

Session 2017-19
No. 302



Monday
15 July 2019

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

Written Statements 1

Written Answers.....5

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

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

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

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

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

© Parliamentary Copyright House of Lords 2019

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

Written Statements

Monday, 15 July 2019

Chemical Weapons Convention: Declaration of Protective Programme

[HLWS1681]

Earl Howe: The UK's chemical protection programme is designed to protect against the use of chemical weapons. Such a programme is permitted by the Chemical Weapons Convention, with which the United Kingdom is fully compliant. Under the terms of the Convention, we are required to provide information annually to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. In accordance with the Government's commitment to openness, I am placing in the Library of the House a copy of the summary that has been provided to the Organisation outlining the UK's chemical protection programme in 2018.

Compliance Improvement Review

[HLWS1684]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: My right hon Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sajid Javid) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

On 9 May 2019 I made a Written Ministerial Statement to notify Parliament of compliance risks that MI5 had identified and reported within certain technology environments used to store and analyse data. In the statement I confirmed that I had established an independent review to consider and report back to me on what lessons could be learned for the future. My statement today notifies Parliament that this review, the Compliance Improvement Review (CIR), is now complete and that the Government is publishing the summary section of the report and its recommendations, gisted where necessary for national security reasons.

The CIR was led by Sir Martin Donnelly, a former Permanent Secretary, and examined how the issue arose and considered MI5's governance and risk management procedures in light of this. The review team had access to all relevant documentation and met key individuals from Government, MI5 and the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office to discuss the background to the risks being identified. I would like to place on record my thanks to Sir Martin and the review team, who have worked diligently to complete a thorough and well-evidenced review.

I was provided with a copy of the review report in late June and have since had the opportunity to discuss it with Sir Martin. The Investigatory Powers Commissioner and the Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament have both received copies of the full report. The CIR identified three areas where improvements can be made. These are: improvements to support an effective compliance culture across MI5; improvements to ensure

more effective sharing of information between MI5 and the Home Office to identify emerging issues; and improvements to ensure increased legal input to the MI5 Management Board and ensuring closer joint working between MI5 and Home Office legal advisors. The review makes a total of 14 recommendations to address these issues, which are set out in the document that has been published today.

I can confirm that DG MI5 and I agree with the CIR's conclusions and my department will now work closely with MI5 to deliver the recommendations.

It should be noted that the CIR found that there was no attempt by MI5 to hide the compliance risk they were managing. The CIR describes MI5 as "a consistently high-performing organisation, with a growing number of committed and professional staff working under sustained pressure to keep this country safe", a view I share from my experience as Home Secretary. Copies of the CIR summary document will be made available on Gov.UK and will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

[HLWS1677]

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 took place on 8th July 2019 in Brussels. The Deputy Permanent Representative to the European Union, Katrina Williams, represented the UK.

The Council approved the non-binding 2019 Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs) to Member States, and endorsed the joint opinion of the Employment and Social Protection Committees, assessing the 2019 CSRs and the implementation of those from 2018. The Council also adopted Guidelines for the Employment Policies of the Member States 2019.

The Council debated the "economy of wellbeing" and "employment aspects of the strategic long-term vision for a climate neutral economy".

The Council closed with employment and social policy updates by the Commission on the International Labour Organisation, G7 and G20.

Health-related Job Loss

[HLWS1686]

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

I would like to make the following statement on behalf of myself and Jackie Doyle Price MP, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Mental Health, Inequalities and Suicide Prevention in the Department for Health and Social Care.

Today, my department, in partnership with the Department of Health and Social Care, will publish a consultation on proposals to reduce health-related job loss.

As people live and work for longer, more employees are disabled or have long term health conditions. There are significant and well evidenced benefits for employers, individuals and government if health related job-loss can be reduced.

For employers, offering flexibility, early support and occupational health advice are the key to successful retention. Employers are best placed to take the early preventative measures that are most effective. There are large variations in employers' capability and capacity to act with large firms five times more likely to provide occupational health when compared to small firms.

Each year more than 100,000 people leave their job following a period of sickness absence lasting at least four weeks. Survey evidence shows that 44% of people who had been off sick for a year then left employment altogether.

The proposals set out in this consultation include:

- Amending the legal framework to encourage workplace modifications and early action to support individuals on sickness absence leave;
- Reforming Statutory Sick Pay so that it is better enforced, more flexible and covers the lowest paid and potentially, rewards effective action with a new rebate;
- Improving access to occupational health services with additional support for small employers including a potential subsidy;
- Government to provide best practice advice and support for employers on managing health and disability in the workplace.

The evidence and views gathered during this consultation will be used to develop our proposals further and understand the impact of the changes on both employers and employees.

Inappropriate Behaviour in the Armed Forces: Review

[HLWS1680]

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

In April of this year a report was commissioned to look into inappropriate behaviour in the Armed Forces. Our Armed Forces are the pride of our nation, and have a hard-won reputation here, and across the world.

The report which was undertaken by Air Chief Marshal Mike Wigston, concluded that while the vast majority of military personnel serve with great honour and distinction, some unacceptable behaviour does occur. I am publishing the report today.

I am accepting the recommendations of the report in full, including creating a Defence Authority to provide centralised oversight of their implementation. Detailed work on the design of this body and its responsibilities is now under way.

We are examining the recommendations and ascertaining how we can prevent inappropriate behaviour in the first place, and where it does occur, deal with the perpetrators more effectively. Leadership is key to this approach at all levels of the Services from the most senior to the most junior. Everyone has a role to play in setting and maintaining standards. Non-Commissioned Officers in particular are key in holding people to these standards and the values of their service. I am therefore, in addition to the findings of this report, looking to ensure all Non-Commissioned Officers have what they need to address poor behaviour when they see it.

This will clearly take time, and I see today as the start of this work, not the end.

Office for Tackling Injustices

[HLWS1683]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Rt Hon. Friend the Minister for Women and Equalities (The Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

On Friday 12 July, the Prime Minister announced the creation of the Office for Tackling Injustices. This is a new organisation that will hold the Government and wider society to account for tackling key social injustices.

Despite the great progress we have made in promoting fair treatment for all in the UK, we know that too many of our citizens are still held back by the injustice of unequal treatment on the grounds of their socio-economic background, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or disability.

The Prime Minister has spoken of her determination to tackle these 'burning injustices'. But all Governments should work to end the injustices that continue to characterise our country for too many. The Office for Tackling Injustices (OfTI) will focus minds on how to create a fairer country in the decades to come.

By shining a light on data on injustices and monitoring change, the OfTI will provide evidence-based challenge to future Governments and wider society to tackle disparities in social and economic outcomes. Data is a hard, sometimes uncomfortable fact, but publishing it and communicating it clearly forces Government and others to hold a mirror up to their own performance and challenge themselves to do better.

The OfTI will have a remit covering social injustices relating to ethnicity, gender, disability, socio-economic background and LGBT. As well as annually delivering a data-driven report on progress to Parliament, the OfTI will also publish thematic studies into issues relevant to its mandate. It will make use of relevant published data

from various public authorities, monitoring trends and considering the underlying causes and drivers for them.

Personal Injury Compensation

[HLWS1678]

Lord Keen of Elie: My Right Honourable friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (David Gauke MP) has made the following Written Statement:

Earlier today, I notified the market via the London Stock Exchange group that I would today lay a Statutory Instrument to change the discount rate applicable to personal injury lump sum compensation payments in England and Wales, to minus 0.25%. The new rate will come into force on 5 August 2019, in line with the statutory timetable set out by the Civil Liability Act 2018 (“the Act”).

Under the Damages Act 1996, I, as Lord Chancellor, have the power to set a discount rate which courts must consider when awarding compensation for future financial losses in the form of a lump sum in personal injury cases. The legal framework was changed by the Civil Liability Act 2018.

The new framework makes clear that claimants must be treated as ‘low risk’ investors. Under the Act I, as Lord Chancellor, must conduct a review and determine whether the rate should be changed or kept unchanged within 140 days of beginning the review and including the day on which the review starts. I started the review on 19 March 2019, and in conducting this review, I consulted the Government Actuary and HM Treasury.

The Government Actuary provided an analysis of dual rates – this would involve a lower short term rate and then a higher long term rate after a ‘switchover’ period. Although I consider their analysis interesting with some promising indications, I do not consider it appropriate, noting the lack of quantity and depth of evidence required, to adopt a dual rate for this review. The potential of the dual rate to be appropriate for future reviews is one that I will consider in more detail.

A full statement of reasons, explaining how I have decided upon this rate, will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Public Service Pensions

[HLWS1687]

Lord Young of Cookham: My right honourable friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Elizabeth Truss) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The government is committed to providing public service pensions that are fair for public sector workers and for taxpayers. This is why we brought forward reforms in 2015, based on the recommendations of the Hutton report, to ensure that these pensions are sustainable in the future.

The courts have considered cases regarding the implementation of the 2015 reforms. On 27 June 2019 the Supreme Court denied the government permission to

appeal the Court of Appeal’s judgment that transitional provisions introduced to the reformed judges and firefighters pension schemes in 2015 gave rise to unlawful age discrimination. The government respects the Court’s decision and will engage fully with the Employment Tribunal to agree how the discrimination will be remedied.

The ruling relates to the ‘transitional protection’ offered to some members when the reformed schemes were introduced. In order to ensure people close to retirement age were treated fairly, the government agreed to ‘transitional protection’, which broadly permitted those members who were closest to retirement at the time new pension schemes were introduced to remain members of their respective old schemes. The court has found that those too far away from retirement age to qualify for ‘transitional protection’ have been unfairly discriminated against. As ‘transitional protection’ was offered to members of all the main public service pension schemes, the government believes that the difference in treatment will need to be remedied across all those schemes. This includes schemes for the NHS, civil service, local government, teachers, police, armed forces, judiciary and fire and rescue workers. Continuing to resist the full implications of the judgment in Court would only add to the uncertainty experienced by members.

The matter will be remitted to the Employment Tribunal in respect of the litigants in the firefighters and judicial pension schemes. It will be for the Tribunal to determine a remedy. Alongside this process, government will be engaging with employer and member representatives, as well as the devolved administrations, to help inform our proposals to the Tribunal and in respect of the other public service pension schemes.

Initial estimates suggest remedying the discrimination will add around £4bn per annum to scheme liabilities from 2015.

The reasons for the 2015 reforms remain: that public service pensions are a significant cost for the taxpayer, now and in the future. The judgment does not alter the government’s commitment to ensuring that the cost of public service pensions are affordable for taxpayers and sustainable for the long term.

School Sport and Activity

[HLWS1685]

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

A positive experience of sport and physical activity at a young age can build a lifetime habit of participation. It is central to meeting the Government’s ambitions for a world-class education system which promotes character, good physical health and mental wellbeing. We face a significant challenge to increase and maintain activity levels amongst children and young people, particularly given the levels of childhood obesity. Data from Sport England’s Active Lives Children and Young People

survey show that a third of children are currently doing less than 30 minutes of physical activity a day, less than half the amount recommended by the Chief Medical Officer.

The Department for Education, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, and Department of Health and Social Care are today publishing a joint School Sport and Activity Action Plan which will set out the following ambitions:

- All children and young people take part in at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day.
- All children and young people have the opportunity to realise developmental, character-building experiences through sport, competition and active pursuits.
- All sport and physical activity provision for children and young people is designed around building basic skills as well as confidence, enjoyment, knowledge and understanding (known as physical literacy) with a focus on fun and enjoyment, and reaching the least active young people.

The Action Plan will set out a number of immediate actions that feed into realising these ambitions, including a strong commitment to joint working between schools and the sport sector. The plan also sets out areas of activity for the future with action to be confirmed in a further updated plan later in the year, following the spending review.

The immediate actions include a commitment to an additional £2.5m from the Department for Education in 2019/20 to support schools through further work on teacher training, more help and advice to enable schools to open up their facilities and make links with providers, as well as providing more opportunities for young people to volunteer in sport. The plan also sets out over £4m of Sport England investment in new after-school clubs, strengthening the School Games competition and building girls' confidence through a programme linked to 'This Girl Can'.

The Government is also committing to develop regional pilots to trial new and innovative approaches to getting young people active, jointly funded by Sport England and the Department for Education from 2020. The pilots will involve collaborative working from the school and

community sector to offer a coordinated sport and physical activity experience for young people.

We will be working with sporting organisations like the Youth Sport Trust, RFU, England Netball and the Premier League to ensure that sports clubs and programmes can reach even more children, encouraging them to get active by focusing on fun, enjoyment and increasing confidence.

Serious Violence

[HLWS1682]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: My rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sajid Javid) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

On 1 April 2019 the Government published a consultation paper on a new legal duty to support a multi-agency approach to preventing and tackling serious violence.

The consultation sought views on three options to support a multi-agency approach to preventing and tackling serious violence including: a new duty on specific organisations to have due regard to the prevention and tackling of serious violence; a new duty through legislating to revise Community Safety Partnerships; and, a voluntary non-legislative approach.

The consultation closed on 28 May and I am today publishing the Government response to the consultation which includes a summary of the responses that the consultation received. A copy of the government response and related impact assessment will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and will be available on the Gov.uk website.

Supply and Appropriation (Main Estimates) (No.3) Bill

[HLWS1679]

Lord Young of Cookham: I have made a statement under Section 19(1)(a) of the Human Rights Act 1998 that, in my view, the provisions of the Supply and Appropriation (Main Estimates) (No.3) Bill are compatible with the convention rights. A copy of the statement has been placed in the Library of the House.

Written Answers

Monday, 15 July 2019

Abdel Moneim Aboul Foutouh

Asked by *Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they intend to make to the government of Egypt about the case for transferring Abdel Moneim Aboul Fotouh from prison to hospital for urgent medical treatment. [[HL16988](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have been closely engaged on the case of Abdel Moneim Aboul Fotouh. Officials raised his case with Egyptian authorities on 4 July in London and on 7 July in Cairo. We will continue to urge the Egyptian authorities to ensure all detainees are treated in accordance with relevant international human right standards and continue to raise the importance of access to medical care.

Advertising: Internet

Asked by *Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the market power held by online platforms on competition in the advertising sector. [[HL16927](#)]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: Digital markets, including online advertising, are an increasingly important part of everyday life and it's vital that we ensure they work for everyone - citizens, businesses and society as a whole.

As part of the Cairncross Review into the future sustainability of the UK press, the Department of Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) published independent analysis on the structure of the online advertising sector, which is available to view at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-cairncross-review-a-sustainable-future-for-journalism>

In line with the Cairncross and Furman Review recommendations, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has launched a market study into online platforms and the digital advertising market that will assess the market power held by online platforms. This will complement the forthcoming DCMS review of online advertising regulation and government's response to the recommendations made by the Cairncross Review.

This CMA study comes at a pivotal time, as we look to promote competition in digital markets while ensuring that consumers benefit from new technology and innovation. The findings will be invaluable in helping us better understand the evolving digital landscape and complement our wider work, including the upcoming Competition Green Paper on opening up digital markets.

Armed Conflict: Sexual Offences

Asked by *Lord Collins of Highbury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they intend to take to include the presence of survivors of sexual violence from conflict zones at the Preventing Sexual Violence In Conflict Initiative Conference in November; and whether the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will liaise with the Home Office to ensure that such people are not prevented from entering the UK to attend that conference. [[HL16939](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The PSVI conference 'Time For Justice: Putting Survivors First' will take a survivor-centred approach, focusing on tangible next steps and enabling survivors to contribute to policy debates and outcomes. The newly created role of PSVI Survivor Champion will help ensure that survivors' needs, concerns and priorities are at the forefront of our policy and programming, including for the conference.

The UK Government is working closely with stakeholders, including international survivor networks, to ensure survivors of conflict-related sexual violence from a range of countries and communities are involved in and can attend the PSVI conference on 18-20 November 2019. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is coordinating across Government departments, including with the Home Office, on preparations for the conference. This includes planning on policy deliverables, logistics and attendance.

Arts

Asked by *Lord Balfe*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the needs and requirements of (1) authors, and (2) the creative industries, in regard to the UK's future relationship with the EU. [[HL16864](#)]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The UK publishing industry is world leading, using the written word to educate, entertain and inform. Leaving the EU will not change that. In 2016, the publishing industry exported over £2.5 billion in goods and over £2.3 billion in services.

DCMS is working closely with industry and others across Government to ensure that the creative industries benefit from the UK's future trade agreements, including our future economic partnership with the European Union. We have also proposed a wide-reaching agreement on culture which will facilitate cooperation between the UK and the EU. We will continue to deepen this engagement over the coming months.

Cannabis: Misuse

Asked by *Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review policy surrounding the use of cannabis, including the implementation of tougher sentences and penalties for drug use. [[HL16848](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: As set out in the Drug Strategy 2017, the government has no plans to decriminalise cannabis. Tough enforcement is a fundamental part of our drug strategy. The possession of any amount of a controlled drug is a criminal offence and the supply of a controlled drug is an even more serious offence. We are taking a smarter approach to restricting the supply of drugs: adapting our approach to reflect changes in criminal activity; using innovative data and technology; and taking coordinated partnership action to tackle drugs alongside other criminal activity.

China: Prisoners

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration, if any, they have given to updating their travel advice for China to include the findings of the Independent Tribunal into Forced Organ Harvesting from Prisoners of Conscience from China, published on 17 June. [HL16783]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We do not intend to update our travel advice to include the findings of the recent report by the pressure group "The International Coalition to End Transplant Abuse in China". We have reviewed the report and at present, our assessment remains that there is not a strong enough evidential base to substantiate the claim that systematic state-sponsored or sanctioned organ harvesting is taking place in China. We continue to keep this issue under review.

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Final Judgment of the Independent Tribunal into Forced Organ Harvesting, published on 17 June; and what actions they plan to take in response to that Judgment. [HL16786]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have noted the recent report by the pressure group "The International Coalition to End Transplant Abuse in China". Officials attended public hearings organised by the group, and its report is one of a number of sources of information that we are taking into account when considering this issue.

If true, the practice of systematic, state-sponsored organ harvesting would be truly horrifying. As such, we continue to monitor the allegations and consider carefully all evidence presented on this issue. We have also recently consulted the World Health Organization in both Geneva and Beijing. Their view is that China is implementing an ethical, voluntary organ transplant system in accordance with international standards, though they do have concerns about overall transparency.

There is credible evidence that practitioners of Falun Gong are subjected to serious mistreatment. We regularly raise concerns with China, including on the extensive use of the death penalty and the treatment of religious and ethnic minorities. We continue to keep this issue under review.

Christian Michel

Asked by Baroness Couttie

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of India to ensure that a trial date is set for Christian Michel following his arrest in July 2018 and subsequent extradition to India in December 2018. [HL16784]

Asked by Baroness Couttie

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that (1) Christian Michel receives a fair trial when such a date is set, and (2) that any evidence used in such a trial is accurate; and what representations they have made, if any, to the government of India about the impact of remarks made by Prime Minister Modi during the recent elections about Christian Michel's case. [HL16785]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Mr Michel's case is currently working its way through the Indian judiciary system. The British Government cannot interfere in the judicial process of another country, just as we would expect India to respect the UK's legal process. That said, we encourage all states to ensure that their domestic laws meet international human rights standards.

It is the responsibility of Mr Michel's legal team to ensure that a trial date is set. We have not made any representation to the Government of India about remarks made by Prime Minister Modi, but we have encouraged Mr Michel to seek advice from his legal team on this issue. Our staff in India continue to visit him and check his welfare. We are also supporting the family and in contact with the Indian authorities regarding his case.

Connect Plus

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the decision by Highways England not to impose financial penalties on Connect Plus M25 Ltd for failing to meet contractual maintenance standards in the four-year period to June 2018. [HL16918]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Highways England's contract with Connect Plus M25 Ltd allows payment deductions to be made based on the measured condition of the road surface and the rectification of certain types of defects. During the four-year period to June 2018, payment deductions relating to the condition of the network and rectification of defects have been fully applied in accordance with the terms of the contract.

Continuing Care: Finance

Asked by Baroness Altmann

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of applications received for

NHS Continuing Healthcare Funding in England in each of the last three years. [HL16774]

Asked by **Baroness Altmann**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of applications for NHS Continuing Healthcare funding in England were accepted in each of the last three years. [HL16775]

Asked by **Baroness Altmann**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of rejected applications for NHS Continuing Healthcare funding in England were then granted on (1) first, and (2) second, appeal in each of the last three years. [HL16776]

Asked by **Baroness Altmann**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of applications for NHS Continuing Healthcare funding in England were accepted (1) within less than one month, (2) within less than three months, (3) within three to six months, (4) within six to 12 months, and (5) after 12 months, of the date of application. [HL16777]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: The following table provides the total number of referrals received for NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC) for both Standard and Fast Track NHS CHC, for the years 2016/17 to 2018/19.

Number of Referrals Received

Period	Standard NHS CHC	Fast Track	Total NHS CHC
2016/17	76,945	88,420	165,365
2017/18	75,322	94,175	169,497
2018/19	73,475	97,273	170,748

NHS England collects and publishes data regarding the number of referrals completed, and of those, how many were assessed as eligible (as a percentage). A table showing these figures is attached due to the size of the data. The percentage of referrals agreed as eligible is based on the number of referrals 'completed' (rather than 'referrals received'). Pre 2017/18 data did not use this counting methodology and therefore is not comparable. 2016/17 figures have therefore not been included.

The NHS CHC appeals process consists of clinical commissioning group local resolution and NHS England Independent Review. It is not possible to provide data on cases found eligible at local review or Independent Review as a percentage of applications initially assessed as not eligible.

We do not hold information on the percentage of NHS CHC referrals which were assessed as eligible within the requested time periods. NHS England does, however, hold information on the percentage of referrals completed within 28 days, and the latest annual information on this is included in the following table. This relates to Standard NHS CHC and not Fast Track NHS CHC.

% referrals within 28 days

Period	Standard NHS CHC	Referrals completed in 28 days	% completed in 28 days
2018/19	76,803	53,504	70%

The Answer includes the following attached material:

NHS CHC Referrals completed [HL16774 data table formatted.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-07-01/HL16774>

Asked by **Lord Hain**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many patients were in receipt of continuing healthcare payments in England in (1) 2010, (2) 2015, (3) 2016, (4) 2017, (5) 2018, and (6) 2019. [HL16802]

Asked by **Lord Hain**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many patients were in receipt of continuing healthcare payments from Somerset Health Authority in (1) 2010, (2) 2015, (3) 2016, (4) 2017, (5) 2018, and (6) 2019. [HL16803]

Asked by **Lord Hain**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many patients were in receipt of continuing healthcare payments in England, broken down by category of payment, in (1) 2010, (2) 2015, (3) 2016, (4) 2017, (5) 2018, and (6) 2019. [HL16804]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: Data on NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC) payments is not held currently, but NHS England collects data on the total number of cases eligible for NHS CHC during each year. This includes newly eligible individuals and individuals who were already eligible at the start of the period. The following table provides the total numbers eligible for both Standard and Fast Track NHS CHC for the years 2015/16 to 2018/19. 'Category of payment' has been interpreted to mean the split of total NHS CHC by Standard NHS CHC and Fast Track.

Data relating to 2010/11 has not been included as formal mandatory data collection was not in place at this time and is therefore not comparable to the more robust data collected subsequently.

Number eligible year to date

Period	Standard NHS CHC	Fast Track	Total NHS CHC
2015/16	67,774	91,791	159,565
2016/17	63,474	96,353	159,827
2017/18	59,916	99,706	159,622
2018/19	56,395	104,461	160,856

'Somerset Health Authority' is not a recognised organisation. Data is therefore provided for Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for the years 2015/16 to 2018/19.

Somerset CCG Number eligible year to date

<i>Period</i>	<i>Standard NHS CHC</i>	<i>Fast Track</i>	<i>Total NHS CHC</i>
2015/16	835	1,277	2,112
2016/17	511	1,495	2,006
2017/18	350	1,572	1,922
2018/19	330	1,626	1,956

Data relating to 2010/11 has not been included as formal mandatory data collection was not in place at this time and is therefore not comparable to the more robust data collected subsequently. In addition, 2010/11 data pre-dates the existence of CCGs and relates to primary care trusts, meaning that comparison at organisational level is not possible.

Dangerous Dogs

Asked by Lord Hoyle

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many attacks on (1) guide dogs, and (2) other assistance dogs, were reported in (a) 2016, (b) 2017, and (c) 2018; and what penalties were imposed for such attacks. [[HL16812](#)]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: In 2015, the Government amended section 3 of 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. Information on the number of guide dog or other assistance dog attacks is not collated centrally, and information on the penalties imposed as a result of a conviction under section 3 of the Act does not specify whether the offence was specifically in relation to an assistance dog.

Developing Countries: Health Services

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made on supporting sexual and reproductive health and rights in countries receiving Department for International Development Official Development Assistance in relation to (1) contraceptive prevalence, (2) maternal mortality, (3) maternal morbidity, (4) safe and unsafe abortions, (5) female genital mutilation, (6) child marriage, (7) menstrual hygiene, (8) schooling for girls, (9) toilet facilities in refugee camps, and (10) universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights. [[HL16889](#)]

Baroness Sugg: DFID takes an integrated approach to our programming on sexual and reproductive health and rights. The UK Government is delivering on the

Sustainable Development Goals, reflecting them in its programme of work and integrating them into the Single Departmental Plan process. DFID reports annually on its progress on planned activities in meeting these objectives in its annual report and online results pages. For example between April 2018 and March 2019 alone, at least 23.5 million total women and girls were reached with modern methods of family planning through our programmes, preventing 7.3 million unintended pregnancies, 2 million unsafe abortions, saving 8,300 women's lives and preventing the trauma of 89,900 stillbirths and 52,900 new-born deaths. DFID also ensures our water and sanitation programmes address the rights of women and girls to access safe, private, hygienic and convenient sanitation facilities, including in humanitarian responses.

DFID's project-specific information (including all the annual reviews for our projects in these areas) is available on the Development Tracker website.

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of the Department for International Development's total overseas development aid was spent on sexual and reproductive health and rights in (1) 2016–17, (2) 2017–18, and (3) 2018–19. [[HL16890](#)]

Baroness Sugg: Based on internationally agreed methodology, we estimate DFID spent at least 10.3 percent of its overseas development aid on sexual reproductive health and rights in 2016-17.

Comparable figures beyond March 2017 are not yet available, estimates for 2017-18 spending will be available in autumn 2019.

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much the Department for International Development spent directly targeting reproductive health under the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee codes (1) 13010, (2) 13021, (3) 13022, (4) 13030, and (5) 13081, in total in the (a) 2016–17, (b) 2017–18, and (c) 2018–19, financial years. [[HL16891](#)]

Baroness Sugg: DFID spent the following directly targeting reproductive health under the OECD Development codes 13010, 13021, 13022, 13030, and 13081:

2016/17: £307.2m.

This data does not capture spend on our substantial multilateral contribution to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, UNFPA, WHO, Unitaid and UNAIDS.

Data for all sector codes and spend are available on the Statistics on International Development website. Comparable figures beyond March 2017 are not yet available, estimates for 2017-18 spending will be available in autumn 2019.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much the Department for International Development spent directly targeting HIV and AIDS under the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee codes (1) 13041, and (2) 13042, in total in the (a) 2016–17, (b) 2017–18, and (c) 2018–19, financial years. [HL16892]

Baroness Sugg: DFID spent the following directly targeting HIV and AIDS under the two OECD Development codes 13041 and 13042: 2016/17 = £27.1m.

This data does not capture spend on related programming that complements our wider work on comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights, including research and health systems strengthening.

Data for all sector codes and spend are available on the Statistics on International Development website. Comparable figures beyond March 2017 are not yet available, estimates for 2017-18 spending will be available in autumn 2019.

Directors: Females

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to introduce legislation to require businesses to appoint equal numbers of men and women at board level. [HL16846]

Lord Henley: The Government is committed to working with the business community to create more inclusive workplaces from the shop floor to the boardroom. The Government has commissioned and supports several business-led, independent reviews on promoting diversity, including the Hampton-Alexander Review to increase the representation of women on boards and in senior leadership positions in FTSE 350 companies to 33% by 2020 and the Parker Review to increase the ethnic diversity of FTSE 350 boards by 2024.

These reviews form part of the Government's modern Industrial Strategy which aims to build an economy that works for all.

The statistics recently published by the Hampton-Alexander Review on 1st July, show that the business-led approach to creating more balanced boards is working, as the representation of women on FTSE 100 boards has risen to 32.1% from 12.5% in 2011. The number of all-male boards across the FTSE 350 is also down to four from 152 in 2011. The Government has no plans to introduce legislation to require equal numbers of men and women at board level.

Disabled Students' Allowances

Asked by Lord Low of Dalston

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the combining of the Disabled Students' Allowance budget for specialist equipment and non-medical helpers in relation to postgraduate students, whether they intend to adopt the same approach in relation to undergraduate students. [HL17048]

Viscount Younger of Leckie: The postgraduate Disabled Student's Allowance (DSA) has always been available as a single allowance since its introduction in academic year 2000/2001. The maximum amount of DSAs available to postgraduate students starting their course in September 2019 or after has been increased from £10,993 a year to £20,000 a year. The department has no plans to merge the 4 DSAs currently available to undergraduate students.

Driving: Licensing

Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Vere of Norbiton on 26 June (HL16465), what assessment they have made of the case for introducing a target time for the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) to (1) send out questionnaires to doctors to confirm the fitness of someone to drive after having received a request for a licence to be reinstated, and (2) make a decision once it has received a questionnaire back from a doctor, to ensure that the DVLA are delivering an efficient service. [HL16806]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: There are no plans to introduce additional target times for activities within the medical application process. The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) dealt with around 750,000 medical cases in 2017/18 and aims to complete 90 per cent of these within 90 working days. In the financial year 2018-19 the DVLA completed 91.7% of cases within 90 working days.

The DVLA aims to deal with all cases as efficiently and as quickly as possible. The length of time taken to deal with an application depends on the medical condition involved and whether information is needed from medical professionals.

Embassies: Surveillance

Asked by Viscount Waverley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the recording of events surrounding the death of Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi Arabian consulate in Istanbul, what assessment they have made of the adequacy of security measures to prevent surveillance of UK embassies and consulates. [HL16856]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: It is our policy not to comment publicly on the security measures that protect our people, properties and information.

Facebook: Cryptocurrencies

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the implications of Facebook's proposed Libra cryptocurrency on the management of monetary and financial stability mechanisms and policies. [HL16841]

Lord Young of Cookham: The Government does not comment on details of the proposed business models of individual companies. However, this proposal raises wider questions for policy and financial regulation. The Government is working with the Bank of England, the Financial Conduct Authority and international counterparts to consider these issues.

More broadly, the Government established the Cryptoassets Taskforce – comprised of HM Treasury, the Financial Conduct Authority and the Bank of England - to explore the risks and potential benefits of cryptoassets and consider the appropriate response. The Taskforce's response set out commitments to further consider the regulatory approach to cryptoassets. The Government will consult on its approach to unregulated cryptoassets later this year.

The Taskforce's final report, found that cryptoassets do not currently pose a material threat to UK or global financial stability, however this could change in the future, and the Bank of England's Financial Policy Committee will continue to monitor the situation.

Fast Food: Advertising

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to regulate fast-food advertisements. [HL16928]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: We want to reduce children's exposure to advertising for products high in fat, salt and sugar (HFSS), including fast food where applicable, so have consulted on introducing a 9pm watershed on TV and similar protection online, as well as other possible options. Despite strict restrictions already being in place to prohibit HFSS product advertising around children's programming, and similar protection online, evidence suggests children are still exposed to significant levels of HFSS advertising across the media they engage with most.

There is no lead option in our consultation and we will be led by the evidence in determining the way forward. The consultation closed last month, and is available to view at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/further-advertising-restrictions-for-products-high-in-fat-salt-and-](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/further-advertising-restrictions-for-products-high-in-fat-salt-and)

sugar. We are carefully considering responses and will respond as soon as possible.

Freezing of Assets: Libya

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much revenue has been raised from frozen Libyan assets in London in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [HL16795]

Lord Young of Cookham: The Government's response of 24 June to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee report (into Government support for UK victims of IRA attacks that used Qadhafi-supplied Semtex and weapons) set out the information the Government had obtained about tax receipts on frozen Libyan assets held in UK banks. The response states: "Around £17 million has been received in total since the start of the 2016-17 tax year. HMRC currently receives around £5 million each year."

Furniture: Fire Resistant Materials

Asked by The Countess of Mar

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the risks to the neurological development of (1) fetuses, and (2) new-born children, of exposure to polyurethane mattresses treated with chlorinated phosphate flame retardants. [HL16836]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: The Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment has considered the evidence on the potential effects of chlorinated and non-chlorinated phosphate flame retardants from all exposure sources, in general. The Committee is preparing a statement on phosphate-based flame retardants and the potential for neurodevelopmental toxicity. It is expected that the statement will be published in summer 2019.

Chlorinated organophosphorous flame retardants are regulated under the European Union REACH (Restriction, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) regime. The United Kingdom has been proactive in supporting the regulation of flame retardants through REACH. The European Chemicals Agency has announced an intention to restrict a number of chlorinated flame retardants. It is expected that the restriction proposal will be submitted in July 2019, followed by a public consultation.

Gaza: Poisoning

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the dangers of lead poisoning for children living in Gaza. [HL16855]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: While we are aware of reports, which are worrying, we have not made an

assessment of this issue. We regularly stress our concern about the humanitarian situation in Gaza.

Gaza: Recycling

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they intend to provide to Palestinians in Gaza to create the means to recycle materials in order to reduce the amount of waste and increase the viability of industry. [HL16854]

Baroness Sugg: The UK does not currently intend to provide direct support in this area. We remain committed to alleviating the humanitarian situation in Gaza and our assistance continues to be focused on meeting the basic needs of Gazans. To that end, DFID have recently provided £5m to UNRWA's Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs) emergency appeal which will help UNRWA provide food aid to one million people in Gaza. Through our support to UNRWA's programme budget, the UK also supports UNRWA's delivery of core services, including health services and basic education, to Palestinian refugees across the Middle East, and the collection of solid waste.

In the medium term, DFID are working to address the underlying causes of humanitarian need in Gaza through an economic development programme which aims to lift the overall standard of living in Gaza and the West Bank by increasing trade and job creation, enabling greater movement and access for people and goods, and enhancing the supply of electricity and clean water, especially in Gaza.

Government Departments: Bain and Company

Asked by Lord Hain

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many consultancy contracts they have with Bain & Company, broken down by each government department. [HL16909]

Asked by Lord Hain

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any government department has used Bain & Company for any consultancy or advisory work since 2010. [HL16910]

Lord Young of Cookham: In order to enable government departments to quickly secure resource for critical work on preparations and implementation of EU exit at pace, the Cabinet Office have put in place a set of contracts for all government departments to access. This includes a contract with Bain and Co. The contracts have been published on contracts finder and spend under this arrangement is published monthly on GOV.UK titled 'Central EU Exit Consultancy'.

Asked by Lord Hain

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration, if any, they have given to the probity and quality of Bain & Company's consultancy work for the South African Revenue Service in regard to any work by that consultancy for government departments. [HL16911]

Lord Young of Cookham: The Government is aware of this situation and is monitoring it. Assessments on the probity and quality of work on individual UK Government contracts are undertaken on a department by department basis.

A UK Government department seeking bids for contracts covered by the Public Contracts Regulations would need to follow the rules on exclusions as defined within Regulation 57.

H2O Asset Management

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to conduct, or commission, an investigation into the management of investment portfolios by H2O Asset Management with particular reference to (1) the valuation of unlisted investments, and (2) the accuracy and completeness of statements by that firm's management of the "gating" of future redemptions. [HL16842]

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether H2O Asset Management consulted (1) them, or (2) the Financial Conduct Authority, before that company indicated that it would never "gate" redemptions for its funds; what assessment they have made of the accuracy of that statement; and whether H2O Asset Management has been required to back that statement up with a guarantee or credit line. [HL16843]

Lord Young of Cookham: There is no requirement for asset management firms to discuss their specific investment strategies with either HM Treasury or the FCA.

The overarching regulatory framework for UK UCITS funds comprises EU and UK legislation and Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) rules.

The FCA is responsible for the supervision of UK funds including UCITS, and have a broad suite of supervisory and investigative powers. For example, the FCA is required to approve the investment objective and policy of UK domiciled funds, as well as statements in the prospectus about the application of investment limits, and firms are required to treat customers fairly.

In circumstances where a UCITS fund is domiciled outside of the UK, the supervision of its compliance with applicable UCITS investment restrictions is a matter for the home state regulator.

If individuals have concerns about their investments, they should speak to their advisor or platform. If individuals have purchased units in a fund directly, they should speak with the relevant firm.

History: Publications

Asked by Lord Rodgers of Quarry Bank

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they last reviewed the possible resumption of producing official histories. [HL17059]

Lord Young of Cookham: The Government's official history series is intended to provide authoritative histories in their own right.

Two volumes of Criminal Justice history were published earlier this year. The next publication is due out in autumn 2019.

Housing

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to increase growth in the UK housing market after Brexit. [HL16925]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: We are committed to delivering safe, secure and affordable housing to people across the country, and Brexit will not change this. After we leave the EU, as now, we will work closely with industry and all levels of government and take end-to-end action across the housing market to deliver the right homes in the right places and achieve our ambition of delivering 300,000 homes a year by the mid 2020s.

We set out our plan for long-term reform to make the housing market work better in our Housing White Paper, and have since built on this with further measures, including planning reforms, lifting Housing Revenue Account borrowing caps, and progressively increasing the Government's 2016-21 Affordable Homes Programme in England to more than £9 billion, as well as more than doubling the Housing Infrastructure Fund to £5.5 billion to unlock up to 650,000 homes. We've committed over £22 billion Help to Buy Equity Loan funding to 2021, and announced at last year's Autumn Budget a new scheme with £7.2 billion funding to 2023. The measures we have announced will boost the delivery of housing and use funds flexibly to unblock the barriers to more housebuilding.

Human Papillomavirus: Vaccination

Asked by The Countess of Mar

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will place a copy of the World Health Organisation Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety 2019 review of HPV vaccine safety in the Library of the House. [HL16833]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: A meeting was held by the Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS) on 5 to 6 June 2019. However, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency is not aware of any formal review of human papillomavirus vaccine safety published by GACVS in 2019.

Immigrants: Detainees

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of a petition signed by 100,000 people opposing indefinite immigration detention presented to the Home Secretary in May; and what plans they have to put a time limit on immigration detention. [HL16813]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The petition was received by the Home Office on 8 May, and its contents have been noted.

As Stephen Shaw noted in his follow up review of the welfare of vulnerable people in immigration detention, the debate on a time limit for immigration detention rests mainly on slogans rather than evidence. The Home Secretary commissioned an internal review of how time limits work in other countries and how these relate to any other protections within the detention systems in those countries. This has shown that few other countries adopt very short time limits and that many countries face similar challenges to the United Kingdom when it comes to returning those who have no right to remain but refuse to leave voluntarily.

No one is detained indefinitely. Most people detained under immigration powers spend only short periods in detention. In 2018, 92 per cent of those detained were removed or released from detention within four months, and 69 per cent in less than 29 days.

We are continuously seeking ways to improve the immigration detention system to ensure that it is fair to those who may be detained, upholds our immigration policies, and acts as a deterrent to those who might seek to frustrate those policies.

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the annual cost of immigration detention lasting more than four months in (1) detention centres, and (2) prisons. [HL16814]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The average cost to detain an individual in immigration detention (including in prison) is provided on a per day basis. The current daily cost per detainee is £88.68, which corresponds to an annual cost of £32,368 (£88.68 multiplied by 365 days). Published data on the cost of detention can be found at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-enforcement-data-may-2019>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Asked by *The Earl of Listowel*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether children applying for settled status are subject to automatic criminal records checks; and whether such children are required to declare (1) if they have been convicted of an offence, and (2) that they are subject to criminal proceedings. [HL16825]

Asked by *The Earl of Listowel*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether (1) the suitability requirements, and (2) the threshold of criminality, for the EU Settlement Scheme apply to children; and if so, (a) how, and (b) what type of offences will be taken into account. [HL16826]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Applicants to the EU Settlement Scheme under the age of 18 are not required to answer questions relating to suitability. Applicants under the age of 10 are not subject to the automated criminal record check.

The suitability requirements for the scheme apply to all applicants under the age of 18. However, under the relevant provisions of the Immigration (European Economic Area Regulations) 2016, children under the age of 18 benefit from a higher level of protection and can only be deported on imperative grounds of public security.

There is no single definition of the type of offences likely to satisfy this higher threshold, but offences with a cross-border dimension which disclose particularly serious characteristics are more likely to do so.

Income Tax: Pensioners

Asked by *Baroness Altmann*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of pensioners paid tax at (1) the 40 per cent, and (2) the 45 per cent, rate in each of the last three years. [HL16778]

Asked by *Baroness Altmann*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is (1) the total number, and (2) the percentage, of pensioners who had an annual income above £50,000 in each of the last three years; and whether they have a gender breakdown for those data. [HL16779]

Asked by *Baroness Altmann*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the number and percentage of pensioners with annual incomes above £50,000, broken down by age, in each of the last three years. [HL16863]

Lord Young of Cookham: For this answer pensioners have been defined as those over State Pension Age (SPA). The definition used is consistent with average SPAs from HMRC's published Income Tax Liabilities Statistics. The average female SPA for the purposes of this are 63.75

years in 2016-17 and 64.5 years in 2017-18 (the male SPA is 65 in both). The average male and female SPA in 2018-19 is 65.25.

1. Estimates of the number of pensioners who had tax liabilities at the 40% and 45% rates of income tax:

<i>Numbers: thousands</i>			
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
40%	537	514	508
45%	34	35	37

2. Estimates of the number of pensioners who had an annual income above £50,000 as:

<i>Numbers: thousands</i>			
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Male	311	342	361
Female	107	110	113
Total	418	451	474

3. Of these pensioners with income above £50,000, the age ranges are:

<i>Numbers: thousands</i>			
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
60-64	9	5	
65-69	170	171	170
70-74	108	131	145
75+	131	143	158

The number of 60-64 year old Pensioners reduces to zero by 2018-19 reflecting the increasing SPA for females over the time period shown.

The figures for 2016-17 are based on the latest outturn data from the Survey of Personal Incomes (SPI), 2017-18 and 2018-19 are projections based on the 2016-17 SPI, which are projected using economic assumptions consistent with the Office for Budget Responsibility's (OBR) March 2019 Economic and Fiscal Outlook.

For comparison to the total population of pensioners, Office of National Statistics (ONS) estimates of the population of the UK give the number of individuals by age. The number of pensioners in the UK can also be estimated using the average state pension age in each tax year:

- 12.3 million in 2016-17
- 12.2 million in 2017-18
- 12.0 million in 2018-19

Israel: Palestinians

Asked by *Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about reports that a seven month old Palestinian infant was shot whilst sitting on her mothers' lap by an Israeli sniper near Ramallah. [HL16853]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Whilst we are aware of media reports, we have not raised this specific issue with the Israeli authorities. We are concerned by any reports of Palestinian children being killed or injured in the West Bank and Gaza. We regularly raise our concerns over use of live fire, particularly against children.

Israeli Settlements

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether settlement expansion on Palestinian lands in the West Bank is higher than population growth in Israel; and what assessment they have made of the impact of any such increase on the viability of a two-state solution using land swaps. [HL16851]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are aware of media and UN reports that settlement expansion in the Occupied Palestinian Territories has surpassed population growth in Israel. At the UN Security Council on 20 June, the UK Permanent Representative to the UN expressed concern about continuing Israeli settlement activity in the West Bank, which is contrary to international law and makes a two-state solution harder to achieve. We regularly raise our grave concerns on this issue with the Government of Israel and urge it to reverse its policy of settlement expansion.

Large Goods Vehicles: Tyres

Asked by Earl Attlee

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many heavy goods vehicles that are less than 10 years old have suffered a tyre failure incident on the M25 motorway in the last six-month period for which data are available. [HL16938]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Neither Highways England, nor the Department, hold the detailed statistics requested. However, the Department recently launched a consultation on proposals to ban 10 year old tyres on certain vehicles, such as HGVs. I encourage all interested parties to provide feedback on the consultation.

The Department for Transport remains committed to improving safety on the Strategic Road Network and note that England's roads are amongst the safest in Europe.

Lead: Theft

Asked by Lord Alderdice

To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the estimated replacement costs for lead stolen from churches in England in each of the last five years. [HL16859]

Asked by Lord Alderdice

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with English Heritage about the

replacement of lead stolen from church roofs; and whether they raised in any such discussions the option to replace such lead with materials of a similar appearance but less value. [HL16862]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The Government are not party to information on the replacement costs for lead stolen from churches in England, as this is the responsibility of local congregations. We have not had discussions with Historic England regarding the replacement of lead stolen from church roofs, nor the use of alternative materials in their replacement.

Government currently provides support to churches throughout the UK via the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme which is presently funded to a maximum of £42m per annum. Established in 2001, the scheme provides grants towards VAT paid on repairs, maintenance and alterations to listed buildings that are used principally as places of worship.

Legislation

Asked by Lord Norton of Louth

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many post-legislative reviews by Government departments have been completed and published since 1 January 2018; and in what form they were published. [HL16955]

Lord Young of Cookham: Effective post-legislative scrutiny is fundamental to driving up standards of legislation. The Government is committed to providing Parliament with information to assist in this vital role through the submission of a memorandum to the relevant departmental select committee with a preliminary assessment of how the act has worked in practice within five years of Royal Assent.

The Government does not centrally hold information on the post-legislative reviews completed by Departments and published since 1 January 2018; the optimum moment for post legislative memoranda to be submitted is a matter for individual departments in discussion with the relevant departmental select committee. Memoranda are laid before Parliament as command papers and published on gov.uk. It is of course for the relevant committee to decide whether it wishes to conduct further post-legislative scrutiny but the Government would welcome further scrutiny of these memoranda.

Lions: Hunting

Asked by Lord Selkirk of Douglas

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will consider banning the importation of lion trophies to the UK, following the decision by Australia, France, and the Netherlands to ban such imports. [HL16885]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: In May 2019 the Government hosted a stakeholder roundtable to hear views from all sides of the debate. We are reviewing existing evidence surrounding trophy hunting and its impact on conservation.

Married People: Tax Allowances

Asked by Baroness Eaton

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people claimed the Marriage Allowance in the 2018–19 financial year; and what steps they are taking to increase the uptake of that allowance. [HL16793]

Lord Young of Cookham: The Marriage Allowance was introduced in April 2015 to recognise the importance of marriage and civil partnerships through the tax system, and support those on low incomes by helping them keep more of the money they earn. There were 1.78m claimants for the Marriage Allowance in 2018-19.

The Government has taken significant steps to encourage people to claim for the Marriage Allowance. HM Revenue and Customs ran a series of both free and paid-for marketing campaigns, which ran between October 2015 and March 2017, and continue to raise awareness through ongoing communication on social media and on GOV.UK. Marriage Allowance can be claimed through the Personal Tax Account on GOV.UK or by phone to HMRC. The Marriage Allowance can be backdated to 2015-16 when it was introduced. This means eligible couples can claim a total of £1,150 if not claimed before.

Asked by Baroness Eaton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effectiveness of the Marriage Allowance; and what plans they have to review that allowance. [HL16794]

Lord Young of Cookham: The Marriage Allowance was introduced in April 2015 to recognise the importance of marriage and civil partnerships in the tax system, and support those on low incomes by helping them keep more of the money they earn.

The Marriage Allowance is effective as it gives extra financial support to those couples eligible for it. In 2018/19, 1.78m couples benefitted from the Marriage Allowance which is worth up to £250 a year. The Marriage Allowance can be backdated to 2015-16 when it was introduced. This means eligible couples can claim a total of £1,150 if not claimed before.

As with all aspects of Government policy, the Marriage Allowance will be kept under review and any decisions on future changes will be taken as part of the annual Budget process in the context of the wider public finances.

Medicine: Research

Asked by Lord Willis of Knaresborough

To ask Her Majesty's Government what governance arrangements they have proposed for the newly designated Academic Research Collaborations. [HL16933]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: Following, a new, open competition, the Government has recently announced National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) designation and funding for 15 Applied Research Collaborations (ARCs), with total funding of £135 million over five years from 1 October 2019.

Each NIHR ARC will have its own local governance arrangements in place, with the named Director of each NIHR ARC having responsibility, and authority over, the NIHR funding awarded to their National Health Service organisations through the scheme. Under the terms of the NIHR contract, the NIHR ARCs will be required to submit annual progress reports and can be subject site visits to evaluate progress, performance and identify key issues.

All NIHR ARCs are required to ensure that research is conducted in accordance with the United Kingdom Policy Framework for Health and Social Care Research and the Concordat to Support Research Integrity and the Governance Arrangements for Research Ethics Committees.

Middle East: British Nationals Abroad

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the recent statement by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on 24 June, what plans they have to repatriate the children of British citizens now held in Iraq and Syria as a result of their parents' involvement with Daesh. [HL16788]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The situation that young children are facing in north-east Syria through no fault of their own is tragic. The UK has no consular presence within Syria from which to provide assistance to British Nationals there. This makes it difficult to help but we look at every single case where we are asked for consular assistance. We are not aware of any British children in camps in Iraq.

Our advice to any British national abroad who needs emergency help from the British Government is to contact the nearest British Embassy or Consulate, which in this case will be outside Syria. If a minor is unable to do so, those with parental responsibility can make the request on their behalf. British nationals can also call the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in London 24 hours a day 7 days a week. The number is clearly advertised on FCO Travel Advice pages.

Motor Vehicles: Exhaust Emissions

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of the reasons for the recent fall in sales of low-emission vehicles. [HL16947]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: So far in 2019, sales of battery electric vehicles have increased significantly, up by 60% over the same period in 2018. Our Road to Zero

Strategy sets out a clear pathway to zero emissions, to give clarity and certainty to both industry and motorists. In 2018 the UK was the second largest market for ultra-low emission vehicles in the EU. The UK is also global leader in the development and manufacture of electric vehicles; in 2018 a fifth of battery electric cars sold in Europe were made in the UK.

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to introduce long-term incentives to increase sales of low-emission vehicles to help meet carbon reduction targets. [HL16948]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Government grants for plug-in cars, vans, taxis and motorcycles will be available until at least 2020, reducing the upfront purchase price of electric vehicles. The plug-in car grant was first introduced in 2011 and the other schemes in the years since. Purchasers of ultra-low-emission vehicles also receive other benefits, including lower tax rates and grants towards the installation of charge-points. A number of local authorities also provide additional incentives, such as free parking or exemption from the congestion charge. We stated in our Road to Zero strategy that consumer incentives in some form will continue to play a role beyond 2020. We also set out ambitions for the uptake of ultra-low-emission vehicles in the UK. We remain on track to meet these ambitions and will review progress by 2025.

In addition, as announced this week, to accelerate the shift to zero-emission cars, all zero-emission models will pay no company car tax in 2020-21, 1% in 2021-22 before returning to the planned 2% rate in 2022-23 – a significant tax saving for employees and employers.

Northern Cyprus: Guided Weapons

Asked by Lord Maginnis of Drumglass

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they still have guarantor responsibilities in Cyprus under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee; what assessment they have made of reports that a Russian-made S-200 missile was fired from Syria and exploded in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus; and what steps they intend to take in response to that incident. [HL16832]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK remains one of the three Guarantor powers as set out in the Treaty of Guarantee (1960). We are aware that debris from a projectile landed in the north of Cyprus on 1 July: we believe they resulted from an S200 missile fired from Syria which missed its intended target and which may subsequently have exploded mid-air. There were no casualties. The UK enjoys excellent relations with Cyprus, including in the fields of defence and security, based on strong bonds of friendship and historical ties. We continuously assess possible threats to the island to ensure that the necessary precautions are in place.

Northern: Rolling Stock

Asked by Lord Scriven

To ask Her Majesty's Government why it will not be possible to complete the removal of Pacer trains from the Northern rail network by 31 December. [HL16845]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Northern Rail is planning to remove the first pacer in August, and is working to remove all of the pacers by the end of the year. Due to delays in manufacturing of new trains, a small number of pacers may continue on the network into the beginning of the new year to ensure a stable service for passengers.

Our absolute priority is ensuring passengers in the north benefit from new trains, more services and increased capacity as quickly as possible. People across the north are starting to see new trains across the network, alongside the extra 2000 services a week already delivered.

Orkambi

Asked by Baroness Morgan of Huyton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether a date has been set for Vertex pharmaceuticals, NICE and NHS England to convene a further meeting to discuss how the cystic fibrosis drug Orkambi can be made available to patients. [HL16997]

Asked by Baroness Morgan of Huyton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the lack of availability of Orkambi on patients with cystic fibrosis; and what plans they have to discuss this issue with (1) patients, and (2) other interested parties. [HL16998]

Asked by Baroness Morgan of Huyton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has to intervene in the ongoing negotiations between Vertex pharmaceuticals, NICE and NHS England on the price of the cystic fibrosis drug Orkambi to ensure that it is made available to patients as soon as possible. [HL16999]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: NHS England and NHS Improvement is leading the negotiations with Vertex and has made a revised and improved offer to Vertex that would provide immediate funding for Orkambi and Symkevi in advance of a positive assessment by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), in addition to expanded access to Kalydeco which is already funded by the National Health Service for certain patients. No date has been agreed for a further meeting as of yet, however negotiations are ongoing between Vertex, NHS England and NHS Improvement and NICE.

Cystic fibrosis can have a devastating effect on the lives of those who suffer from it, and those close to them, and the Government wants to see patients access innovative

treatments at a cost-effective price for the NHS. The Government fully supports NICE and NHS England in seeking to ensure access for patients to effective and innovative medicines at a price that represents value to the NHS, and it is not for Ministers to intervene in this process. The Department's approach remains to strongly urge Vertex to accept NHS England and NHS Improvement's generous offer, but in the absence of a deal, we have asked NHS England and NHS Improvement to continue to explore all options to ensure patients can access treatments as soon as possible.

Pakistan: Blasphemy

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the sentencing of Shagufta Kauser and her husband to death in Pakistan for alleged blasphemy; what assessment they have made of whether Shagufta Kauser is (1) from a Christian minority, and (2) illiterate; what representations they have made to the government of Pakistan on her behalf; what response they have received to these representations; and what estimate they have made of the number of people currently facing the death sentence in Pakistan for alleged blasphemy. [[HL16782](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We continue to monitor the case of Shagufta Kauser and her husband Shafqat Emmanuel who were sentenced to death in April 2014. We understand that Shagufta Kauser is of the Christian faith and we are aware of media reports stating that she and her husband are both illiterate.

We regularly raise our concerns about the misuse of the blasphemy laws with the government of Pakistan at a senior level. The harsh penalties for blasphemy, including the death penalty, add to these concerns. We remain firmly opposed to the death penalty in all circumstances. We have repeatedly called upon the Government of Pakistan to end capital punishment and, as a minimum, commit to publicly renewing the previously imposed moratorium on the death penalty. Concerns about Freedom of Religion or Belief and the protection of minority religious communities were raised with Pakistan's Federal Minister for Human Rights, Dr Shireen Mazari, during a ministerial visit to Islamabad in February.

We do not hold figures for individuals on specific charges overseas. According to the US State Department 2018 Report on Freedom of Religion or Belief, at the time of publication, 77 individuals were imprisoned in Pakistan on blasphemy charges, 28 of whom had received death sentences.

Pakistan: Minority Groups

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they last raised the plight of minorities in Pakistan with the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth; what

response they received; and whether they asked the Secretary-General to raise continued human rights violations with the government of Pakistan. [[HL16781](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We continue to be in close contact with the Commonwealth Secretariat on its support to member states to live up to the commitments to tolerance, to human rights, good governance and the rule of law set out in the Commonwealth Charter.

In addition, the British Government will continue to urge Pakistan to honour in practice its human rights obligations, including those related to religious minorities, and to uphold the rule of law.

Pakistan: Royal Visits

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, during their forthcoming visit to Pakistan, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge will visit (1) the slums inhabited by the minority Christian community, and (2) members of Shahbaz Bhatti's family. [[HL16780](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The details of the programme for the visit by Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge to Pakistan have not yet been agreed. For security reasons, we would not in any case comment on details in advance of the visit.

Asked by Lord Forsyth of Drumlean

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to seek assurances from the government of Pakistan about measures being taken to protect Christian minorities before confirming any visit by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge to that country. [[HL16796](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge will be visiting Pakistan at the request of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). The FCO will be working with the Royal Household to ensure that the visit is aligned with Her Majesty's Government objectives.

Pension Credit

Asked by Lord Foulkes of Cumnock

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that those who are entitled to claim (1) pension credit, and (2) a TV licence from June 2020, but currently do not, take up those benefits. [[HL16798](#)]

Baroness Buscombe: In the 2015 funding settlement, the Government agreed with the BBC that responsibility for the concession would transfer to the BBC. The implementation of the licence fee and the concession from June 2020 is a matter for the BBC and TV Licensing, which are independent of Government.

However, we expect the BBC to put in place robust plans to support those who might be affected. The BBC

has said it will write to all over 75 TV licence holders advising them of how the new policy will work and when they need to act.

Irrespective of this, the Government is committed to ensuring that older people receive the support they are entitled to and the DWP targets activity on engaging with people who may be eligible to benefits at pivotal stages, such as when they claim State Pension or report a change in their circumstances. The DWP uses a wide range of channels to communicate information about benefits to potential claimants; including information on gov.uk, in leaflets and by telephone. DWP staff in Pension Centres and Jobcentres including visiting officers are able to provide help and advice about entitlement to benefits, as are staff in Local Authorities who administer Housing Benefit.

Potential claimants can use the Pension Credit calculator to check if they are likely to be eligible and get an estimate of what they may receive. People wishing to claim Pension Credit can do so by calling 0800 99 1234.

One of the best ways to reach eligible claimants is through trusted stakeholder working in the community and we have developed the Pension Credit toolkit, as an on-line tool for agencies and welfare rights organisations to use in order to encourage Pension Credit take-up.

The toolkit contains resources for anyone working with pensioners and includes guides to Pension Credit. It also contains publicity material and guidance designed to help older people understand how they could get Pension Credit and help organisations support someone applying for Pension Credit as well as ideas for encouraging take-up. The toolkit also provides links to information about disability and carers benefits.

Most recently we have provided to relevant stakeholders a fact sheet about Pension Credit and the changes introduced on 15 May for mixed age couples to ensure that accurate information is available in the places where people are most likely to seek information.

Asked by Baroness Jolly

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much funding they provided to charities that work with older people to support the take-up of Pension Credit in (1) 2015–16, (2) 2016–17, and (3) 2017–18. [[HL16822](#)]

Baroness Buscombe: The Government is committed to ensuring that older people receive the support they are entitled to. We work with a wide range of stakeholders, including charities to ensure that accurate information about benefits including Pension Credit is available in the places where people are most likely to go to seek information.

The DWP knows that one of the best ways to reach eligible claimants is through trusted stakeholder organisations working in the community and that is why we have developed and resourced the Pension Credit on line toolkit, as an on-line tool for agencies and welfare rights organisations to use in order to encourage Pension Credit take-up.

The toolkit contains resources for anyone working with pensioners and includes guides to Pension Credit. It also contains publicity material and guidance designed to help older people understand how they could get Pension Credit and help organisations support someone applying for Pension Credit as well as ideas for encouraging take-up. The toolkit also provides links to information about disability and carers benefits.

Stakeholders and potential claimants alike can use the online Pension Credit calculator to check if they are likely to be eligible and get an estimate of what they may receive. Most recently we have provided to relevant stakeholders a fact sheet about Pension Credit and the changes introduced on 15 May for mixed age couples to ensure they are able to communicate the most up-to-date information to potential claimants.

DWP staff in Pension Centres and Jobcentres including visiting officers are able to provide help and advice about entitlement to benefits, as are staff in Local Authorities who administer Housing Benefit.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Asked by Lord Rennard

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford on 3 July (HL Deb, col 1435), what assessment they have made of the finding of the House of Commons Health Committee in its report NHS Charges (HC815–1), published on 18 July 2006, that the list of exemptions for prescription charges was “inconsistent and anomalous”; and what plans they have, in any future meetings with Asthma UK, to discuss the current list of exemptions for prescription charges in regard to those who have asthma. [[HL16956](#)]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: The Department has made no formal assessment of the finding of the House of Commons Health Committee in its report NHS Charges (HC815–1), published on 18 July 2006, that the list of exemptions for prescription charges was “inconsistent and anomalous”. The Department has no current plans to review the existing National Health Service prescription charging exemption arrangements.

Asked by Lord Rennard

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have received about prescription charges for people with lifetime health conditions in the last two years; whether they record the health conditions each such representation related to; and how many people in England they estimate are subject to prescription charges for such conditions. [[HL16957](#)]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: We have received a number of representations from Parliamentarians, stakeholders, individuals and other interested parties on prescription exemptions for people with long term health conditions. Whether any specific

health condition was mentioned in each such representation is not recorded centrally and to obtain this information would incur disproportionate cost. Furthermore, the Department has made no estimate of the number of people in England that are subject to prescription exemptions for such conditions. However, around 89% of National Health Service prescription items are dispensed in the community free of charge.

Asked by Lord Rennard

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made, if any, of the annual cost to the NHS of providing free prescriptions to those with (1) asthma, and (2) long-term health conditions. [HL16958]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: The Department has made no such estimate. Extensive arrangements are already in place to help people access National Health Service prescriptions. These include a broad range of NHS prescription charge exemptions.

To support those with greatest need who do not qualify for an exemption, cost of the prescription pre-payment certificates were frozen for another year. A holder of a 12-month certificate can get all the prescriptions they need for just £2 per week.

Asked by Lord Rennard

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much it costs NHS England annually to (1) collect payments for free prescriptions, (2) administer the system of medical exemption certificates, and (3) provide prescription prepayment certificates. [HL16959]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: NHS England and NHS Improvement do not collect any payment for free prescriptions.

The costs to administer the system of medical exemption certificates is around £1 million. The costs to provide prescription prepayment certificates is around £4.8 million. These figures have been provided by the NHS Business Services Authority and are for the financial period 2018/19.

Asked by Lord Rennard

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of any savings made by the NHS in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland as a result of not charging for prescriptions. [HL16960]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: The Department has made no such assessment. All issues relating to healthcare provision are a matter for the devolved administrations.

Asked by Lord Rennard

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the annual cost to NHS England of GP appointments and hospital admissions arising from people with asthma and other long-term health conditions who do not take prescription medications because they cannot afford them. [HL16961]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: The Department has made no such estimate. Extensive arrangements are already in place to help people access National Health Service prescriptions. These include a broad range of NHS prescription charge exemptions, for which someone with asthma and other long-term health conditions may qualify.

To support those with greatest need who do not qualify for an exemption, cost of the prescription pre-payment certificates were frozen for another year. A holder of a 12-month certificate can get all the prescriptions they need for just £2 per week.

Riot Control Weapons: Health Hazards

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of any long-term health effects of the frequent use of tear gas on civilian populations. [HL16852]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Secretary is determined to give the police the powers and tools they need to cut crime and tackle disorder on our streets. Irritant sprays are thoroughly tested before they can be adopted for use by law enforcement.

CS spray has been approved for police use in the UK following robust medical assessment by the Department of Health Committee on Toxicity. The Centre for Applied Science and Technology (CAST) published a standard for irritant sprays based on the NPCC Operational Requirement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cast-standard-for-police-chemical-irritant-sprays-cs-and-pava>

Roads: Accidents

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what statistics they have on accidents caused by litter or debris on roads in the UK. [HL16920]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The department does not collect data specifically on litter and debris causing road accidents. The department collects data on personal injury road accidents reported to the police, including contributory factors which the police select when they attend the scene. This does not assign blame for the accident but gives an indication of factors the attending officer thought contributed to the accident. This includes the contributory factors of 'Deposit on road' and 'Animal or object in carriageway', which might be used to record litter and debris.

'Deposit on road' includes any deposit arising from human (or animal) activity which has made sections of the road surface slippery or which has caused traction control problems for a vehicle. 'Animal or object in carriageway' includes any object which the driver would not expect to find in the carriageway (e.g. dislodged

vehicle load, fallen tree) and which caused or contributed to the accident.

There were 1,058 road accidents with a contributory factor of 'Deposit on road' and 802 road accidents with a contributory factor of 'Animal or object in carriageway' in Great Britain in 2017.

Statistics on the number and proportion of accidents by contributory factor reported are available online in table RAS50001. All published tables on contributory factors are available in the RAS50 series on gov.uk.

The data we hold only covers reported personal injury road accidents in Great Britain, we do not have data for Northern Ireland.

Roads: Litter

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what sanctions have been applied to service providers by Highways England for failure to collect litter in 2018. [HL16919]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The performance of Highways England service providers in relation to litter is measured against the grades of cleanliness defined within the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse.

Each Highways England region manages its own maintenance contract and any failure to meet contractual obligations would trigger sanctions under the contract.

In 2018 there have been no reported incidents of sanctions being applied in relation to litter, apart from the East Midlands, where payments to a service provider were withheld until evidence was provided that cleanliness had been brought up to standard.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to transfer maintenance and litter collection on all-purpose trunk roads to the Highways Agency. [HL16917]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: As outlined in the Government's Litter Strategy published in 2017, we proposed to consider, if needed, additional powers for the Secretary of State to make this transfer of responsibility and funding to Highways England, and consider how to provide a mechanism to recover the cost of these activities from local authorities.

South African Revenue Service: Bain and Company

Asked by Lord Hain

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have plans to instruct Her Majesty's High Commissioner to South Africa to compile a report to the Prime Minister

on the probity and quality of Bain & Company's consultancy work for the South African Revenue Service; and if so, whether they will place a copy of any such report in the Library of the House of Lords. [HL16912]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have no plans to instruct the High Commissioner to South Africa to compile a report on Bain & Company. This is a matter for the South African Government and we note the various Commissions appointed to investigate this and related issues.

South America: Roman Catholic Church

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the implications of the forthcoming Roman Catholic Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazonian Region for (1) the survival of indigenous people, (2) the conservation of the tropical rainforest, (3) bio-diversity, and (4) responsible human development, across state frontiers in that region. [HL16815]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We welcome the Catholic Church's focus on cultural, environmental, economic and social issues in the Amazon, and will consider the outcome of the Synod with interest. The UK is working with Brazil to help ensure it continues to protect the Amazon and has invested nearly £120 million through the International Climate Fund on projects to limit deforestation, prevent forest fires and implement the Forestry Code in the Amazon, Atlantic Forest and Cerrado biomes.

We are also committed to promoting and defending the human rights of all individuals and regularly participate in discussions regarding human rights in various United Nations fora, including the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council.

Syria: Chemical Weapons

Asked by Baroness Cox

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the Working Group on Syria, Propaganda, and Media How the OPCW's investigation of the Douma incident was nobbled, published on 26 June. [HL16866]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK has full confidence in the expertise and methodology of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Fact Finding Mission (FFM). The OPCW Director General has confirmed that all evidence and views were considered by the FFM in reaching its conclusion on the incident in Douma on 7 April 2018. The final FFM report of 1 March 2019 concluded that there were reasonable grounds to believe a chemical weapons attack took place.

Asked by Baroness Cox

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons' Remarks of the Director-General at the Briefing for States Parties on Syrian Arab Republic: Update on IIT-FFM-SSRC-DAT, published on 28 May, which stated that the ballistics data collected by the Fact-Finding Mission in relation to the Douma incident were analysed by three external experts; whether they have seen these expert analyses; and if so, whether they will make them available. [HL16867]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: On 28 May Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Director General confirmed all evidence and views were considered in preparing the Fact finding Mission (FFM) report and that the Technical Secretariat stands by the findings. We have full confidence in both our own and the FFM's conclusions on the use of a chemical weapon in Douma on 7 April 2018. The Fact-Finding Mission draws on internal and independent external expertise as required in reaching its conclusions. The UK is not involved in that process and would not expect the Director-General to make such information publicly available.

Asked by Baroness Cox

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have employed, or made any direct or indirect payment to, Len Phillips, a former official of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, since 2003. [HL16868]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Under our data protection policy we are neither able to confirm whether Mr Phillips has been an employee of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, nor whether we have made any direct or in-direct payments to Mr Phillips.

Technology: Training

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to re-train low-skilled workers to help them gain employment in the technology sector. [HL16929]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The National Retraining Scheme is part of the government's response to the transforming world of work, where jobs are continually changing because of technological changes. This scheme targets adults whose jobs might be at risk from future changes to the economy, such as changes brought about by automation. It will offer them the support that they need to retrain into a better job.

For many adults, the lack of sound basic skills will be a significant barrier to being able to apply for most jobs and develop their careers. Without such skills, they may struggle to progress from low or unskilled roles.

That is why we also provide full funding for learners who need English and maths skills to undertake a range of

courses in GCSEs, Functional Skills and stepping stone qualifications from entry level to level 2, and from 2020 selected essential digital skills courses will also be fully funded.

TikTok

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the social media application TikTok and the safeguarding implications for young people of its use. [HL16924]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The government wants the UK to be the safest place in the world to go online. As set out in the Online Harms White Paper the government will take action to tackle content or activity that harms individual users, particularly children. We will establish a new statutory duty of care, overseen by an independent regulator to make companies take more responsibility for the safety of their users and tackle harm caused by content or activity on their services. The regulator will take a risk-based approach, prioritising action where there is the greatest evidence or threat of harm, or where children or other vulnerable users are at risk. Ahead of the implementation of the new regulatory framework, we will continue to encourage companies to take early action to address online harms.

With regards to the social media application TikTok, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has a live investigation on TikTok's compliance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) relating to the protection of children's personal data. The GDPR is regulated and enforced by the independent ICO, and as such, the government is unable to comment further on live investigations.

Trade Agreements: Mercosur

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to secure a free trade agreement with the Mercosur trade bloc; and whether any such agreement would include measures to support sustainable growth. [HL17004]

Viscount Younger of Leckie: We welcome the news of political conclusion between the EU and Mercosur on a Free Trade Agreement. As a global champion of trade, the UK has been a strong advocate for these negotiations. The UK has longstanding positive bilateral relationships with individual Mercosur countries and we look forward to deepening our trading ties as we leave the EU. We will be working with our Mercosur partners to develop our future trade relationship in due course.

The EU-Mercosur agreement contains a number of ambitious provisions on promoting sustainable development. As we leave the EU, and in line with our international obligations, the Government will continue to

ensure a high level of protection of the environment and employees in new trade agreements.

Tyres: Safety

Asked by Earl Attlee

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Earl Howe on 13 June (HL16129), what scientific studies, if any, were the basis for determining that the maximum safe life of a tyre on a heavy goods vehicle or coach is 10 years. [HL16936]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The revision to the Guide to Maintaining Roadworthiness, introduced on 5 November 2018, included best practice guidance on managing the age of tyres fitted to heavy vehicles. It followed earlier Department for Transport advice, issued to bus and coach operators, in response to expert evidence provided to Her Majesty's Coroner following the loss of three lives in a road traffic collision in 2012.

In parallel, emerging evidence from Department for Transport research, suggested that age does influence the properties of a tyre. This emerging evidence, together with expert opinion, supported the use of the precautionary principle for the changes to the roadworthiness guidance.

Asked by Earl Attlee

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the statistical risk of a heavy goods vehicle or coach tyre having a "blow out" for each of the first 20 years after manufacture; whether that assessment is based on any scientific study; and if so, what study. [HL16937]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: In June 2019 the Department launched a public consultation seeking views on a proposed ban on tyres aged 10 years and older from heavy goods vehicles, heavy trailers, buses, coaches and minibuses.

At the same time, the Department published research that explores the link between age and tyre integrity. Although the research is not statistically conclusive, it suggests that corrosion, which can affect the tyre's structure, is more likely to be found in older tyres. Investigations into two fatal collisions involving heavy

vehicles concluded that tyre failure occurred as a result of structural deterioration due to age.

We are not aware of any scientific studies that specifically explore the statistical risk of tyre blow-outs for heavy goods vehicles or coaches in each year after manufacture.

UN Population Fund: Finance

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what contribution they made to (1) the core, and (2) non-core, funding of the UN Population Fund in (a) 2016–17, (b) 2017–18, and (c) 2018–19. [HL16893]

Baroness Sugg: Details of Her Majesty's Government (HMG) spending on international development is available online on the Statistics on International Development website. Please note that data is published by calendar year and not HMG financial year.

The report shows that the UN Population fund received the following funding:

	2016	2017
Core	£20m	£20m
Non-Core	£87.5m	£120.5m

2018 data on non-core funding will be published later this year. Core funding for 2018 remained steady at £20m.

Whitehall History Publishing

Asked by Lord Rodgers of Quarry Bank

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Whitehall History Publishing still exists; if so, (1) what is its role, and (2) how is it managed and by whom; and if not, who is responsible for the publication of material it previously produced. [HL17058]

Lord Young of Cookham: The Whitehall History Publishing, comprised of several historical branches of government departments and led by the Cabinet Office, produces material on historical matters and themes to meet individual departmental requirements. The next publication is due out in autumn 2019.

Index to Statements and Answers

Written Statements.....1	
Chemical Weapons Convention: Declaration of Protective Programme1	Gaza: Poisoning 10
Compliance Improvement Review1	Gaza: Recycling..... 11
Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council1	Government Departments: Bain and Company . 11
Health-related Job Loss1	H2O Asset Management..... 11
Inappropriate Behaviour in the Armed Forces: Review2	History: Publications 12
Office for Tackling Injustices2	Housing..... 12
Personal Injury Compensation3	Human Papillomavirus: Vaccination 12
Public Service Pensions.....3	Immigrants: Detainees 12
School Sport and Activity3	Immigration: EU Nationals..... 13
Serious Violence.....4	Income Tax: Pensioners..... 13
Supply and Appropriation (Main Estimates) (No.3) Bill4	Israel: Palestinians 13
Written Answers.....5	Israeli Settlements..... 14
Abdel Moneim Aboul Foutouh5	Large Goods Vehicles: Tyres 14
Advertising: Internet.....5	Lead: Theft 14
Armed Conflict: Sexual Offences.....5	Legislation 14
Arts5	Lions: Hunting 14
Cannabis: Misuse.....5	Married People: Tax Allowances 15
China: Prisoners6	Medicine: Research 15
Christian Michel6	Middle East: British Nationals Abroad..... 15
Connect Plus6	Motor Vehicles: Exhaust Emissions 15
Continuing Care: Finance.....6	Northern Cyprus: Guided Weapons..... 16
Dangerous Dogs8	Northern: Rolling Stock..... 16
Developing Countries: Health Services.....8	Orkambi 16
Developing Countries: HIV Infection9	Pakistan: Blasphemy..... 17
Directors: Females.....9	Pakistan: Minority Groups..... 17
Disabled Students' Allowances.....9	Pakistan: Royal Visits..... 17
Driving: Licensing.....9	Pension Credit..... 17
Embassies: Surveillance9	Prescriptions: Fees and Charges 18
Facebook: Cryptocurrencies10	Riot Control Weapons: Health Hazards 19
Fast Food: Advertising10	Roads: Accidents 19
Freezing of Assets: Libya.....10	Roads: Litter 20
Furniture: Fire Resistant Materials10	Roads: Repairs and Maintenance..... 20
	South African Revenue Service: Bain and Company..... 20
	South America: Roman Catholic Church 20
	Syria: Chemical Weapons..... 20

Index to Statements and Answers

Technology: Training21
TikTok21
Trade Agreements: Mercosur21
Tyres: Safety22
UN Population Fund: Finance22
Whitehall History Publishing22