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Tuesday
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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

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Ministers and others who make Statements or answer Questions are referred to only by name, not their ministerial or other title. The current list of ministerial and other responsibilities is as follows.

<i>Minister</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
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
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 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

Tuesday, 25 June 2019

Commonwealth Games

[HLWS1620]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: My Hon Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Sport and Civil Society, Mims Davies has made the following Statement:

I wish to inform the House that, on 25 June 2019, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport laid a minute advising of the investment of £778m in Birmingham and the West Midlands to deliver the 2022 Commonwealth Games. This is an update to the minute laid on 9 October 2017, which set out the contingent liabilities that were taken on by the government in order to support Birmingham's bid to host the 2022 Games.

The government's other commitments to the Games, including the underwrite of the organisation and delivery of the Games and a number of guarantees, will remain in place until the end of the 2022/23 financial year, following the successful bid by Birmingham and our agreement of a hosting contract with the Commonwealth Games Federation.

Disability: Cross-Government Approach

[HLWS1617]

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

Today I am pleased to launch a new cross-government approach on disability which is guided by a vision that recognises the contributions that disabled people make and where disabled people can participate fully in society. To drive forward this approach, government will establish a new cross-departmental team in the Cabinet Office, recognising that disabled people face barriers across a wide range of aspects of their lives and coordinated cross-government action is therefore vital.

To inform this new approach, government is committed to strengthening the evidence base on disability and to improve engagement with disabled people and disabled people's organisations, in line with relevant recommendations from the United Nations.

The Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Health and Social Care will consult on how employers can best support disabled people and people with long-term health conditions to stay and thrive in work. This will include measures to reform Statutory Sick Pay so that it is better enforced, more flexible and covers the lowest paid employees as well as improved quality, cost effectiveness and capacity in the private sector occupational health market.

Alongside this, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government will consult on raising mandatory accessibility standards for all new homes in Autumn. The Department for Work and Pensions will also in the coming months bring forward a Green Paper on health and disability support, to enable a conversation about building a welfare system for the future that is an ally of disabled people. The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy will also be setting out plans to work with departments, regulators and stakeholders to improve consumer outcomes for disabled people through developing metrics to compare how well companies deliver for disabled customers in essential markets.

The team will work closely with disabled people, disabled people's organisations and charities to take forward this new approach to disability, with their views and experiences at the forefront of any new policy.

This written statement aligns with the Prime Minister's written statement tabled today on Machinery of Government change for the Office for Disability Issues.

EU Energy Council

[HLWS1611]

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

The EU Energy Council will take place on 25 June 2019 in Luxembourg, where the Deputy Permanent Representative to the European Union will represent the UK.

The Presidency will put the Council Conclusions on the Future of the Energy Systems in the Energy Union to Ministers for adoption.

The European Commission will provide information regarding the EU's external energy relations. This will be followed by an exchange of views.

Any other business (AOB) will include:

- A presentation from the Commission on the draft integrated national energy and climate plans; and
- Information from the Finnish delegation on the work programme of the incoming Presidency.

F-35B Lightning Aircraft

[HLWS1612]

Earl Howe: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (Penny Mordaunt) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The F-35B Lightning II is an advanced, fifth-generation aircraft procured to operate alongside the RAF's Typhoon. It will be jointly manned by the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy, will be able to operate with equal capability from land and sea, and will form an integral part of Carrier Strike operating from the Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers. With advanced sensors, mission systems and low-observable technology (stealth),

the Lightning is a fifth-generation air system which will provide the UK with a world-beating combat air capability. The Lightning will give the UK operational flexibility, allowing us to act at a time and place of our choosing. Seventeen of the first tranche of 48 F-35Bs have already been delivered; we will maintain our plan to buy 138 F-35 Lightning aircraft over the life of the programme, as stated in the Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015.

A detachment of F-35B Lightnings from RAF Marham has been forward-based at RAF Akrotiri since late May, developing the capabilities of this formidable new fifth-generation combat aircraft. This deployment has proven extremely successful. It was therefore, decided to offer the aircraft for use on Operation SHADER as part of the UK's contribution to Global Coalition operations against Daesh. On 16 June, UK F-35B flew its first ever operational sorties as part of Operation SHADER. Since then, UK F-35B Lightnings have flown in the skies of Iraq and Syria, performing a variety of roles for our partner forces on the ground.

This F-35 activity is part of the UK's ongoing contribution of sophisticated air power to Global Coalition efforts to find, identify and degrade Daesh's military capabilities. Although Daesh's military capability has been diminished, the organisation continues to pose a threat, and counter-Daesh operations are as crucial now as they were at Daesh's height. The UK's F-35B Lightnings will continue to help combat Daesh over Iraq and Syria, before returning to the UK in July 2019.

Finance Bill

[HLWS1613]

Lord Young of Cookham: My honourable friend the Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Jesse Norman) has today made the following written ministerial statement

The government will introduce the Finance Bill following the next Budget.

In line with the approach to tax policy making set out in the government's documents 'Tax Policy Making: a new approach', published in 2010, and 'The new Budget timetable and the tax policy making process', published in 2017, the government is committed, where possible, to publishing most tax legislation in draft for technical consultation before the legislation is laid before Parliament.

The government will publish draft clauses for the next Finance Bill, which will largely cover pre-announced policy changes, on Thursday 11 July 2019 along with accompanying explanatory notes, tax information and impact notes, responses to consultations and other supporting documents. All publications will be available on the gov.uk website.

Forensic Service Provider: Cyber Incident

[HLWS1618]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: My rt hon Friend the Minister of State for Security (Ben Wallace) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

On 3 June, Brussels-based scientific testing company Eurofins Scientific reported that they had been victim to a global ransomware attack. In the UK, its subsidiary Eurofins Forensic Services (EFS), who are a significant private sector forensic testing provider was affected.

Ministers have been briefed on the situation by operational leads and a range of actions have been taken to mitigate the impact on our criminal justice system and the public.

The National Crime Agency (NCA) have taken the operational command of the criminal investigation in the UK, with the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) leading our cyber response. Both the NCSC and NCA have deployed specialist officers to Brussels to assist Eurofins in the international investigation. These experts continue to work closely with both the company and the Cyber Incident Response firm EFS have employed to contain the situation. The affected UK law enforcement agencies reported the incident to the Information Commissioner's Office. There is no evidence to date that this crime was specifically targeting the UK company.

We have taken immediate steps to minimise the impact of this crime on the criminal justice system. The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) suspended use of EFS immediately and isolated police networks from the forensic service provider to retain their integrity. The NPCC put in place the National Contingency Plan and diverted urgent and priority submission to alternative suppliers. Other forensic submissions are being managed nationally to ensure that sufficient capacity is available for all forces.

These measures are temporary but will remain in place for as long as necessary. The NPCC, the UK Accreditation Service and the Forensic Science Regulator are working closely with the company to assess when it can continue to resume accepting forensic submissions.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is working to ensure all hearings remain based on reliable evidence. While investigations are ongoing, prosecutors will assess the impact on a case by case basis working closely with partners across the CJS and EFS.

If prosecutors or the police believe that there may have been an impact, they will contact the victims or witnesses involved. But if any victims are concerned, national support services are also available. These include the 24-hour Victim Support Helpline with details on the Ministry of Justice website. However, I want to stress that at present we have no reason to believe there has been an impact on the forensic evidence tested by EFS.

The serious nature of this incident highlights the importance of all firms being cyber aware; and we urge businesses of all types and sizes to follow the guidance on this growing threat on the NCSC's website.

The Government continues to assess and enhance our cyber security capabilities and it is vital we build strong defences – and every person, organisation or business has a part to play.

The investigation into this serious cyber-attack remains live but we will use our understanding of this latest incident to limit future harm to the UK.

GRECO

[HLWS1615]

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

"The Government has not opted in to the adoption and application of the Council Decision on the position to be taken, on behalf of the EU, on the EU's participation as an observer at the Meetings of the Group of States Against Corruption (GRECO).

GRECO is a body set up by the Council of Europe (CoE) to monitor compliance with CoE Criminal Law Convention on Corruption and the Civil Law Convention on Corruption. The EU's participation in GRECO has been a priority for cooperation between the European Union and the Council of Europe. We are supportive of the EU gaining observer status and attending the June meeting.

The UK and Ireland have a special position under Protocol 21 to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union in relation to JHA measures and have three months from the date of the publication of a legislative proposal to decide whether we want to participate in the measure. The JHA Opt-in applies in this case because one of the legal bases of the proposed decision is Article 83 TFEU, relating to criminal justice cooperation in relation to serious crimes (including corruption).

The Commission proposal was published on 6 June and adopted at Council on 18 June, to enable the EU to attend the GRECO Plenary on 17-21 June 2019 as an observer.

The Government did not therefore have the three month period allowed for in Protocol (No. 21) to the EU Treaties to decide whether to opt in to the proposal. The UK is not therefore bound by this Council Decision. The Government judges that in this particular case there is no practical effect of not being bound as the Decision pertains to the EU's participation as an observer in GRECO. The UK tabled a statement at Council expressing regret at not having the three month period allowed for under the EU Treaties to reach this decision. Additionally, the UK underlined that the Council Decision had not gone through Parliamentary scrutiny processes and that the procedure should not constitute a precedent for similar decisions."

Joint Inspection Team: Contingent Liability for Indemnity

[HLWS1616]

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

I am today informing the House of changes to the contingent liability for the provision of an indemnity for the Joint Inspection Team (JIT) as set out in my statement and associated Department Minute of 11 December 2018 (Hansard reference: [HLWS1137](#)). The purpose of the JIT is to provide support to local authorities in making hazard assessments of high-rise residential buildings with unsafe aluminium composite material cladding and then to provide advice to local authorities on enforcement action where the building owners are reluctant to remediate. As set out in the Department Minute of 11 December 2018 the Local Government Association (LGA) was unable to obtain professional indemnity insurance to cover the work of the JIT and the LGA requested the Government to provide an indemnity. The LGA has subsequently requested a technical amendment to the contingent liability for the provision of the indemnity. The change is to allow the LGA to operate and manage the JIT from the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA), which is part of the wider Local Government Group. The contingent liability will also be amended so that the indemnity provides cover against claims for death and personal injury for a period of 125 years and cover for all other types of claims for 6 years after the JIT ceases to operate. The LGA has formally agreed it will not seek any further amendments to the indemnity.

I am laying a Departmental Minute approved by Her Majesty's Treasury providing further detail of the changes to the indemnity for the JIT.

Office for Disability

[HLWS1614]

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 the Office for Disability Issues (ODI) will transfer to the Cabinet Office from the Department for Work and Pensions in November 2019 through a Machinery of Government change.

The ODI will be incorporated into the newly established cross-government disability team based in Cabinet Office. This move recognises that disabled people face barriers across a wide range of aspects of their lives and coordinated cross-government action is therefore vital. It also signals the importance government places on disability.

The new disability team in the Cabinet Office will sit in the new Equalities Hub alongside the Government Equalities Office and the Race Disparity Unit. Together

they will be better equipped to drive meaningful progress on equality and to tackle intersectional issues.

This aligns with the Minister for Disabled People's written statement laid today on a new cross-government approach to disability.

Relationships and Sex Education: Statutory Guidance

[HLWS1619]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: My right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Education (Damian Hinds) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

Today, following the successful passage of the regulations for the introduction of Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education, Government has published the final accompanying statutory guidance.

At the heart of preparing children for life in modern Britain is making sure that they understand the world they are growing up in. It is 19 years since the Sex and Relationships guidance was last updated. For children and young people, the challenges that they face today are very different. Children are encountering a more interconnected and interdependent world, and this has changed significantly how they build relationships, interact with their peers and manage their own mental and physical wellbeing.

This presents both opportunities and risks, as children have greater exposure to information, content and people that can and do cause harm. There is little distinction for many young people between their lives online and off, and that is why we believe now more than ever, that we need to provide young people with the knowledge they

need in every context to lead safe, happy and healthy lives.

We have therefore brought forward measures requiring the introduction of compulsory Relationships Education for all pupils in primary schools, compulsory Relationships and Sex Education for all pupils in secondary schools, and compulsory Health Education for all pupils in state-funded schools from September 2020.

With cross-party support, the regulations for these subjects were approved by both Houses of Parliament and were made by the Secretary of State on 9th May. The statutory guidance published today sets out the legal duties with which schools must comply, the required core teaching content for the subjects, and guidance on how the content should be delivered in an age appropriate way.

We will be setting out further details on how we will support schools to introduce the new subjects in September 2020. This will include working closely with the many schools who are choosing to begin teaching the subjects from September 2019, so that we can support their journey, learn lessons and share good practice.

We will also be convening a new working group, who will provide insight into how the new guidance is working in practice. This group, with representatives from teaching unions, sector experts, faith and minority groups, parents and young people, will provide us with evidence and feedback to improve the delivery of these subjects.

We believe that these subjects are an historic step in education that will help equip children and young people with the knowledge and support they need to form healthy relationships, lead healthy lives and be happy and safe in the world today.

Written Answers

Tuesday, 25 June 2019

Business: Billing

Asked by **Lord Mendelsohn**

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will publish their response to Creating a responsible payment culture: a call for evidence on tackling late payment, which closed 29 November 2018; and why it has not yet been published when Cabinet Office Government Consultation Principles state that responses to consultations should be published within 12 weeks of the consultation closing. [[HL16264](#)]

Lord Henley: The Creating a Responsible Payment Culture Call for Evidence received nearly 300 responses from a wide range of businesses, trade associations and individuals. This is the highest number of responses to a public consultation on this issue.

It is important that have given those representations the consideration they deserve and use them to inform the action we will take on this important issue.

The Government Response will be published shortly.

Business: Higher Education

Asked by **Lord Taylor of Warwick**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact that Brexit could have on the ability of UK business schools to (1) recruit academic talent, and (2) attract research funding. [[HL16435](#)]

Lord Henley: The Government is committed to ensuring that institutions including UK business schools continue to be able to recruit academic talent and attract research funding after the UK has exited the European Union. Academic institutions in the UK recruit talent from within the UK and from overseas and an immigration system that supports this is an important component of their continuing success. The Government published the Immigration White Paper, outlining the future immigration system in December 2018 and is currently running an engagement programme with businesses and other stakeholders before publishing the Immigration Rules setting out the detail of the future system. In addition, since January 2018, the Government has implemented an extensive and wide-ranging package of changes to the immigration rules, aimed at supporting science, research and innovation including setting up a new Tier 5 (Government Authorised Exchange) Scheme to make it easier to sponsor the temporary movement of international researchers.

Business schools attract funding for research from a range of sources including Horizon 2020, the EU's flagship research and innovation programme. Until the

UK exits the EU, the UK will continue to participate in Horizon 2020, as a Member State. If ratified, the Government's proposed Withdrawal Agreement would ensure that following exit the UK could continue to participate in EU programmes such as Horizon 2020 for the lifetime of projects. In the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal at the end of the extension period, the Government has confirmed that the funding commitments made under the guarantee and its extension still stand. Through these commitments, the Government will underwrite funding for all successful competitive eligible UK bids to Horizon 2020 that are submitted before the end of the Programme - including those involving UK business schools. This guarantee will apply for the lifetime of projects and will provide funding for UK participation in Horizon 2020.

Looking ahead, the Government would like the option to associate to the future excellence-based European research and innovation programmes, including Horizon Europe. We are actively engaging in the development of the Horizon Europe proposal in line with UK interests.

BEIS is working with the National Academies, the Devolved Administrations and UKRI to develop ambitious and credible alternatives to association, through which we will enable world class collaborative research. BEIS has also commissioned Sir Adrian Smith to provide independent advice on international collaboration – specifically on potential future UK funding schemes in the context of the UK's future ambitions for European and international collaboration on research and innovation. His advice will help inform the direction for the implementation of the Government's ambition to ensure the UK continues to be a global leader in science, research and innovation, and an attractive country for individuals to study and work.

Children: Social Services

Asked by **Lord Bird**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the Serious Case Reviews published by the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board on 5 June, and (2) the report by the Commissioner for Children's Services in Northamptonshire Optimum delivery and governance arrangements: children's services in Northamptonshire, published on 14 May; and what steps they are taking to ensure that local authorities are sufficiently equipped to ensure that preventable deaths of children do not occur in future. [[HL16297](#)]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The two serious case reviews published by Northamptonshire's local safeguarding children's board, on 5 June 2019, identify serious and systemic practice issues in the local area. It is imperative that the analysis in the serious case reviews identifies the right learning points and recommendations. We have taken urgent action to improve services in Northamptonshire by appointing Malcolm Newsam as the

Commissioner for Children's Services. He has a remit to secure immediate remedial action and drive a longer-term programme of improvement in the county. The department has also written to Mr Newsam to ask that he consider the lessons learnt and assure himself that the recommendations are indeed the right ones to effect change.

We are also funding Lincolnshire county council, an outstanding local authority and part of the Government's Partners in Practice initiative, to provide immediate improvement, support and capacity to Northamptonshire county council to ensure the safety of children in the county.

On 14 May 2019, My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government made a written statement signalling the government's intention to act on recommendations from the Commissioner's report. The intention is to establish a Children's Services Trust that provides a stable base for improvement during a period of wider re-organisation in Northamptonshire. On 10 June 2019, a statutory direction was issued to Northamptonshire county council to co-operate with the Commissioner in the establishment of the Trust.

This initiative is just part of an extensive range of support and comprehensive reforms that allow us to take swift, decisive action to either prevent or address failure in local authorities. These reforms include establishing a new specialist social work regulator, Social Work England, and rolling out a national assessment and accreditation system for social workers. We are also committing £84 million (over the next five years) to build on learning from the most promising innovation projects, such as the 'Strengthening Families, Protecting Children' programme. This programme aims to improve social work practice and decision-making so that children's social workers are confident in their support of children and young people to enable them to stay safely at home with their families, where this is deemed to be in their best interests.

Climate Change

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they supported the resolution on improving solar radiation management governance recently put before the UN Environment Assembly by Switzerland, before that resolution was dropped. [HL16321]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Whilst the UK was supportive of the objectives of the Swiss proposal, and worked with them to try and help them find an acceptable text, given the complexity of the issue and a lack of common ground between UNEA member states at UNEA-4 it was not possible to find a compromise text at that time.

Coalition for Religious Equality and Inclusive Development: Conferences

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many visa applications were (1) made by, and (2) refused for, participants and speakers in the Coalition for Religious Equality and Inclusive Development conference, held in Westminster on 11 June; and on what grounds they made each such refusal. [HL16233]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Information on the stated purpose of visit or reasons for refusal is not held in a reportable field on the Home Office visa case-working system.

The available statistics on grants and refusals by entry clearance visa category, including work and visitor visa routes, are published in the quarterly Immigration Statistics Visas volume 1 table vi_01_q, latest edition at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2019/list-of-tables#visas>.

Computers

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to develop supercomputer technology in the UK. [HL16518]

Lord Henley: In the Spring Statement, the Government announced £79 million funding for the next national supercomputer ARCHER2. The supercomputer will be hundreds of thousands of times more powerful than a traditional desktop computer and will be used to run massive research simulations. This project is being delivered and supported by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) through the Engineering and Physical Sciences, and the Natural Environment Research Councils.

E-infrastructure, including supercomputing, is also a critical strand within UKRI's national research and innovation infrastructure roadmap programme. This is seeking to increase our understanding of the UK's current capabilities and future requirements with a final report expected later in 2019. We want to ensure that future investments in High Performance Computing will deliver benefits across research and innovation, including to tech start-ups and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). The Government will be working with UKRI and Tech UK on UKRI's e-infrastructure strategy which will be engaging with tech-SMEs on how they can access high-performance computing for the benefit of their businesses.

Conflict Resolution

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to review and strengthen the effectiveness of conflict resolution policies of the UK to address

persistent and accelerating conflict, and flashpoints; and what steps they are taking with partners in the Commonwealth, the EU, and the UN to review equivalent policies. [HL16250]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The British Government continues to strengthen its conflict prevention policies and institutions so that they are fit to meet modern challenges. The Conflict, Stability, and Security Fund (CSSF) was created in 2015 to support and deliver activity to tackle instability and to prevent conflicts, which threaten UK interests. The fund is an important driver of the government's Fusion Doctrine, which aims to improve the way cross-government capability is brought together. The CSSF is an inherently political fund which works closely with other donors, partner countries and multilateral institutions to deliver its programmes.

DFID's cadre of 70 accredited conflict advisers are deployed across DFID country offices overseas, DFID Headquarters in the UK, seconded to the FCO and the Stabilisation Unit, or embedded in international institutions. We are also working through the UK funded Women Mediators across the Commonwealth initiative, a network of over 35 peacebuilders from Commonwealth countries, currently engaged in conflict prevention and resolution efforts. We are working to ensure more women are meaningfully participating in conflict prevention, and resolution, to ensure more inclusive and sustainable peace. We will continue to look for opportunities to enhance existing training of our staff and development of early warning mechanisms. This includes continuing to work closely with the EU, UN, Commonwealth and other organisations to see how we might improve our policies.

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to review and strengthen the effectiveness of conflict resolution policies of the UK to address persistent and accelerating conflict, and flashpoints, particularly in (1) Honduras, and (2) Nicaragua; and what steps they are taking with partners in the Commonwealth, the EU, and the UN to review equivalent policies. [HL16254]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: On Honduras, the UK recently joined the G16 group of donors, which supports efforts to address issues pertaining to security, human rights and the rule of law, and engages with the Honduran Government and civil society organisations. On Nicaragua, the UK has publicly called for an end to the violent repression of peaceful protests, the release of arbitrarily detained political prisoners and for the Government to engage constructively in political dialogue, including in Nicaragua's Universal Periodic Review and supporting EU Council Conclusions and statements.

Dangerous Dogs

Asked by Lord Hoyle

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they are taking in relation to dog attacks on guide dogs. [HL16243]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: In 2015, the Government amended the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 to specifically make it an offence to allow a dog to attack an assistance dog. The maximum penalty for such an offence is three years imprisonment or an unlimited fine, or both.

Dental Health

Asked by Baroness Redfern

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to include specific measures to prioritise good oral health in the forthcoming Green Paper on prevention. [HL16276]

Baroness Barran: We are considering a number of policy options for the Prevention Green Paper including measures to improve oral health. The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health and Primary Care (Seema Kennedy MP) has held a roundtable meeting with dental and oral health stakeholders on 19 June to discuss Government plans on prevention and oral health in more detail.

Dental Health: Children

Asked by Baroness Redfern

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to increase the frequency of the Children's Dental Health Survey, currently conducted every ten years. [HL16275]

Baroness Barran: The Dental Health Survey of Children and Young People has taken place every 10 years since 1973 with the most recent survey carried out in 2013. There are no plans to change the frequency of this survey which provides an important time series of information used to underpin and help plan dental health care for children in England.

The Government is committed to improving oral health in England and the Child Dental Health Survey is a valuable source of data and indicator of children's oral health over time.

English Language: Education

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that comprehensive support is available in England to enable all refugees to learn English; and when they plan to match the provisions available in (1) Scotland, (2) Wales, and (3) Northern Ireland. [HL16352]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The government recognises that learning English is essential in enabling refugees to rebuild their lives. We are working across government to develop a new strategy for English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) in 2019, which will include addressing the needs of refugees.

The department funds ESOL through the Adult Education Budget (AEB), which is allocated to providers on an annual basis. Colleges and adult learning providers have the freedom and flexibility to determine how they use their AEB allocation to meet the needs of their communities. This includes planning, with local partners, the ESOL courses that they will deliver locally.

The Home Office and Department for Education have provided £10 million to enable refugees resettled through the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme to access additional classes.

Exchange Rates

Asked by Lord Birt

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the reasons for (1) sterling losing nearly five per cent of its value against the US dollar since the beginning of May this year, and (2) other major currencies holding their value over the same period. [HL16451]

Lord Young of Cookham: The government does not comment on movements in financial markets. It is also important to note that the UK does not have an exchange rate target. Instead the UK's macroeconomic framework is based on an inflation target, and it is for the independent Monetary Policy Committee to set monetary policy to meet this target.

Families: Disadvantaged

Asked by Lord Farmer

To ask Her Majesty's Government what funding they plan to provide to departments other than the Department for Work and Pensions for the purpose of reducing parental conflict in (1) in 2019–20, and (2) over the next five years. [HL16375]

Lord Young of Cookham: In addition to DWP's £39m Reducing Parental Conflict programme, the government provides funding to other departments that can contribute to a reduction in parental conflict, including a £6m joint DHSC/DWP package of measures to support children living with alcohol-dependent parents, the Public Health Grant to local authorities (£3.13bn in 2019/20) to funds public health services, such as treatment, prevention and reducing harm from alcohol and drug misuse in adults, and the MHCLG led Troubled Families programme (£200m in 2019/20).

Alongside this, over the course of this Parliament, the Government is spending £100 million to support victims and survivors of violence against women and girls.

Decisions on future funding for reducing parental conflict will be made in the round at the next Spending Review.

Food

Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch

To ask Her Majesty's Government what cross-departmental actions are being taken to develop an integrated food policy addressing nutrition, food inequalities and good farming practice. [HL16248]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Government is committed to publishing a new National Food Strategy after the UK has left the EU. We are currently in the scoping phase and the Terms of Reference will be published shortly following the cross-Government agreement process.

Defra's Secretary of State has invited Henry Dimbleby, as Defra's lead Non-Executive Director, to lead an independent review to inform this strategy. Subsequently the Government will develop a National Food Strategy white paper informed by this independent review, among other things. This is planned for six months after the publication of the review.

Defra has engaged with other Government departments that have an interest in the Food Strategy. As many potential issues for inclusion fall outside Defra's direct remit, effective and sustained cross Government working will be critical to the Strategy's success.

Food: Imports

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the preparations of the Food Standards Agency regarding implementing any new legislation that may be required for imported products after Brexit. [HL16333]

Baroness Barran: As a non-Ministerial Government Department responsible for food safety and authenticity, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) has been preparing extensively for the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union. This includes:

- ensuring EU regulations will operate correctly when they become UK law;
- strengthening its risk analysis process;
- developing a clear plan for how risk will be managed; and
- finalising the systems and technology that will support how food businesses are regulated in the future.

Leaving the EU does not change the FSA's top priority which is to ensure that food remains safe and what it says it is.

General Practitioners

Asked by Lord Bradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many single-handed GP practices there are in each Clinical Commissioning Group area in England. [HL16300]

Baroness Barran: The number of general practitioner (GP) practices which recorded a single headcount GP as of 31 March 2019 for each clinical commissioning group in England is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Single-handed GP practices in each England CCG [HL16300]
Single handed GP practices in England CCGs .docx]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-06-12/HL16300>

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Henley on 16 April (HL15075), what proportion of their £8.6 million Greenhouse Gas Removal research programme with UK Research and Innovation is targeted at the removal of greenhouse gasses other than carbon dioxide. [HL16267]

Lord Henley: This information is publicly available on the Natural Environment Research Council website, from which the full list of projects funded by the Greenhouse Gas Removal research programme is provided in the attached document. One of the 13 projects is targeted at gasses other than carbon dioxide, specifically on new methodologies for removal of methane from the atmosphere. This project is receiving £223,782 in funding, or 3% of the programme total.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Projects funded by the GGR research programme [GGR programme project list.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-06-11/HL16267>

Heathrow Airport: Railways

Asked by Lord Carlile of Berriew

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review the franchise arrangements concerning the shuttle service between Heathrow Central and Terminal 4. [HL16304]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The rail network at Heathrow is privately owned and is exempt from the franchising requirements of the Railways Act 1993. This

means that the Secretary of State cannot designate services on that network for franchising. Train services operating on the Heathrow rail network are not provided under franchise agreements.

High Speed 2 Railway Line

Asked by Lord Truscott

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of HS2 Phase One being delivered on time and on budget. [HL16358]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: HS2 Ltd is currently working with its contracted suppliers to update and agree the latest cost and schedule positions for Phase One. Assessment of Phase One cost and schedule is therefore ongoing, and once completed we will make these details public as part of the Phase One Full Business Case which is due for publication later in 2019.

Asked by Lord Truscott

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to review the viability of HS2; and if so, what are those plans. [HL16359]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Full Business Case for Phase One will review HS2 in terms of its strategic objectives, value for money, achievability, deliverability and affordability. It is due for publication later in 2019.

Israel: Palestinians

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the joint open letter sent to High Representative Federica Mogherini and EU Ministers of Foreign Affairs on 4 June highlighting concern about the proposed United States' Middle East peace plan and requesting that any plan that (1) does not uphold the principles of international law including the right to self-determination, fulfilment of human rights for Palestinians throughout the region, and (2) legitimises a policy of separation and fragmentation of the Palestinian population, should be rejected. [HL16288]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK's longstanding position on the Middle East Peace Process is clear: we support a negotiated settlement leading to a safe and secure Israel living alongside a viable and sovereign Palestinian state; based on 1967 with equal land swaps to reflect the national, security, and religious interests of the Jewish and Palestinian peoples. Every Israeli and Palestinian has the right to live in peace and security. We understand and share the deep frustration on all sides at the lack of progress on the Middle East Peace Process. The ongoing violence underlines that a just and lasting resolution that ends the occupation and delivers peace for both Israelis and Palestinians is long overdue.

Kosovo: Serbia

Asked by *Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the potential for Kosovo and Serbia to reach an agreement to normalise relations between those countries; and whether they will endorse any bilateral agreements reached. [HL16244]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We assess that an agreement to normalise relations between the two countries can and should be reached through the EU-facilitated dialogue. We are pressing Kosovo to set out the steps it plans to take to revoke or suspend its 100 per cent tariffs on imports from Serbia. We are urging both Governments to re-commit themselves to the EU-facilitated dialogue, and to allow negotiations to resume so that a comprehensive, sustainable agreement can be reached that addresses outstanding issues, enhances regional stability and is supported by the citizens in both countries. I also stressed the importance of reaching an agreement during my recent visit to Belgrade during my meeting with the Foreign Minister.

Overseas Trade: South America

Asked by *Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to improve post-Brexit trading ties with South American countries. [HL16436]

Viscount Younger of Leckie: The Department for International Trade works extensively throughout South America to strengthen the UK's trade and investment relationships, with staff based in 19 countries across Latin America and the Caribbean (LatAC). In 2018 Joanna Crellin was appointed as HM Trade Commissioner for LatAC to coordinate the Government's effort overseas to promote UK trade and prosperity. The Prime Minister also appointed two Trade Envoys in the region to promote trade and investment: Mark Prisk, the MP for Hertford and Stortford, for Brazil and Mark Menzies, the MP for Fylde, for Colombia, Peru, Chile and Argentina.

As the UK prepares to leave the EU, we have concluded trade continuity agreements with Chile and the Andean Community (Colombia, Peru and Ecuador), which will allow us to continue trading on preferential terms. Ministers and teams in the region regularly discuss trade with their counterparts, including through regular dialogues such as the Brazil Joint Economic and Trade Committee.

Personal Income

Asked by *Baroness Primarolo*

To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord Young of Cookham on 21 May (HL15607), whether the figures given for total take-home pay, child benefit and tax credits for a family of two adults, one of whom is aged 25 or over and

works 35 hours per week and receives the National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage, were adjusted for inflation to allow for accurate comparisons between years; and if not, whether they will provide such figures. [HL16274]

Lord Young of Cookham: The figures in HL15607 were shown in cash terms. The table below shows the same table in April 2019 prices, adjusted using the Consumer Prices Index and rounded to the nearest £5.

Table 1: Total take-home pay, Child Benefit, and tax credits in April 2019 prices for a family with two adults, one of whom is aged 25 or over and works 35 hours per week and receives the National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage

<i>Year</i>	<i>£ per annum</i>
2010-11	20,275
2011-12	20,150
2012-13	19,970
2013-14	19,925
2014-15	19,885
2015-16	20,290
2016-17	20,670
2017-18	20,400
2018-19	20,185
2019-20	20,135

The table above is true for a family with a particular set of circumstances. On average real household disposable income per person is 6.7% higher than at the start of 2010 – meaning people have more money to spend than they did in 2010. Since unemployment has fallen 48% since 2010, families are also significantly more likely to have at least one person in work now than in 2010.

The government has introduced policies to increase take home pay since 2010 including;

- Increasing the Work Allowance in Universal Credit by £1000 from April 2019. This would provide up to an additional £630 per year for households with children and for people with disabilities;
- Doubling the amount of free childcare available to working parents of 3 and 4 year olds, saving families using the full 30 hours around £5,000 per year. This is in combination with increasing the amount that working families can claim back in childcare to 85% of their registered childcare costs each month under UC, compared to 70% on the legacy system. For families with two children this could be worth up to £13,000 a year;
- Increasing the Marriage Allowance from £1,190 in 2018-19 to £1,250 in 2019-20. The benefit is therefore worth up to £250 in 2019-20. It will continue to increase each time the Personal Allowance is increased.

Pharmacy

Asked by **Baroness Redfern**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to increase the role of community pharmacies (1) in promoting self care, and (2) as a first point of contact recognised in contractual frameworks. [HL16278]

Baroness Barran: In terms of promoting self-care, community pharmacy contractors are already obliged by the community pharmacy contractual framework to provide advice and support to enable people to derive maximum benefit from caring for themselves or their families. NHS England and Improvement have been running the Help Us to Help You campaigns which educate the public on the ability of community pharmacies to help the public and patients with their needs relating to self-care and minor illness.

In 2016, Public Health England (PHE) introduced profession-led self-assessment for attainment of healthy living pharmacy (HLP) level 1 status. This was followed by the introduction of a quality payment for HLP level 1 status attainment. As a result, there has been an increase in the numbers achieving HLP status. There are now more than 9,500 community pharmacies already accredited as HLPs, each with qualified health champions promoting health and wellbeing messages, helping to prevent people from becoming ill and maintaining the health of those that are already ill in their communities.

PHE is developing an HLP framework for commissioners which can be used when commissioning public health services to ensure consistency of delivery across the country, due to be published in spring 2020. These services help to further increase the role of community pharmacy in prevention and improving health.

In terms of community pharmacies as a first point of contact, the HLP initiative is also relevant. In addition, since December 2017, NHS England and NHS Improvement has been piloting the Digital Minor Illness Referral Service. This is a service that allows referrals from NHS 111 to community pharmacies for advice and support for minor illnesses and health concerns. The outcome for the patient, if they attend the pharmacy for a consultation with the pharmacist, may be either to receive advice alone or advice with access to medicines through a private sale of an over the counter medicine or potentially a medicine supply through a locally commissioned minor ailment scheme. In November 2018, the pilot was expanded to include London, Devon and the East Midlands., in addition to the North East.

Since 2016, the NHS Medicines Supply Advanced Service has been piloted. This is service manages a referral from NHS 111 to a community pharmacy where a patient has contacted NHS 111 because they need urgent access to a medicine or appliance that they have been previously prescribed on a National Health Service prescription.

Furthermore, the Department, with NHS England and NHS Improvement, has now begun negotiations with the

Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee to determine the new Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework for 2019/20 and beyond. These are confidential negotiations and as such we are unable to provide further detail at this time.

Asked by **Baroness Redfern**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to build on the benefits of the Healthy Living Pharmacy framework and to increase the role of community pharmacies in the prevention of ill-health. [HL16279]

Baroness Barran: Both the NHS Long Term Plan and the Prevention is Better than Cure vision document, published in November 2018, set out an ambition for community pharmacy to take on an expanded role to support the prevention of ill-health. In 2016, Public Health England (PHE) introduced profession-led self-assessment for attainment of Healthy Living Pharmacy (HLP) level 1 status. This was followed by the introduction of a quality payment for HLP level 1 status attainment within the community pharmacy contractual framework. As a result, there has been an increase in the numbers achieving HLP status. There are now 9,562 community pharmacies in England, meeting standards set out by Public Health England and delivering a wide range of lifestyle and public health interventions. For example, to support national Smile Month. 74,563 pharmacy staff across England have passed an assessment of knowledge on children's dental health and have taken part in a mandatory campaign to reduce oral health inequalities, to improve oral health in children under five.

In line with this, the NHS Long Term Plan outlines an aim for voluntary sector partners, community pharmacists and general practitioner practices to work together to facilitate opportunities for the public to check on their health, through tests for high blood pressure and other high-risk conditions. The Department is now developing a Green Paper on Prevention to further work up this ambition and plans for delivering it. This will be published later this year.

Police: Voluntary Work

Asked by **Baroness Kennedy of Cradley**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Police Support Volunteers there were working for police forces in England and Wales in each year from 2014 to 2018. [HL16255]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office collects and publishes statistics on the number of police support volunteers working for each police force in England and Wales on a bi-annual basis. These data are published in the 'Police workforce, England and Wales' statistical bulletins.

The latest published figures, representing the picture as at 30 September 2018, can be accessed in 'Table 7' of the accompanying data tables here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-workforce-england-and-wales-30-september-2018>

Data on the number of police support volunteers in England and Wales as at 31 March 2019 are due to be published on 18 July 2019.

The Home Office has only collected data on police support volunteers since March 2018. Data for previous years are not held.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Police Workforce - Report 2018 [police-workforce-sep18-hosb0219.pdf]

Police Workforce Tables - 2018 [Police Workforce Sept 18 Tables.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-06-11/HL16255>

Refugees: English Language

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made on their commitments given to co-ordinate and fund community-based English language provision made in their Integrated Communities Action Plan published in February; whether they intend to respond to Refugee Action's campaign Let Refugees Learn and the recommendations in its report Turning words into action, published in June; and what assessment they have made of the importance of refugees learning English as a driver for integration and in combatting social exclusion. [HL16235]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: Following the commitments set out in the cross-government Integrated Communities Action Plan (attached), the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) established a new Integrated Communities English Language programme, worth £4.5 million, in April 2019. It will deliver community-based English language learning in 2019-20 for over 19,000 learner places. In addition, MHCLG has committed £1.2 million to support 8 local authorities to deliver coordination models through the Integrated Communities English Language Coordination Fund.

The government recognises that learning English is essential to enabling refugees to rebuild their lives. We are working across government to develop a new strategy for English for speakers of other languages in 2019. This strategy will provide a shared vision for all publicly funded English language provision and this will include addressing the needs of refugees. We will consider the 'Turning Words into Action' report as we develop the strategy.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL16235_report [Integrated_Communities_Action_Plan.pdf]

HL16235_report [Turning_Words_into_Action_report.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-06-11/HL16235>

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the target of restoring 50 per cent of Sites of Special Scientific Interest by 2020 has been dropped; and if so, why. [HL16247]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The target in the England Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 is still in place. We and Natural England are increasingly focused on delivering the more ambitious target, under our 25 Year Environment Plan. This commits to restoring 75% of our one million hectares of land and freshwater in protected sites to favourable condition.

Taxis: Licensing

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to legislate to reform the regulations governing the taxi and private hire trades; and if so, when. [HL16496]

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to restricting cross border hiring to put an end to out-of-town taxi drivers operating in areas in which they (1) do not have a licence, and (2) threaten the safety of the public. [HL16497]

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will reconsider introducing a statutory definition of (1) plying for hire, and (2) pre-booked, as recommended by the Task and Finish Group on taxi and private hire vehicle licensing. [HL16498]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The response to the report by the Chair of the Task and Finish Group on Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing issued on 12 February committed to bring forward legislation to enable national minimum standards in licensing, enable greater enforcement powers for licensing officers and to establish a national licensing database to assist in the sharing of relevant information. Legislation will be brought forward when time allows.

Taxis and private hire vehicle drivers are all subject to a 'fit and proper' assessment; any driver who poses a risk to public safety should not be permitted to hold a licence. Drivers are permitted to undertake pre-booked work outside of the area in which they are licensed. As set out in the Government's response, the Government will consider how restrictions on out-of-area journeys might work in practice, with a view to legislating.

The Government response to the Task and Finish Group report explained that, since the Law Commission

concluded in 2014 that a statutory definition of plying for hire would not be a practical improvement on the current position and there being no change in the legal situation, the Government would not take forward that recommendation.

Terrorism

Asked by Lord Stone of Blackheath

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 24 May (HL15688), whether they will now answer the question put, namely what assessment they have made of the impact of the ban on direct flights to Sharm el-Sheikh on the current UK terrorist threat level. [HL16054]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: I refer the noble Lord to my previous response.

The threat level to the UK from international terrorism is kept under constant review by the independent Joint Terrorist Analysis Centre, whose judgements about the threat level are made on the basis of the very latest reporting and intelligence. This can change at any time as different information becomes available.

The current threat level from international terrorism is judged to be SEVERE, meaning an attack is highly likely.

Tree Planting

Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made towards meeting the pledge to plant 11 million trees between 2015 and 2020; and whether those trees are additional rather than replacement trees. [HL16246]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Government is on course to plant 11 million trees this Parliament 2017-22. Woodland creation is a key activity in our 25 year Environment Plan.

The Forestry Commission routinely publish statistics on planting rates for new woodland creation as part of their Corporate Performance Indicators. The latest figures show that from April 2017 to March 2019 at least 3.64 million trees have been planted, equivalent to approximately 2,318 hectares of woodland creation. These figures concern additional rather than replacement trees and as such exclude trees planted to restock woodland after timber harvesting operations.

Government's support for this woodland creation has predominantly been from the Countryside Stewardship

scheme. Further Government support has been through the Environment Agency and National Forest Company.

In the Autumn Budget the Government announced an additional £60 million for tree planting initiatives, comprising £10 million to fund urban tree planting and £50 million for a Woodland Carbon Guarantee scheme. This will add to other new planting in the pipeline, supported by the High Speed 2 Woodland Fund, the Woodland Carbon Fund and Government's kick start investment in the Northern Forest.

Universal Credit

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to start the pilot of Universal Credit managed migration in July; if so, when in July; and what meetings they have held with stakeholders to discuss any such pilot. [HL16417]

Baroness Buscombe: We plan to commence the Move to UC pilot when the necessary preparations are in place, subject to management checks of readiness. Preparations are proceeding to plan.

Stakeholder engagement has been and continues to be a vital part of the work we are doing on Universal Credit. Since last October we have been working closely with a diverse range of stakeholders to listen to their views and to better understand their concerns, to ensure the widest possible range of insights are played into the design of the process for moving claimants from legacy benefits onto Universal Credit.

Vaccination

Asked by Baroness Redfern

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to increase the range of vaccination sources that could be provided in community pharmacies through the NHS. [HL16277]

Baroness Barran: Vaccination is one of the world's most clinically effective public health interventions. Community pharmacies already provide National Health Service flu vaccination. During the 2018/19 flu season 1,431,538 vaccinations were provided in community pharmacy.

NHS England and NHS Improvement are currently undertaking a review of all vaccinations and immunisations and community pharmacy is represented in that review.

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