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**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**  
**(HANSARD)**

# **HOUSE OF LORDS**

## **WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS**

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# Written Statements

*Friday, 19 July 2019*

## Equality and Listed Events

[HLWS1723]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** "In the statement of 18 July made by the Secretary of State for the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (Jeremy Wright) on Equality and Listed events, which I repeated in this house, I stated "Broadcasters currently meeting these criteria are BBC1, BBC2, ITV1, Channel 4 and Channel 5". This should have read "Broadcasters currently meeting these criteria include BBC1, BBC2, ITV1 and Channel 4."

This is a corrected version of the statement made on Thursday (HLWS1710).

I have written today to the BBC, S4C, Ofcom and The International Paralympic Committee in a limited consultation on adding the Paralympic Games to the Listed Events Regime. I have also copied the letter to Channel 4 who currently hold the broadcasting rights for the next Paralympic Games in Tokyo 2020, to other eligible Free To Air broadcasters, and to the Sport and Recreation Alliance.

The Broadcasting Act 1996 gives the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport discretion to designate sporting and other events of national interest as listed events. Once listed, broadcasting rights to such events must be offered to the main free-to-air terrestrial broadcasters ("qualifying broadcasters") on fair and reasonable terms. Qualifying broadcasters are those which reach 95% coverage of UK viewers and at no additional cost to the viewer than the television licence fee.

Broadcasters currently meeting these criteria include BBC1, BBC 2, ITV1 and Channel 4.

The current list, compiled in 1998, consists of two categories of events:

- Group A, in which full live coverage must be offered to the qualifying broadcasters; and
- Group B, in which live coverage may be broadcast on subscription television as long as secondary coverage is offered to qualifying broadcasters.

Under section 97 of the Broadcasting Act 1996, the Secretary of State is able to amend the list providing that they have consulted with the statutory consultees. In my letter I have asked consultees to consider the following:

- whether, based on the guidance and criteria given, the Paralympic Games should be added to the list;
- whether the Paralympic Games should be listed under Group A or Group B of the list;
- other factors affecting the likely costs and benefits to the sport concerned, to the broadcasting industry and to viewers, as set out in the guidance on the criteria for listing; and
- any other factors relevant to the final decision.

While the Government does not wish to reopen the list of events for a full review, it is committed to supporting more equality in the coverage of sport on TV, and in particular, disability and women in sport. It is for this reason that I am considering whether to exercise discretion to add the Paralympics to the list, and that I intend on holding a consultation later this year on adding women's sporting equivalent events to the regime that match the men's events.

I will inform the House of the outcome once I have discussed fully with statutory consultees.

# Written Answers

Friday, 19 July 2019

## Asthma: Death

Asked by *Baroness Wheeler*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the Royal College of Physicians The National Review of Asthma Deaths, published on 6 May 2014; and what plans they have to implement that report's recommendations. [HL17016]

**Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford:** The Department collaborated with the Royal College of Physicians on the National Review of Asthma Deaths and welcomed this report. Since its publication, significant improvements have been made in asthma care.

Respiratory disease, including asthma, is a clinical priority within the NHS Long Term Plan, which aims to improve outcomes for patients through earlier diagnosis and increased access to treatments. The Respiratory Delivery Board will take forward respiratory proposals set out in the Plan by working with key partners.

The National Health Service is supporting the national asthma audit programme which provides data on a range of indicators to show improvements and opportunities in asthma outcomes. NHS RightCare will be publishing an asthma toolkit later this year to support local commissioners and systems in delivering quality care. A best practice tariff for asthma, which aims to reduce variation in asthma care, is also in development.

The current quality outcomes framework indicators for asthma are in consultation and changes for the annual review indicators may include data on asthma control; exacerbations; and written personalised action plans.

As set out in the Long Term Plan, pharmacies in primary care networks will undertake medicine reviews for asthma patients. This will include education on inhaler use and uptake of dry powder and smart inhalers where clinically appropriate.

## Broadband

Asked by *Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ashton of Hyde on 3 July (HL16507), where the UK's rate of 53 per cent consumer access to 100Mbps places the UK in rankings of broadband accessibility of all EU countries; and what is their target for access to 100Mbps by 2020. [HL16994]

Asked by *Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ashton of Hyde on 3 July

(HL16507), where the UK's rate of eight per cent access to full fibre places the UK in rankings of broadband accessibility of all EU countries; and what proportion of consumers they estimate will have access to full fibre if the target of 15 million premises having access by 2025 is met. [HL16995]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The UK's current ultrafast broadband coverage is currently low compared to European counterparts however the UK is amongst the leaders of superfast broadband coverage, ahead of Spain, France and Germany, thanks, in part, to over £1.8bn of public investment.

Superfast broadband, which is delivered through part-fibre part-copper networks, meets the needs of most consumers today. However, it is full fibre networks that will be needed to meet expected future demands with the focus not purely on speed, but also resilience and reliability. The Future Telecoms Infrastructure Review published the Government's targets for full fibre coverage.

The last EU report on broadband coverage had the UK at 26th of all Member States for full fibre at just over 2% coverage. However, we have since started to increase deployment at pace and our current full fibre coverage is 8% which represents almost 2.5 million homes and businesses. Our target to reach 15 million premises by 2025 represents around half of the homes and businesses in the UK. We are driving take-up and demand for full fibre. Our £67 million Gigabit Voucher Scheme, launched in April 2018, provides small grants for residents and small businesses to upgrade to a gigabit-capable connection, and support the take up of faster services. Vouchers are also available under the Rural Gigabit Connectivity programme, with higher values to reflect the greater costs of connecting in rural and remote areas.

Asked by *Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ashton of Hyde on 3 July (HL16508), what plans they have to instruct Ofcom to undertake a review of the Universal Service Obligation; and when they estimate the target of 75 per cent take-up of superfast broadband will be reached in the UK. [HL16996]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The Government intends to direct Ofcom to carry out a review of the Universal Service Obligation (USO) when at least 75% of premises have taken-up superfast broadband of 30 Mbps or more. In their 2018 Connected Nations report, Ofcom reported that 45% of the UK has taken-up superfast broadband but neither Ofcom nor Government has conducted a formal estimate of when 75% take-up is likely to be reached. However, Ofcom will continue to monitor the progress of the Universal Service Obligation (USO), and wider connectivity trends, through its Connected Nations report. These reports will inform Government's ongoing assessment of whether a review of the USO before the 75% threshold has been reached is appropriate.

## Data Protection

*Asked by Lord Freyberg*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which third countries have been recognised by the EU as providing adequate data protection. [[HL17040](#)]

*Asked by Lord Freyberg*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which (1) businesses, (2) territories of, or (3) specified sectors within, third countries have been recognised by the EU as providing adequate data protection. [[HL17041](#)]

*Asked by Lord Freyberg*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what factors they will take into account when making data adequacy decisions after Brexit. [[HL17042](#)]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The European Commission has so far made a full finding of adequacy in respect of: Andorra, Argentina, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Israel, Jersey, New Zealand, Switzerland and Uruguay. The Commission has made partial findings of adequacy in respect of Japan, Canada and the USA. You can find more information about these decisions on the Information Commissioner's website.

When the UK leaves the EU the power to make adequacy decisions will be repatriated to the Secretary of State. In February 2019 Parliament passed a Statutory Instrument (SI) setting out the criteria and process. The SI recognises and effectively rolls over all existing adequacy decisions that have been made by the EU as well as recognising EU states themselves as adequate. The SI also replicates the EU adequacy regime in UK law with a number of technical changes to make it work properly. The factors that the Secretary of State would need to take into account in reaching an adequacy decision include the rule of law, respect for human rights, and other relevant legislation in the third country being assessed.

*Asked by Lord Freyberg*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the operation of sections 17A and B of the Data Protection Act 2018 as inserted by the Data Protection, Privacy and Electronic Communications (EU Exit) Regulations 2019; how many times the provisions contained within those Regulations have been exercised; and what plans they have, if any, to review the exercise of those powers once the UK leaves the EU. [[HL17080](#)]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The EU Withdrawal Act 2018 will retain the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in domestic law when the UK leaves the EU. The Data Protection, Privacy and Electronic Communications (Amendments etc) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 use powers under that Act to correct deficiencies in the GDPR so that it remains operable in a purely domestic context. For example, the Regulations rename the GDPR as the 'UK GDPR', repatriate certain powers from the EU

Commission to the Secretary of State and replace European terminology with UK equivalents.

Section 17A of the Data Protection Act 2018, as inserted by these Regulations, repatriates power from the EU Commission to the Secretary of State to make adequacy decisions for the purposes of Article 45 of the UK GDPR. Section 17B sets out the requirement for ongoing monitoring of adequate countries and for adequacy decisions to be reviewed at least every four years (maintaining the standards in Article 45 of the GDPR).

The EU Exit provisions of these Regulations have not yet been exercised because they only come into force on Exit Day.

## Elections: Disinformation

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to establish an official agency before the next general election to expose and refute lies and misinformation, spread through social media and other means from Russia or other countries; and whether they intend to discuss any such plans with other European states and the EU to urge them to take similar action. [[HL17047](#)]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The Government is working closely with industry, civil society and international partners to do what is necessary to safeguard against the use of online disinformation to undermine our democratic values and processes. Ahead of the European Parliamentary elections, the Government worked to enhance coordination and information sharing across HMG to ensure an effective response in the event of a significant disinformation threat.

We have seen no evidence of successful interference in UK democratic processes, but we are not complacent. We are at the forefront of a growing international consensus on the need to take action against disinformation, whatever its source or intent. We are working with international partners, including in the EU, to create a sustained platform for international cooperation among like-minded nations.

## Football: Females

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to develop the profile of women's football in the UK. [[HL17006](#)]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The Lionesses' fantastic performance at the FIFA Women's World Cup this year has inspired the nation. This is an opportunity for everyone involved in the sport to build on this momentum to continue to raise the profile of women's football and women's sport in general.

The government is determined to get more girls and women playing sport, something we set out in our sport strategy, Sporting Future. Football is the second most played team sport for adult women and the top ranked team sport in terms of participation for girls.

We are investing £14.6million into the Football Association (FA) through Sport England between 2017-2021, to support their grassroots participation, talent and coaching programmes. £2.6million of this is specifically reserved for women and girls talent programmes and the FA also receive an additional £2million each year towards improving diversity in its coaching workforce.

Government is also investing £18million into the Football Foundation charity each year to help deliver a programme of new and improved community sports facilities in towns and cities across the country.

All public funding provided is used to benefit men's, women's and disability football; for example investment in a mixed coaching programme or facility will benefit all groups within that community.

### Public Sector: Pensions

Asked by **Lord Trefgarne**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to change the pension arrangements for senior public servants, especially doctors in the NHS, as they approach retirement. [HL17189]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** The government keeps public sector pensions policy under constant review in the context of the wider public finances.

The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care will shortly publish a consultation on proposals for a new flexibility for senior clinicians in the NHS pension scheme via the introduction of a 50:50 option.

### Schools: Census

Asked by **The Earl of Clancarty**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what criteria are used when reaching decisions on the monthly matching and handovers of school census data about children by the Department for Education (DfE) to the Home Office for immigration enforcement purposes; what algorithms are used by the DfE to process such data; and what is the role of the Secretary of State for Education in making such decisions. [HL17037]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** Where the Home Office have clear evidence of criminal activity, including illegal immigration, limited data, including a pupil's address and school details, may be requested from the Department for Education's (DfE) National Pupil Database (NPD).

In such cases, the Home Office provide the DfE with the child's name, gender, date of birth and address (including postcode). The DfE will match this data against the records held on the NPD and, if there is a clear

match, they will provide the Home Office with information relating to those individuals.

This process, and the data shared, is fully documented in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Home Office and DfE. A copy of this agreement is available in the Libraries of both Houses and is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL17037\_PDF  
[HL17037\_Umbrella\_Memorandum\_of\_Understanding.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-07-09/HL17037>

### Shingles: Vaccination

Asked by **Baroness Walmsley**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to establish a GP-operated call/recall system to invite older people to receive the shingles vaccination. [HL17013]

**Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford:** As outlined in both the NHS Long Term Plan and *Investment and evolution: a five-year framework for GP contract reform to implement The NHS Long Term Plan*, NHS England and NHS Improvement are currently undertaking a Review of vaccinations and immunisations. The Department would not wish to pre-empt the outcome of this Review. *Investment and evolution* sets out the purpose of the Review as being to:

- Ensure the system incentivises achievement of appropriate uptake rates for immunisations in line with national public health uptake rates;
- Reduce the administrative burden on general practices by simplifying the system if possible;
- Clarify what is expected on call/recall for immunisations delivered through the general practitioner (GP) contract;
- Address anomalies in the system that directly incentivise some vaccines but not others;
- Look at how we deal with outbreaks and catch-up programmes; and
- Consider whether we extend the list of chargeable travel vaccines.

Recommendations from the Review will be implemented through the 2020 and 2021 GP contracts.

A copy of *Investment and evolution: a five-year framework for GP contract reform to implement The NHS Long Term Plan* is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Five Year framework for GP contract reform [gp-contract-2019.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-07-08/HL17013>

## Social Prescribing

Asked by **Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in establishing a National Academy for Social Prescribing. [[HL17102](#)]

Asked by **Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how yoga practitioners will be represented in the National Academy for Social Prescribing. [[HL17103](#)]

**Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford:** We are creating a National Academy for Social Prescribing, as part of the wider work on social prescribing, to ensure all general practitioners in England can refer patients to community activities and voluntary services including those covering sports and the arts. The aim of creating a National Academy is to build an evidence base and promote research into this important area, in order to help the National Health Service become a pioneer for social prescription.

Following a roundtable with a wide range of stakeholders held earlier this year, the Academy Management Board has been established to help shape the National Academy. The first meeting of the Board was held last month. A range of organisations are represented on the Board. This includes Sport England which represents, among a wide range of other sports, yoga through the British Wheel of Yoga.

## Telecommunications: Compensation

Asked by **Lord Mendelsohn**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ashton of Hyde on 3 July (HL16510), what data are collected by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on the amounts of compensation paid by broadband and home phone providers due to delayed (1) repairs, and (2) service. [[HL16991](#)]

Asked by **Lord Mendelsohn**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ashton of Hyde on 3 July (HL16510), what (1) measures are being used, and (2) data are being collected, to assess the performance of Ofcom's automatic compensation scheme for fixed broadband and landline consumers. [[HL16992](#)]

Asked by **Lord Mendelsohn**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ashton of Hyde on 3 July (HL16510), what data the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has so far received from Ofcom about levels of compensation paid out since Ofcom's automatic compensation scheme for fixed broadband and landline consumers was launched. [[HL16993](#)]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The automatic compensation scheme for fixed broadband and landline consumers was established by Ofcom, the UK's independent regulator for communication services. The Department has not, to date, received any data from Ofcom about the scheme. As set out in our previous answer, the Department's understands that Ofcom intends to review the scheme next year.

## Television: Licensing

Asked by **Lord Foulkes of Cumnock**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they intend to take to ensure that people over the age of 75 who do not use the internet will be able to apply, and pay, for a TV licence from June 2020. [[HL16976](#)]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The BBC is responsible for the cost and the administration of the over 75 licence fee concession from June 2020.

The BBC says that it will work with older peoples groups, charities and voluntary organisations to design a bespoke system to support all those over 75 affected by its decision. As part of this system, the BBC says that its licensing arm, TV Licensing, will write to all those all those affected, and will use suitable measures such as face to face visits and phone calls to make it as easy as possible for those transitioning to apply for and pay the licence fee.

Asked by **Lord Foulkes of Cumnock**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they intend to offer to people who are just above the threshold of eligibility for pension credit to afford the additional £154.54 per year to pay for a TV licence from June 2020. [[HL16977](#)]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The BBC is responsible for the cost and the administration of the over 75 licence fee concession from June 2020.

The BBC says that it will work with older peoples groups, charities and voluntary organisations to design a bespoke system to support all those over 75 affected by its decision. As part of this system, the BBC says that its licensing arm, TV Licensing, will be publicising the link between the concession and pension credit. It also says its will be introducing an easy payment system to help those affected spread the cost of the licence fee.

The Secretary of State has expressed his disappointment with the BBC decision to restrict the concession to the most narrowly defined review option. He has asked the BBC to do more for the most vulnerable pensioners, including considering measures around the margins of eligibility and those which further promote the take up of Pension Credit.

Asked by **Lord Foulkes of Cumnock**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the compatibility of the BBC's decision to change the TV licence concession for

people over the age of 75 from June 2020 with the Government's strategy to combat loneliness. [[HL16978](#)]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The future of the over 75 licence fee concession is a matter for the BBC. Parliament transferred responsibility in passing the Digital Economy Act in 2017. On loneliness, the Government is taking

steps to address the effects of isolation and loneliness on the elderly. These include appointing a minister to lead work on tackling loneliness; publishing the world's first government strategy on loneliness; and securing £20 million of new grant-funding for projects run by charities and community groups to bring people together.

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