

Police: Data Protection

Asked by Lord Scriven

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they plan to take following the Information Commissioner's Office raising concerns that the introduction of technology allowing the police to gather data from mobile phones or laptops by overriding passwords may be unlawful. [HL15195]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government is not aware of any specific concerns from the Information Commissioner's Office regarding the use of technology to override pass-words in England and Wales. There are currently no plans to change legislation.

Primodos

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of the accusations made by Professor Carl Heneghan of the University of Oxford and reported by Sky News on 5 April that a study on Primodos overseen by the Medical and Healthcare products Regulation Agency failed to properly assess the risks of that drug; and that meta-analysis results were left out of the final report. [HL15086]

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of reports by Sky News on 5 April that UK regulators in the 1970s destroyed

evidence that suggested an association between the use of Primodos and birth defects. [HL15087]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: The review of Hormone Pregnancy Tests undertaken by the Commission on Human Medicines Expert Working Group (EWG) was comprehensive, scientifically robust and independent. All evidence considered by the EWG has been published online.

The EWG examined a large number of studies, including all those in Professor Heneghan's published meta-analysis, and for scientific reasons considered that meta-analysis was not an appropriate way to analyse the data. The rationale of the EWG is clearly documented in the minutes of the meetings and in the final report, both of which have been available online since November 2017.

The terms of reference of the EWG did not include investigation of any historical regulatory failings. The Government awaits the outcome of the Independent Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Review led by Baroness Cumberlege, which is expected to examine the procedures followed in the case of Primodos and to make recommendations.

Prisoners' Release

Asked by Lord Scriven

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to urgently review the detention of prisoners subject to imprisonment for public protection sentences who have served their minimum tariff following reports of the numbers of those who await a decision from the Parole Board. [HL15259]

Lord Keen of Elie: By law, it is for the independent Parole Board to review the detention of those prisoners serving an IPP sentence who have completed their tariff period. The Parole Board no longer has a backlog when it comes to listing cases for an oral hearing. The Board will direct the release of these prisoners only if it is satisfied that the levels of risk posed to the general public are reduced enough that the National Probation Service and its partner agencies can safely manage them in the community under supervision.

Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) have been working to improve the management and progression of prisoners serving these sentences for some time, which is evident in the increasing number of overall releases we have seen in recent years: 576 in 2016 and 616 in 2017.

A joint action plan is in place, co-owned by HMPPS and the Parole Board, with the specific aim of providing opportunities for prisoners serving IPP sentences to progress to safe release. Through continuing the joint Action Plan, we are prioritising post-tariff prisoners in accessing rehabilitative interventions, including Psychology Services-led reviews in cases where there has not been satisfactory progression, and enhanced case management, for those prisoners sentenced with a complex set of risks and needs. We have also developed

Progression Regimes at four prisons across the country, which are dedicated to progressing indeterminate prisoners struggling to achieve release via the usual routes.

Whilst HMPPS is focused on giving all prisoners serving IPP sentences opportunities to progress towards release, public protection must remain our priority.

Public Sector

Asked by Lord Ouseley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the relative merits of public services being run directly by public service operations in comparison to private contractors. [\[HL15116\]](#)

Lord Young of Cookham: Outsourcing is an important component in a "mixed economy" of government service provision which includes in-house and the voluntary sector. Research commissioned by the previous government has shown that outsourcing can deliver savings of some twenty to thirty percent.

Decisions on whether to outsource any particular service are made on a case by case basis according to Treasury guidance and the newly published Outsourcing Playbook. This guidance aims to ensure government makes well evidenced assessments when deciding whether to outsource a public service and helps government and industry work better together to deliver high quality public services.

Railways: Capital Investment

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Sugg on 2 April (HL14685), of the £48 billion committed to investment in the rail network during Control Period 6, how much is for new (1) infrastructure, and (2) rolling stock; and what is the planned investment in HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail during the same period. [\[HL15085\]](#)

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The £48bn Control Period 6 funding settlement for the railway that Government announced in 2017 makes provision for the operation, maintenance and renewal of rail infrastructure between 2019 and 2024. It includes a £10.4bn provision for infrastructure enhancement projects. This is on top of new rolling stock, which is procured via separate arrangements.

High Speed 2 (HS2) has a long-term funding envelope of £55.7bn (2015 prices). It is this government's largest capital programme and the benefits are largely for the North.

The Government has committed £52m to continue to develop Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) this year. Decisions on future investment will be considered in the Spending Review. We are working with Transport for the North on their plans for NPR. The full benefits of NPR

can only be achieved by integrating it with HS2 and given the status of the projects NPR needs HS2 to be built first.

Renewable Energy

Asked by Baroness Smith of Gilmorehill

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of the UK's energy mix by 2030 will be delivered by (1) marine renewable energy, and (2) solar energy; and what steps they (a) have taken, and (b) intend to take, to achieve the delivery of that percentage. [\[HL15196\]](#)

Lord Henley: On an annual basis BEIS publishes updated energy and emissions projections, which are located on the BEIS website. In the latest report published 11 April 2019, renewables are projected to form 59% of the UK's electricity generation by 2030 (under the reference scenario). Up to the early 2020s, the reference scenario reflects current power sector policies. Beyond the early 2020s, the reference scenario includes assumptions that go beyond current Government policy. The results do not indicate a preferred outcome and should be treated as illustrative.

Since 2003 the Government has made £174m innovation and grant funding available to wave and tidal stream technologies with £80m of that since 2010. Wave and tidal stream projects benefitted from the highest level of support under the Renewables Obligation (5 RO Certificates/MWh) and are eligible to enter the forthcoming Contract for Difference allocation round. As set out in the Clean Growth Strategy, wave and tidal stream technologies could have a role in the long-term decarbonisation of the UK, but they will need to demonstrate how they can compete with other forms of generation.

Solar PV is a UK success story: under the RO and Feed in Tariff schemes, both of which have now closed, a total of 12.3GW of solar PV capacity was delivered. We are now exceeding our historic projections on solar PV deployment. In 2013 we estimated that solar capacity would reach 10-12GW by 2020, but latest figures indicate that we already have over 13GW of solar capacity installed in the UK; enough to power over 3 million homes. Subsidy-free deployment of solar PV may be a viable option for developers in future, with two such sites having already deployed in the UK, and the planned construction of two more large-scale subsidy-free solar projects was announced in February 2019.

Right to Buy Scheme

Asked by Baroness Thornhill

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to allow local councils (1) to set their own discount rates for the Right to Buy scheme, and (2) to retain all receipts from the Right To Buy scheme; and what assessment, if any, they have made of the case for withdrawing the Right To Buy scheme to assist with the shortage of social housing. [\[HL15052\]](#)

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Government remains committed to the Right to Buy and believes that anybody who works hard and aspires to own their own home should have the opportunity to do so. We have recently consulted councils on increased flexibilities around the use of Right to Buy receipts, designed to make it easier for them to deliver more housing with those receipts, and will be issuing our response to the consultation shortly. The response will formally set out the Government's views on the issues raised here.

River Stour: Insecticides

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the annual treatment of the River Stour in Dorset to prevent infestations of the Blandford Fly is effective; and what is their assessment of the risks of that treatment, if any, to (1) human, (2) animal, and (3) plant life. [HL15157]

Baroness Buscombe: Local monitoring by General Practitioners of the incidence of bites in the 1990s showed a decline. Whether this was due to the annual treatments cannot be proved conclusively.

Dorset Council is undertaking a trial into the effectiveness of a biocidal product against the Blandford Fly. The Health and Safety Executive's assessment of the product in question, conducted as part of providing an authorisation for its use, concluded that the risks for humans, non-target animals and the wider environment were acceptable.

Roads: Litter

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to ensure that Highways England enforces the terms of the contract agreed with Connect Plus in respect of litter clearance; and how many times Highways England has imposed a financial penalty on that contractor since the contract was awarded. [HL15159]

Baroness Sugg: Highways England conduct a monthly Environmental Audit inspection to ensure Connect Plus meet their contractual obligations in respect of litter.

Although there is no direct mechanism to apply financial penalties for failure to collect litter specifically, Connect Plus are monitored on their performance with respect to removing litter from the strategic road network. Failure to meet their contractual obligations can trigger various sanctions, which can range from increased reporting, additional monitoring to loss of entitlement to certain bonuses. In extreme cases, if the performance of a contractor persistently falls below the terms of the specific contractual arrangements across multiple aspects of performance, this could lead to contract termination through contractor default.

Schools: Admissions

Asked by Lord Oates

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the total number of (1) primary, and (2) secondary school, students in England in each year since 2010. [HL15152]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: Information on schools and pupils in England is published in the annual 'Schools, pupils and their characteristics' statistical release: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/schools-pupils-and-their-characteristics-january-2018>.

Specifically, the number of primary and secondary school pupils in England in each year since 2010 can be found in table 2a, attached, within the 'Schools, pupils and their characteristics 2018 - national tables'.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL15152_Table_2a_All_Schools_Number_Schools_Pupils
[HL15152_Table_2a_All_Schools_Number_Schools_Pupils_Type.xls]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-04-09/HL15152>

Schools: Cost Effectiveness

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many schools the Department for Education team of consultants seeking savings as a result of school budget difficulties have visited. [HL15015]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: School Resource Management Advisers (SRMAs) are practising sector experts, such as school business professionals, who work collaboratively with schools and trusts in order to help them make best use of their available resources to deliver the best possible education for pupils. SRMAs work with a range of trusts, not just those reporting a deficit position. SRMAs have so far completed 143 deployments, with a further 161 deployments currently underway. They are available to any state funded school looking to review their resource allocation against their peers.

SMRAs are one of a number of tools that we have made available to the schools system, such as the department's benchmarking website, which can be found here: <https://schools-financial-benchmarking.service.gov.uk/>.

Schools: Finance

Asked by Lord Oates

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Agnew of Oulton on 3 April (HL14408), what was the total revenue funding provided to (1) primary schools, and (2) secondary schools in England in each year since 2010. [HL15151]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: Since 2013/14 there has been a schools block, within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), from which local authorities fund budget shares for schools based on the number of pupils within those schools. The amounts local authorities have allocated from their schools block to schools classed as primary schools and to schools classed as secondary schools for each year since 2013/14 to 2018/19 are shown in the following table:

<i>Financial year</i>	<i>Schools classed as primary schools (£million)</i>	<i>Schools classed as secondary schools (£million)</i>	<i>Total (£million)</i>
2013/14	16,180	14,271	30,451
2014/15	16,637	14,212	30,849
2015/16	17,170	13,727	30,897
2016/17	17,529	13,732	31,261
2017/18	17,830	13,857	31,686
2018/19	18,267	14,364	32,631

Due to changes in the way the DSG was allocated to local authorities prior to 2013/14, it is not possible to provide figures broken down by primary and secondary schools from 2010/11 to 2013/14. Before 2013/14, funding allocated through the DSG to local authorities was not based on separate per pupil rates for schools. At this time, the DSG was allocated to each local authority using a single per pupil amount allowing them to fund individual budget shares for schools and academies, local authority central services for schools, additional support for high needs pupils, and provision for early years education.

Science: Higher Education

Asked by Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Viscount Younger of Leckie on 5 April (HL14870), what plans they have to ensure more people are encouraged to study entomology and soil science to help address the decline in insect populations and the degradation of soils. [HL15111]

Viscount Younger of Leckie: As announced in the Industrial Strategy, the government is committed to growing the skills we need for a dynamic and modern economy. This includes developing a technical education system that rivals the best in the world and stands alongside our world-class academic offer. We recognise the importance of investing in the types of skills to secure the scientific grounding and technological aptitude we need to be successful as our economy changes. The government is encouraging more students into science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and training at all stages, starting from an early age.

The early years foundation stage sets standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5 years old. This includes helping young children understand the world, living things and the environment, as well as encouraging observations of animals and plants. Teachers are also encouraged to teach children about the natural, built and practical environments, for example, by providing small world equipment and taking care of flowerbeds.

We have committed substantial spending on STEM skills, specifically on mathematics, digital and technical education, to increase the take-up and better teaching of STEM subjects in schools. There are also GCSEs that provide students with background knowledge relevant to agriculture-related studies, such as how humans use, modify and change ecosystems and environments in order to obtain food, energy and water. In GCSE biology, pupils will cover topics such as photosynthesis, gene technology and living organisms, which can include insects. Additionally, we introduced an environmental science A level in 2017, which includes topics such as the conservation of biodiversity.

As agriculture moves towards a more technical, automated and digital mode, and demand for these skills increases, the sector has the potential to offer exciting and interesting careers. The government has committed to improving STEM careers advice in schools in the careers strategy, attached, which ensures that STEM encounters, such as with employers and apprenticeships, are built into school career programmes by updating school and college statutory guidance.

The government also funds a number of programmes that aim to inspire more young people to study science subjects, such as the STEM Ambassadors programme, and the CREST awards, which engages students in STEM related projects.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL15111_Careers_Strategy [HL15111_Careers_strategy.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-04-08/HL15111>

Service Complaints Ombudsman: Powers

Asked by Baroness Garden of Frognal

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to strengthen the powers of the Service Complaints Ombudsman and, in particular, to make the Ombudsman's recommendations legally binding. [HL15098]

Earl Howe: The powers of the Service Complaints Ombudsman were subject to extensive consideration during the passage of The Armed Forces (Service Complaints and Financial Assistance) Act 2015. We have no current plans to change those powers.

As I have stated in my previous answer to the noble Lady's Question HL5618 on 6 March 2018,

recommendations made by the Ombudsman are not legally binding, but they do have considerable weight. The expectation is that the Services will follow recommendations made by the Ombudsman, unless there are good, cogent and defensible reasons not to do so.

Sheep: Exports

Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many live sheep were exported in each year from 2014 to 2018; where those sheep were exported to; and what percentage of the total amount of sheep exported went for slaughter in each of those years. [HL15065]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The table for the total number of sheep exported in the years 2014 to 2018, including the destination country and the percentage of sheep exported for slaughter in each year is set out below.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Country exported to</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage of the total number of sheep exported went for slaughter</i>
2014		52886	4.90%
	Austria	53	
	Belgium	6216	
	Czech Republic	8	
	Denmark	2	
	Estonia	15	
	France	26357	
	Germany	1804	
	Guernsey	2	
	Ireland	142	
	isle of Man	668	
	Italy	332	
	Jersey	3	
	Latvia	97	
	Malta	4	
	Northern Ireland	8171	
	Romania	30	
	Switzerland	55	
	The Netherlands	8927	
2015		40824	8.10%
	Belgium	2696	
	France	23858	
	Germany	562	

<i>Year</i>	<i>Country exported to</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage of the total number of sheep exported went for slaughter</i>
	Guernsey	2	
	Ireland	770	
	Isle of Man	404	
	Italy	58	
	Lithuania	25	
	Northern Ireland	7381	
	Poland	5	
	Portugal	6	
	Romania	12	
	Switzerland	51	
	The Netherlands	4994	
2016		66165	10.60%
	Austria	49	
	Belgium	4319	
	Denmark	3	
	Estonia	28	
	Finland	15	
	France	20225	
	Germany	15028	
	Guernsey	9	
	Hungary	23	
	Ireland	1079	
	Isle of Man	3265	
	Italy	66	
	Jersey	22	
	Latvia	37	
	Northern Ireland	10085	
	Spain	14	
	Switzerland	118	
	The Netherlands	11780	
2017		44781	20%
	Austria	2	
	Belgium	7278	
	Czech Republic	13	
	Estonia	12	

<i>Year</i>	<i>Country exported to</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage of the total number of sheep exported went for slaughter</i>
2018	France	8719	9.30%
	Germany	1781	
	Ireland	5889	
	Isle of Man	4944	
	Italy	32	
	Jersey	8	
	Northern Ireland	11989	
	Portugal	68	
	Romania	13	
	Spain	45	
	Sweden	19	
	Switzerland	97	
	The Netherlands	3872	
	Austria	3	
	Belgium	2347	
	Croatia (Local Name: Hrvatska)	99	
	Estonia	73	
	France	12506	
	Germany	208	
	Guernsey	8	
	Hungary	1	
	Ireland	11042	
	Isle of Man	648	
	Italy	39	
	Jersey	68	
	Lithuania	108	
	Northern Ireland	10711	
	Portugal	92	
	Romania	68	
	Serbia	30	
	Spain	53	
	Switzerland	158	
	The Netherlands	2364	

This data includes exports from holdings in England, Scotland and Wales. Movements between Northern Ireland (NI) and The Republic of Ireland (RoI) is a devolved matter, data for this can be requested from DAERA.

Skin Diseases: Diagnosis

Asked by Lord Clark of Windermere

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to improve GPs' diagnostic skills for skin conditions. [[HL15090](#)]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: The Royal College of General Practitioners' curriculum includes a module on the care of people with skin problems. This sets out the knowledge and skills a general practitioner should have in the diagnosis and management of skin conditions relevant to their role as generalist, community-based doctors, including the diagnostic investigations, such as blood and immunological testing to needed to support a diagnosis.

Once fully qualified, clinicians are responsible for ensuring their own clinical knowledge remains up-to-date and for identifying learning needs as part of their continuing professional development. This activity should include taking account of new research and developments in guidance, such as that produced by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). NICE has published a clinical guideline on the diagnosis and treatment of number of common skin conditions, such as psoriasis and eczema. The guidance is routinely reviewed to ensure it reflects the latest available, including around diagnostic approaches.

The British Association of Dermatologists also continues to produce a range toolkits and guidance for health professionals.

SS Richard Montgomery

Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they last discussed the wreck of the SS Richard Montgomery with the government of the United States. [[HL14955](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have not recently discussed the issue of the SS *Richard Montgomery* with the US Government.

Students: Loans

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following Office for National Statistics changes to the recording of student loans in the national accounts, what proportion of student loan payments will be classed as (1) government lending, and (2) government spending. [[HL15079](#)]

Lord Bates: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) published updated estimates of potential fiscal impacts from the new student loans accounting treatment in Annex E of their March 2019 Economic and fiscal outlook.

However, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has made it clear that there is a lot to decide before their methodology is finalised. The ONS plan to fully implement the new treatment for student loans in the public sector finances in September 2019.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Asked by Baroness Cox

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that the Sudanese Armed and Air Forces have increased their military presence in South Kordofan since January. [[HL15096](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are aware of reports of the Sudanese Armed Forces being redeployed outside of the Safe Demilitarised Buffer zone in the border area of Sudan and South Sudan since October 2018 and are monitoring the situation. We continue to press all sides involved in the longstanding conflict in the Nuba Mountains – both government and rebel groups – to engage positively to reach an agreement for a lasting peace. We raised this frequently with the Sudanese authorities and will continue to do so. Human rights and conflict resolution remain key priorities for our engagement in Sudan.

Asked by Baroness Cox

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that the Sudanese Rapid Support Forces have been deployed to the Nuba Mountains; and what steps they have taken, if any, to ensure citizens of the Nuba Mountains are protected from violent conflict and human rights abuses. [[HL15097](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are aware of reports of the Sudanese Armed Forces being redeployed outside of the Safe Demilitarised Buffer zone in the border area of Sudan and South Sudan since October 2018 and are monitoring the situation. We continue to press all sides involved in the longstanding conflict in the Nuba Mountains – both government and rebel groups – to engage positively to reach an agreement for a lasting peace. We raised this frequently with the Sudanese authorities and will continue to do so. Human rights and conflict resolution remain key priorities for our engagement in Sudan.

Sustainable Development

Asked by Lord Porter of Spalding

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to the conclusion in the report by the Environmental Audit Committee Sustainable

Development Goals in the UK, published on 26 April 2017 (HC 596), that they should do everything they can to support partners, including local government, to contribute towards delivering the Sustainable Development Goals. [[HL15013](#)]

Lord Bates: It is vital that all levels of Government, as well as civil society, business and others, continue to work together to deliver the Global Goals.

The UK Voluntary National Review (VNR) will be an important opportunity to highlight work across the country to support delivery of the Global Goals, and we are determined it will tell the story beyond Central Government. Last month the Government hosted a series of VNR engagement events, including two focussed on local delivery of the Goals in Leeds and Bristol. We have also received over 200 submissions from organisations to our VNR website, showcasing what they are doing to deliver the Goals. This included a number of submissions from local authorities.

The VNR is a stepping-stone rather than an end in itself and is an important tool to further galvanise action and activity across the UK in pursuit of the Goals.

Syria: Reconstruction

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry

To ask Her Majesty's Government what contribution they intend to make, if any, to the reconstruction of a post-war Syria. [[HL14937](#)]

Lord Bates: The UK is clear that it will only consider funding for reconstruction within Syria once a credible, genuine and inclusive political process is firmly underway. To do otherwise would only exacerbate the grievances that led to the conflict in the first place. We are making every effort to achieve a political settlement that ends the suffering and provides stability for all Syrians and the wider region.

While the conflict is ongoing, we are focused on providing vital humanitarian support for millions of people across Syria. We remain one of the largest bilateral donors to the humanitarian response, having committed £2.81 billion to the Syria Crisis to date.

Taxation: Domicil

Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact that their policies have had on non-domiciled residents. [[HL15074](#)]

Lord Bates: The Government announced reforms to the way that non-domiciled individuals are taxed in the UK at the Summer Budget 2015. They came into effect in April 2017. The Government published a Tax Information and Impact Note which gives information about the impacts of these measures, which is available online.

The Government also publishes statistics on the taxation of non-domiciled individuals annually, which are available on gov.uk.

Tourism: Coastal Areas

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to increase levels of tourism in UK coastal communities after Brexit. [HL15120]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: We have invested in product development through the Coastal Communities and Revival Funds which recently announced a further £63m of funding, and the £40m Discover England Fund. We are also negotiating the proposed Tourism Sector Deal with the industry which aims to improve productivity. The House of Lords Select Committee recently reported on Regenerating Seaside Towns and we will be responding to any tourism related recommendations in due course.

Our arms-length body VisitBritain (VB) also markets the UK internationally, using campaigns such as “I travel for...” and #MyMicroGap. Additionally VB work with coastal Destination Management Organisations around the country, including sitting on the Coastal Tourism Leadership Forum to identify challenges and opportunities as they arise.

Trade

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the analysis by the World Trade Organisation that global trade growth may decline in the event of a no-deal Brexit. [HL15048]

Baroness Fairhead: The latest WTO forecasts revised 2019 global trade growth from 3.7% to 2.6%, rising to 3.0% in 2020. Forecasts assume a smooth Brexit with a transition period until 2020. Weak air freight shipment figures, declining global export orders, increased economic policy uncertainty and a fall in the global GDP outlook are cited as reasons for downward revisions to forecasts.

The WTO notes the uncertainty surrounding recent estimates and that ‘the effects of Brexit will depend on the nature of any agreement that might be reached between the UK and the EU, with impacts mostly confined to these economies.

HMG published analysis of UK impacts of various EU exit scenarios, including no-deal, in November 2018.

The Government's priority is to continue to press the case for the orderly Brexit that delivers on the result of the referendum. The Government will continue to prepare for all eventualities with partner countries, including a ‘no deal’ scenario. The UK will have an independent trade policy once we exit from the EU and is preparing for an ambitious programme of trade negotiations and enhanced market access.

Trade: China

Asked by Lord Goodlad

To ask Her Majesty's Government what commitments they have entered into under the Belt and Road Initiative of the People's Republic of China. [HL14946]

Baroness Fairhead: In 2017 the United Kingdom, together with 26 other countries, endorsed the “Guiding Principles on Financing the Development of the Belt and Road”. We continue to engage closely with China on the Belt and Road Initiative. The Department for International Trade assists UK firms by scoping project opportunities, providing finance where appropriate through UK Export Finance, and then supporting bids for contracts in firms’ priority markets. In addition, the Government advocates for the application of recognised international standards in the areas of transparency and anti-corruption, environmental standards, social standards and debt sustainability.

Turkey: Arms Trade

Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the advice of the Supreme Allied Commander Europe that if Turkey proceeds to purchase the Russian S-400 air defence system it should receive no delivery of F-35 aircraft. [HL15221]

Earl Howe: The UK remains concerned by the planned purchase of S-400 by Turkey and its implications for their continued participation in the F-35 programme. As the US administration has made clear, the purchase of S-400 generates unacceptable risks around F-35. We share this risk assessment and continue to call on Turkey to reconsider its planned purchase in light of those risks and the US offer of alternative solutions to legitimate Turkish air defence requirements.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what methods they use to estimate the numbers of civilian deaths resulting from the use of remote-controlled drones in counter-terrorist operations either directly by the UK or by their allies in (1) Yemen, (2) Pakistan, and (3) North Africa; and what figures are available for such casualties. [HL15069]

Earl Howe: The United Kingdom has not conducted airstrikes from any platform, either manned or unmanned, in counter-terrorism operations in Yemen, Pakistan or North Africa. We do not comment on the operations of other countries.

UNRWA

Asked by Lord Polak

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees about its working definition of a refugee. [[HL14970](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK is clear that the status of Palestinian refugees is a final status issue, and must be agreed as part of wider peace negotiations. Accordingly the UK has not made representations to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) regarding its working definition of a Palestinian refugee. The UK remains a firmly committed supporter of UNRWA, and Palestinian refugees across the Middle East, and we will do everything we can to maintain continuity of essential services at this time.

Asked by Lord Polak

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the sustainability of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees' working definition of a Palestinian refugee. [[HL14972](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK recognises the United Nations Relief and Works Agency's (UNRWA) unique mandate from the UN General Assembly, to protect and provide essential services to Palestinian refugees across the Middle East. The UK is clear that the status of Palestinian refugees is a final status issue, and must be agreed as part of wider peace negotiations. Accordingly the UK has not made an assessment of the sustainability of the UNRWA's working definition of a Palestinian refugee.

Asked by Lord Polak

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of the United States about new models and approaches to ensure the long-term viability of the work currently undertaken by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees. [[HL14973](#)]

Lord Bates: The UK maintains a regular dialogue with the US on a range of Middle East issues, and has discussed UNRWA's long term financial viability in light of the US decision to withdraw their funding.

Venezuela: Russia

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the purpose of the Russian military presence now in Venezuela, which reportedly includes special forces and cybersecurity personnel. [[HL15071](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We believe that the arrival of Russian military aircraft, military personnel, and equipment at Caracas Airport on 23 March seeks to prop up the illegitimate regime of Nicolas Maduro at a

time when Venezuelans need humanitarian support, economic stability, and a functioning democracy. We believe this is provocative, ill-conceived and threatens to exacerbate an already complex situation.

Veterans: Complaints

Asked by Baroness Garden of Frognal

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to provide (1) support, and (2) funding, for veterans who find themselves subject to complaints relating to when they served in the armed forces. [[HL15100](#)]

Earl Howe: Veterans facing criminal allegations relating to their service in Northern Ireland, Iraq and Afghanistan are provided with fully funded legal representation, for as long as it is necessary. In addition, the Ministry of Defence is committed to providing high quality welfare and pastoral support to all those veterans affected by historic investigations. Veterans can access this support through the Veterans Welfare Service, part of Veterans UK, on 0808 1914 2 18.

Victim Support Schemes: Finance

Asked by Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Keen of Elie on 8 April (HL14792), what financial structures are in place to govern decisions about where the Victim and Witness budget is spent; and whether they ensure that receiving organisations ring-fence the funding they receive from that budget. [[HL15158](#)]

Lord Keen of Elie: The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) allocates around £96m from within its Victim and Witness Budget to fund crucial support services for victims of crime. The majority of this funding has been devolved to Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) as they are best placed to respond to local demands and priorities, and commission services supporting victims in their communities. This area of spend is allocated using a population based funding formula, as it is a simple and transparent method for assigning funds. This funding is provided to PCCs via grants from the MoJ, which carry the condition that the funding provided is only to be used to fund support for victims of crime and that PCCs report to the MoJ on spend within that funding.

Where the MoJ directly funds and commissions support services from within its Victim and Witness budget, the money is allocated via grant funding and decisions on such funding are guided HM Treasury's *Managing Public Money* publication, and overseen by the MoJ's financial and accounting structures. Grant recipients need to comply with the terms of the grant and must only use their allocation for the delivery of services supporting victims of crime. Compliance with the terms of the grant is measured through bi-annual monitoring reports and annual financial accounts.

Voluntary Work: Young People

Asked by Lord Ouseley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the relevance and effectiveness of the National Citizen Service in meeting the particular needs of vulnerable young people in disadvantaged communities. [HL15113]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: NCS is a programme that successfully reaches young people from all backgrounds. We have made no specific assessment of the relevance and effectiveness of NCS in meeting the needs of vulnerable young people in disadvantaged communities, but we do know that participants from vulnerable and minority groups are overrepresented on the programme. In 2018, 16% of participants were eligible for Free School Meals, 31% were from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds and 5% had Special Educational Needs* compared to 12%, 25% and 2% of the comparative population respectively.

Work is ongoing to reach the most marginalised young people. The NCS Trust has established strong links with Local Authorities to support the hardest to reach young people in accessing the programme; provide specialist support during the programme; and help young people access opportunities after NCS. The NCS Trust has also introduced a central inclusion fund, so that its network partners can apply for funding to support young people with additional needs to access the NCS programme.

* The final 2018 participation figures are still subject to ongoing compliance checks.

Asked by Lord Ouseley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the creation of the National Citizen Service on the funding available for youth services. [HL15114]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The decision to fund local youth services lies with Local Authorities, not with central government. NCS is a universal offer funded by central government, that is accessible to all young people and is designed to support, and not cut across other services. It is delivered via a network of over 100 local delivery partners, many of which are local youth organisations. As such, we have made no specific assessment of the impact of the creation of NCS on the funding available for youth services.

Water: Conservation

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Salisbury

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the speech by the Chief Executive of the Environment Agency Escaping the jaws of death: ensuring water in 2050, made on 19 March; what steps they are taking to encourage individuals to reduce their water consumption; and what plans they have to introduce compulsory water metering. [HL15043]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Sir James Bevan's speech highlighted the need to take action to improve water demand management and increase supply to prevent future water supply deficits. That is why the Government is continuing to work closely with water regulators and the water industry to improve the resilience of water supplies now and in the long term.

The Government expects companies to increase metering where appropriate. Currently, water companies can introduce universal metering if they are in an area designated as an area of serious water stress and have consulted on doing so with their customers.

We are launching a call for evidence on setting an ambitious target for personal water consumption by mid-May. Alongside this, we will hold a consultation to examine the policy options required to support the target. This will include exploratory questions around policy options such as the labelling of water-using products, improving building standards, and the future role of metering.

Water: Pollution

Asked by Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer

To ask Her Majesty's Government what research they have conducted into the pollution of watercourses by antibiotics for both humans and livestock in the last five years; and what were the findings of any such research. [HL15148]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Environment Agency (EA) monitors several antibiotics in watercourses as part of a surveillance network of substances on an EU Watch List. This dataset as a whole is collated across Europe to assess the level of exposure and prioritise substances for future inclusion under the Water Framework Directive. If selected, Europe wide environmental quality standards will be developed and implemented through this process.

The EA has over the last five years continued working with the water industry via United Kingdom Water Industry Research to understand better and quantify levels of antibiotics in pre- and post-treatment effluents from sewage treatment works. This will continue in the next phase of work due to start in 2020.

Together these have demonstrated that:

- Antibiotics are present in effluents and watercourses and will need to be assessed against any future environmental quality standards.
- Wastewater treatment processes in common usage remove a relatively small proportion of the antibiotics studied (compared to other substances in effluents) before release into the environment.

A study report, reference number 18/EQ/01/13, is available from United Kingdom Water Industry Research <https://www.ukwir.org/eng/search-uk-water-industry-research-reports>.

Asked by Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer

To ask Her Majesty's Government what research they have conducted into the pollution of watercourses by hormones contained in human waste. [HL15149]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Environment Agency (EA) has worked over the last five years with the water industry via United Kingdom Water Industry Research (UKWIR) to understand better and quantify levels of hormones in pre- and post-treatment effluents containing human waste from wastewater treatment works. This will continue in the next phase of work due to start in 2020.

A study report, reference number 18/EQ/01/13, is available from UKWIR <https://www.ukwir.org/eng/search-uk-water-industry-research-reports>

The EA also monitors hormones in watercourses as part of a surveillance network of substances on an EU Watch List.

Asked by Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are aware of evidence that demonstrates the adverse effects on aquatic wildlife of hormones that have entered watercourses from treated sewage. [HL15150]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Environment Agency (EA) has previously carried out an extensive research programme into the feminising effects of hormones in treated sewage on wild roach populations (*Rutilus rutilus*) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-identification-of-oestrogenic-effects-in-wild-fish>).

In the autumn of 2019 the EA will be publishing the results of research undertaken recently to investigate the current levels of feminisation in similar fish populations, as a comparison to the previous study.

Yemen: Armed Conflict

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the response by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on Yemen on 1 April (HL Deb, cols 59–65), in which years the UK participated in coalition naval enforcement measures in Yemen's territorial waters that put in effect UN Resolution 2216, adopted by the UN Security Council in April 2015, that prohibited the delivery of arms to Houthi rebels; what steps they have taken in response to the final report of the UN Security Council Panel of Experts on Yemen, published on 26 January 2018, which stated that the closure of the port of Hodeidah in November 2017 "had the effect of using the threat of starvation as an instrument of war"; and what assessment they have made of the success of Royal Navy officers in the coalition's operational command rooms in ensuring the delivery of lawful shipments of food, water and equipment for the maintenance of water treatment plants to Yemen's ports. [HL14991]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: UK naval forces are not operating in Yemeni waters. In November 2017, following an attempted Houthi ballistic missile strike on Riyadh, the Coalition introduced access restrictions on Red Sea ports. These restrictions were lifted two months later following concerted UK diplomacy and additional UK support to the UN Verification and Inspection Mechanism (UNVIM). This included the International Development Secretary's own visit to Saudi Arabia, where she made detailed operational requests on access and pushed for unconstrained access to be granted across the country. Royal Navy Liaison Officers operate in the Royal Saudi Naval Forces headquarters in a liaison capacity only.

Yemen: Arms Trade

Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 28 March (HL14604), whether third parties have provided information specifically about weapons made or sold by British companies and then used in Yemen; and if so, whether they will publish (1) that information, and (2) their assessment of it. [HL15082]

Lord Young of Cookham: We are aware that some UK licensed weapons have been used by Saudi Arabia in the conflict in Yemen. We examine every export licence application rigorously on a case-by-case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria, including an assessment of whether there is a clear risk that the items might be used in the commission of a serious violation of international humanitarian law (IHL). We regularly raise the importance of compliance with IHL with the Saudi Arabian Government and other members of the Coalition and draw on a range of sources in making assessments, including non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and international organisations and continue to monitor the situation closely, seeking further information where appropriate. We welcome any further information NGOs and international organisations can provide. The Department for International Trade publish export licensing statistics quarterly, which can be found on the gov.uk website.

Yemen: Unmanned Air Vehicles

Asked by Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the UK's involvement in drone activities in the Yemen following the ruling of the Higher Administrative Court in Münster in the case of bin Ali Jaber vs Germany. [HL15003]

Earl Howe: Any use of force by the UK complies fully with UK domestic and applicable international law.

We are aware of the ruling by the German Higher Administrative Court on 19 March 2019 that Germany has a responsibility for ensuring that United States (US)

operations conducted from German territory accord with international law. The Court also held that a lower Court had correctly deemed the case inadmissible, on the grounds that it could not be proved that the plaintiff's father was killed by a US drone strike on the day in question in 2012. The Court also stated that it could not be proved that the German government had knowledge of the use of Ramstein for drone strikes in 2012.

Youth Services: Closures

Asked by Lord Ouseley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact (1) of the closure of youth service provision across the country, and (2) of the closure of youth services on the rise of knife and violent crimes. [[HL15115](#)]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: Government recognises that the causes of youth crime are complex and are often tied to local factors. Local authorities allocate funding and deliver youth services in line with local need. The Government has made over £200bn available to local authorities to spend on local services over this Spending Review.

The Government is committed to making sure young people have opportunities to develop their skills and benefit from youth services, which are an important partner in the strategy to tackle the root causes of serious violence.

My department will continue to work closely with the Home Office on the implementation of the Serious Violence Strategy.

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