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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
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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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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
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
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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 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, Whip
Baroness Williams of Trafford	Minister of State, Home Office and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department 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

Monday, 10 June 2019

Low-Carbon Generation: Smart Export Guarantee

[HLWS1570]

Lord Henley: My hon Friend the Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation (Chris Skidmore) has today made the following statement:

I am pleased to announce I will be laying legislation today to introduce a new supplier - led subsidy free Smart Export Guarantee (SEG). This will ensure that homes and businesses, who export their surplus low carbon electricity to the grid, will be able to receive payment from their energy suppliers. The SEG will come into force in Great Britain from the end of December this year.

The UK has made substantial progress in building a successful renewables industry as part of our move to a low carbon economy. In 2017, businesses active in the low carbon and renewable energy economy generated £44.5 billion in turnover and employed an estimated 209,500 full-time equivalent employees ^[1]. Our modern Industrial Strategy sets out how the Government will ensure that the UK continues to benefit from the transition to a low carbon economy.

Developments in technology and the industry, supported by the Government, have driven down the cost of small-scale low carbon electricity generation to a position where some projects can now be built without subsidy. This is in line with our vision that electricity generation should be competitive, and market based.

However, from responses in our call for evidence in July last year ^[2], it was clear small-scale generators can struggle to access the electricity market, while some larger suppliers are unfamiliar with smaller players in the sector. Responses suggested that following the closure of the Feed in Tariffs Scheme (FITs), some form of Government intervention remains necessary while markets for small-scale low carbon generation are still emerging.

The SEG will address this by requiring licensed electricity suppliers to offer a tariff for electricity exported by small scale low carbon generators (such as households with solar panels). This means small scale generators will be able to fully participate in the UK electricity market. This new requirement will apply to suppliers with more than 150,000 domestic customers. Other smaller suppliers can also voluntarily participate in the SEG.

Other than a few core conditions, such as payments having to always be greater than zero, this policy is market-led. The rates paid to the small power producers will be determined by the market rather than set by Government. This is unlike the FITs, which was funded through levies on consumers' energy bills.

The SEG will complement the deployment of smart, flexible technologies such as storage and demand-side response. A smart and flexible system could save £17bn-£40bn across the electricity system to 2050 ^[3]. The policy will encourage electricity to be sold at the times when it is most needed and market prices are highest.

Previously, the amount of electricity exported by small scale generators has often been unmeasured and flowed to the grid without metering. The rollout of smart meters allows a more precise approach, which in turn will make it easier to manage the electricity system as the number of small scale generators (as well as electric vehicles and small - scale storage batteries) increases.

Suppliers will also be free to choose the form of the tariff they offer and be encouraged to try different approaches - provided they meet the SEG requirements. This will allow simple tariff offers to be implemented quickly, with an expectation that increasingly smart approaches will be implemented.

The deadline for compliance will be from the end of the year to provide enough time for suppliers to make necessary system changes to operate the SEG. This will not preclude suppliers from offering export tariffs in advance of the deadline, as some are already doing.

To ensure that the market is delivering meaningful and innovative tariffs, Ofgem will report annually on the provisions made by suppliers for small-scale exporters. This will include the range, nature and uptake of SEG tariffs. If we consider that insufficient progress is being made, we will consult on reviewing the operation of SEG.

The SEG will ensure that small - scale low carbon generators are reimbursed for the electricity they export to the grid and can act as a springboard to the development of a robust and competitive market solutions. SEG allows the private sector to innovate and invest, while small-scale generation technologies can compete on their own merits. We expect that the electricity market to grow smarter and more flexible, and consumers will be offered an increasing range of innovative smart products and services. These services will support the integration and optimisation of onsite low carbon generation.

I will place in the Libraries of the House, copies of the 'Government response to the consultation on proposals for the future development of small-scale low-carbon electricity generation' which sets out further information on the SEG.

[1] Final results from the Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Survey on the low carbon and renewable energy economy in the UK, including direct and indirect activity, employees and turnover, available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/bulletins/finalestimates/2017>

[2] The future for small-scale low-carbon generation: a call for evidence (July 2018) at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-for-small-scale-low-carbon-generation-a-call-for-evidence>

[3] Carbon Trust/Imperial College, 2016: An analysis of electricity system flexibility for Great Britain, available

at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/568982/An_analysis_of_electricity_flexibility_for_Great_Britain.pdf

Great Britain China Centre: Tailored Review

[HLWS1571]

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

I am announcing today the publication of the recent Tailored Review of the Great Britain China Centre (GBCC), an arms-length body of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO).

The GBCC was established in 1974 and focuses on strengthening the UK-China relationship by "building trust and supporting dialogues between government, judiciary and policy makers on key rule of law and reform issues". Since 1974, it has played an important part in delivering UK expertise on democracy and democratic institutions.

The principle aims of Tailored Reviews are to ensure public bodies remain fit for purpose, are well governed and properly accountable for what they do.

In conducting this Tailored Review, officials engaged with stakeholders in the UK and overseas, including across UK Government, civil society, as well as with GBCC's Board, staff and management.

The review concluded in April 2019.

The review found that "GBCC continues to perform an important function in the UK-China relationship; makes a positive contribution to UK priorities in China; and represents good value for money for the taxpayer". The Review also contains a number of recommendations to strengthen GBCC's governance and its relationship with the FCO.

Copies of the Review will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Immigration: DNA Evidence

[HLWS1572]

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

Today I am announcing the publication of the Home Office Response to Darra Singh's Review of the Home Office response to the mandating of DNA for immigration purposes. The Home Secretary commissioned this review to provide independent oversight of the effectiveness of remedial action taken by the Department when the incorrect mandating of DNA evidence came to light last year. The Review recognises the considerable efforts made by the Department, once the issue came to light, to assess the scale of the problem and prevent its recurrence, and to identify those affected and take remedial action,

including reimbursing DNA testing costs where appropriate. The Review acknowledges that good progress has been made to update guidance on DNA and to provide training on this issue.

While the Review acknowledges the hard work behind the immediate response, it comments that the effective direction provided by the Critical Incident process could have been put in place at an earlier stage. The Review also identifies areas where the Home Office's approach to sampling, data collection, and assurance in this instance could have been improved.

The Department accepts the recommendations made in the report and has already taken action on them. Furthermore, beyond this specific issue the Department is focused on meeting the individual needs of the public we serve by improving customer service, ensuring we better protect the vulnerable and focusing on becoming more of a listening organisation.

I will arrange for copies of the report and Home Office response to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

The Home Secretary and I would like to thank Darra Singh for his considerable effort in producing the report and its recommendations.

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

[HLWS1569]

Baroness Buscombe: My honourable Friend The Minister of State for Employment (Alok Sharma MP) has made the following Written Statement.

The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council will take place on 13th June 2019 in Luxembourg. Kelly Tolhurst, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, will represent the UK.

The Council will be provided with a progress report on the Directive on equal treatment. Conclusions will be presented to the Council for adoption on: Closing the gender pay gap; implications for the safety and health of workers in the changing world of work; and the EU Council Auditors' report on the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD).

Under the agenda item on the European Semester agenda item there will be a high level policy debate on the employment and social policy aspects of Country Specific Recommendations.

Under other business, the Presidency will give updates on current legislative proposals: a Regulation on European social statistics and Revision of the Regulations on the coordination of social security systems. Information will also be provided on Presidency conferences, Gender balance on company Boards and the work programme of the incoming Finnish Presidency. The Maltese delegation will provide additional information on the Outcome of the EU-Arab high-level meeting on disability Rights and Prioritising gender budgeting in the future Multiannual Financial Framework.

In the margins of the meeting, representatives of the Government of each Member State will make a decision | on which Member State will host the European Labour Authority.

Written Answers

Monday, 10 June 2019

Apprentices: Taxation

Asked by *Baroness Neville-Rolfe*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much (1) the apprenticeship levy has raised in total in each of the four jurisdictions of the UK, (2) levy-paying employers have reclaimed, (3) has been used to fund new non-levy payer apprenticeships, (4) has been spent on old-style apprenticeships, and (5) has been spent on the administration of apprenticeships, in each year since the introduction of the apprenticeship levy. [HL15958]

Asked by *Baroness Neville-Rolfe*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the annual total cost of apprenticeships compared to the amount raised from the apprenticeship levy. [HL15959]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The apprenticeship levy is collected from all UK employers through the PAYE system by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). HMRC publish information on levy receipts in the monthly Tax and National Insurance contribution receipts publication, and in their annual reports and accounts, available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hmrc-tax-and-nics-receipts-for-the-uk>.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hmrc-annual-report-and-accounts-2017-to-2018>.

In 2017-18, the first year following the introduction of the levy, £2.6 billion was collected from UK employers and HM Treasury (HMT) allocated £425m of the levy collected to the devolved administrations. Annual data on levy collected in 2018-19 will be published by HMRC, and data on 2018-19 spending will be available from Department for Education in due course.

Skills spending is a devolved matter and HMT committed in advance to the share of the levy that would be passed to the devolved administrations in the three-year period from 2017-18 to 2019-20. HMT published these plans at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-agrees-apprenticeship-levy-funding-deal-with-devolved-administrations>.

In England, levy-paying employers can use online apprenticeship service accounts to access their funds. In 2017-18, the total spend on apprentices employed with levy payers, and who started training after the levy was introduced, was £268 million. This figure represents more than the £170 million in training and assessment costs charged to levy payers' accounts.

This is because these employers also benefit from additional payments to support certain types of learners, and extremely generous co-investment contributions for

those employers that have exhausted their levy account funds. Such costs are not currently deducted from levy accounts. In 2018-19, levy-payers drew down a further £639 million representing the costs charged to levy-payers on the learners who started since the levy was introduced (and whose training is ongoing in 2018-19) as well as the costs of learners who started in the 2018-19 financial year.

Employers' levy funds are distinct from the department's ring-fenced annual apprenticeship budget, which is set in advance by HM Treasury to fund apprenticeships in England. This budget has risen year-on-year, from £2.01 billion in 2017-18 and £2.23 billion in 2018-19 to over £2.5 billion in 2019-20, double what was spent in 2010.

In 2017-18, we spent £189 million on training and assessment (including additional payments) for apprentices with employers who do not pay the levy and who started their apprenticeship since the levy was introduced. This includes apprenticeships started on both frameworks and new standards.

The ongoing cost of training and assessment for apprentices who started their apprenticeship before the levy was introduced in May 2017 was £1,065 million in 2017-18 (including additional payments as detailed above).

In 2017-18, £40 million (equating to less than 2%) of the £2.01 billion ring-fenced apprenticeships programme budget was spent on the cost of delivering and running the programme. This includes spending by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education. The department is provided a separate budget for other administrative spending, and in 2017-18 total administrative spend was £44 million. These two budgets cover the cost of running the online apprenticeship service, employer engagement work, and the promotion of apprenticeships, in addition to staffing and other costs.

Terrorism: Northern Ireland

Asked by *Lord Hain*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will legislate to provide a pension for severely injured victims of The Troubles in Northern Ireland represented by the Wave Trauma Action Group. [HL15833]

Lord Duncan of Springbank: This is an important issue which the UK Government takes seriously. We received advice from the Victims' Commissioner on Friday 31 May 2019 - the completion of this advice represents an important step forward. We are carefully considering that advice and possible next steps, which we aim to set out shortly.

Thames House: Pedestrian Areas

Asked by *Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on

14 May (HL15376), why they permitted the building of scaffolding which allowed pedestrian access during the initial period of works if the further changes to pedestrian access were made for reasons of building security; whether there was a revised security assessment conducted; and if so, what new evidence came to light in any such assessment to inform the change to the pedestrian access. [[HL15952](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: As has been the policy of successive governments, the government does not comment on matters relating to the intelligence agencies including the security of their buildings. The Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament scrutinises the policies, expenditure, administration and operations of the intelligence agencies on behalf of Parliament.

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