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

# **HOUSE OF LORDS**

## **WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS**

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

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<i>Minister</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
<b>Baroness Evans of Bowes Park</b>	Leader of the House of Lords and Lord Privy Seal
<b>Earl Howe</b>	Minister of State, Ministry of Defence and Deputy Leader of the House of Lords
<b>Lord Agnew of Oulton</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education
<b>Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon</b>	Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
<b>Lord Ashton of Hyde</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
<b>Baroness Barran</b>	Whip
<b>Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health and Social Care
<b>Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Wales Office
<b>Baroness Buscombe</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions
<b>Lord Callanan</b>	Minister of State, Department for Exiting the European Union
<b>Earl of Courtown</b>	Deputy Chief Whip
<b>Lord Duncan of Springbank</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Northern Ireland Office and Scotland Office
<b>Lord Gardiner of Kimble</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
<b>Baroness Goldie</b>	Whip
<b>Lord Henley</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
<b>Lord Keen of Elie</b>	Advocate-General for Scotland and Ministry of Justice Spokesperson
<b>Baroness Stedman-Scott</b>	Whip
<b>Baroness Sugg</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for International Development
<b>Lord Taylor of Holbeach</b>	Chief Whip
<b>Baroness Vere of Norbiton</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Transport, Whip
<b>Baroness Williams of Trafford</b>	Minister of State, Home Office
<b>Lord Young of Cookham</b>	Cabinet Office Spokesperson and Whip
<b>Viscount Younger of Leckie</b>	Whip

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## Written Statements

*Monday, 22 July 2019*

### Armed Forces' Pay Review Body Report 2019

[HLWS1724]

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

I am today announcing the Government's decision on pay rises for the Armed Forces.

The Armed Forces' Pay Review Body (AFPRB) has made its recommendation for the 2019-20 pay award of 2.9%. We are accepting this recommendation in full (to be implemented in September salaries, backdated to 1 April 2019), and I am today laying their 2019 report.

Last year, the Government announced the largest pay rise in nearly a decade for almost a million public sector workers. This year's award builds on this and focuses attention on increasing pay for the most junior sailors, soldiers, and airmen and women, to ensure that they continue to receive a living wage. Consequently, the basic pay for other ranks on completion of their initial training will now be £20,000. This pay rise of over 6% represents an increase of £1,140 for over 7,200 newly trained sailors, soldiers, and airmen and women.

The pay award also represents an annual increase of £995 in the nominal 'average' salary in the Armed Forces (which is at the Corporal level), as well as an annual increase of £769 in starting salary for an officer.

For all cohorts, this is in addition to the non-contributory defined benefit pension and access to incremental pay progression.

The AFPRB has also made recommendations on rises and changes to other targeted forms of remuneration and on increases to food and accommodation charges which have been accepted. Where applicable, these rate changes will also be backdated to 1 April 2019.

Thanks to the Government's balanced approach to public finances – getting debt falling as a share of our economy, while investing in our vital services and keeping taxes low, we are able to continue our flexible approach to pay policy, allowing us to attract and retain the best people for our Armed Forces.

We consider all pay awards in light of wider pressures on public spending. Public sector pay needs to be fair both for public sector workers and the taxpayer. Around a quarter of all public spending is spent on pay and we need to ensure that our public services remain affordable for the future.

It is also vital that our world class public services continue modernising to meet rising demand for the incredible services they provide, which improve our lives and keep us safe.

### Chair of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs: Reappointment

[HLWS1741]

**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:

I am pleased to announce that Dr Owen Bowden-Jones has been reappointed to the ACMD both as a member and as its Chair. This re-appointment is for a 3-year term, beginning on 1st January 2020. Dr Bowden-Jones is an experienced clinician who provides assessment and treatment for people experiencing harms from emerging problem drugs.

The ACMD was established under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and provides advice to Government on issues related to the harms of drugs. It also has a statutory role under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016.

### Combat Air Strategy Update

[HLWS1737]

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

The Combat Air Strategy was launched a year ago on the opening day of the Farnborough Airshow, the birth place of aviation. It re-affirmed the Government's commitment to the Combat Air sector, laying out a clear vision for our nation to remain at the leading edge of this sector and providing a clear roadmap to achieve this.

On publication of the strategy, my right hon. Friend, the then Secretary of State for Defence, made a commitment to update the House annually on implementation of the strategy and the programmes it launched. Today I provide this update.

It is worth reflecting on the strategy and its key themes. First, it recognised the strength of our industry and its contribution to the well-being of our nation. This sector is economically, strategically important and enables sovereign decision-making on where and how to deploy our military capability. Secondly, it makes clear that partnering with like-minded allies is the best means to deliver our collective objectives. The update will therefore cover both themes – domestic developments, as well as international.

#### *Domestic Update*

Alongside the launch of the strategy, the Department re-affirmed our commitment to the approximately £2 billion Future Combat Air System Technology Initiative (FCAS TI). This initiative will mature the technologies needed for our future combat air systems and crucially, develop key skills across both Government and industry. The central pillar of FCAS TI is 'Team Tempest', a co-funded partnership between Government and our industry partners. Over the last year this partnership has driven a step change in relationships and behaviours between

Government and industry by aligning incentives, sharing costs and benefits and creating common interest in pace and agility. The team is on track to delivering 17 European-firsts and 7-world firsts. The first of these has already been achieved – the embedding of an electrical starter generator by Rolls-Royce within the main body of a powerful military aircraft engine. This increases the power density and reduces the complexity of future aircraft engines, resulting in more efficient engine designs and is fully exploitable to Rolls-Royce's multi-billion pound civil business. This technology will continue to be matured in the coming years, leading to a fully integrated novel power and propulsion system.

This partnership, and the private and public funding underpinning it, already supports over 1,000 jobs, many of them in high-end design, across the breadth of the country, from BAE Systems in Lancashire, to Rolls-Royce in Bristol and to Leonardo in Edinburgh and Luton. This number is set to rise to 1,800 by the end of this year.

The strategy recognised that there is significant capability residing in UK companies of all sizes and therefore, we are engaging with companies beyond our 'Team Tempest' partners. My right hon. Friend, the Minister for Defence Procurement hosted an Industry Engagement Day on the 19 March at Farnborough where 180 companies representing a wide range of capabilities and sizes, received briefs on the technologies being matured by 'Team Tempest' and the opportunities that exist for further collaboration. I am pleased to announce that the 'Team Tempest' partners have subsequently engaged an additional 500 companies and so far, have let over 120 sub-contracts in support of Team Tempest activities.

The Combat Air Sector is likely to be a key driver in new technologies and skills in areas such as automation, machine learning, advanced manufacturing and big data which will have broader benefit to the economy. Crucial to the long-term sustainability of this sector is ensuring that the skills needed in the future are identified, the workforce trained and that ultimately these skills are transferred to the next generation. Team Tempest has therefore established a dedicated STEM engagement team to inspire young people to be involved in this sector. This approach, along with the assurance provided by the strategy has resulted in record numbers of young people joining the workforce. This year, Leonardo MW will recruit 104 graduates and 62 apprentices, with the majority planned to be involved in Team Tempest activities. Similarly, BAE Systems is planning to recruit approximately 700 apprentices and 300 graduates to grow the percentage (currently 10%) of their Team Tempest workforce that are graduates and apprentices.

Working closely with officials from the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), the Department has launched a skills index to monitor the health of industrial and government skills critical to the delivery of our national objectives. Industry have provided their inputs and we are analysing the results and

intend to present our findings in September. The skills index will be used to inform and measure the success of interventions such as FCAS TI, to ensure the health of the sector.

#### *International Update*

On F-35, in February, the avionics and aircraft component repair hub in North Wales was awarded a second major assignment of work worth some £500 million by the US Government. This will create hundreds of additional jobs in the UK and was the result of working closely with industry to deliver a national campaign approach.

On Typhoon, the strategy confirmed our commitment to continue to invest in this remarkable platform. In June, NETMA, on behalf of the UK and the other European Partner Nations, awarded a €54 million contract for the Typhoon Long Term Evolution study to industry which will explore how to maximise Typhoon's capability for this decade and beyond.

The FCAS TI programme is maturing technologies for national usage, as well with our international partners. We are contracting our industry to work with their French counterparts on technologies that would maximise interoperability of our current and future platforms, recognising that, as currently envisioned, the Franco-German *Système de Combat Aérien Futur* (SCAF) acquisition programme does not meet the objectives laid out in our strategy. We are also investing in the development of the next generation Lift Fan for the F-35B, to reduce weight and improve the overall effectiveness of this world beating platform.

Our next generation acquisition programme will define and deliver the capabilities required when the backbone of the RAF, the Typhoon, leaves service. The team delivering this is working at pace, having within a few months of forming, delivered the Strategic Outline (Business) Case, which confirmed acquisition options to deliver our future combat air capability, which are now being explored and tested with potential international partners.

Despite challenging international dynamics, the Department has made great strides in our discussions with potential partners. With the support of wider Government (most notably officials from the FCO and DIT) and our industry, we have launched feasibility studies with potential partners.

We have discovered that there is a great appetite to collaborate with us. We offer a unique partnering approach, recognising the need to deliver ours and our partners' benefits together, learning from our rich history of collaboration. This approach provides the firm leadership needed and appears to be an attractive alternative to the traditional, dominant-junior partner relationships.

Last week I signed a Memorandum of Understanding with my Swedish counterpart on this topic. This marks a significant step in aligning our nations, recognising both nations have highly capable Combat Air sectors. We will

work together to mutually develop our understanding of the systems required to deliver our future requirements and how best to develop, deliver and ultimately support them. Beyond Sweden, we are furthering our engagement with other potential partners and I aim to sign similar arrangements over the next year.

From progress to date, we believe that Europe can afford two separate Combat Air programmes. We are investing in technologies, such as open systems architectures and advanced design and manufacturing techniques which offer significant reductions to the time and cost of design, manufacture, in-service upgrades and modifications. We are also ensuring that collaboration will be with partners whose strategic objectives align with our own, including the determination to reduce costs. We recognise that in an effective and efficient collaboration, there will be an optimum number of partners, which may include those outside of Europe.

The strategy's next major steps are to continue the Concept Phase until December 2020, gathering evidence on the acquisition options presented and then submit the Outline Business Case. This will select the preferred acquisition route and concept to be taken forward into the assessment phase.

## Communities Update

[HLWS1750]

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

On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July I published *'By deeds and their results: How we will strengthen our communities and nation'*.

The document sets out the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's vision for stronger communities, explaining why communities matter, what strong communities look like, and what government and partners can do to support their creation.

It also signals the intention that the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government work with other government departments to champion the importance of communities in every aspect of society, and focus its future work on building stronger communities across the country.

When communities are strong, society is strong. Communities can improve health and wellbeing, enable economic prosperity, help improve the local environment, and provide support in times of crisis. But eight years on from the Localism Act – the last piece of legislation focused on supporting communities – the challenges facing communities have evolved, and the time is right to assess and change the way in which government can support communities. This is particularly necessary given the long-term divisions which have been exposed following the vote on the UK's future membership of the European Union.

*'By deeds and their results'* commits the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government to several actions, including:

- Holding a national conversation with communities across England about their view of who we are as a nation, their vision for the future of their community and our country, and what local and national government can and should be doing to support their community to thrive. We want government and all public bodies to renew their understanding of their role in building stronger communities – this should be informed by direct conversations with people, in partnership with our existing local democratic institutions. The conversation will commence following the UK's formal departure from the European Union.
- Establishing a series of Civic Deal pilots to test how government put into practice the principles in *By deeds and their results*. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government will work jointly with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on these pilots. We will work with each pilot to consider how government activities can be better aligned and co-ordinated to support communities in identifying and delivering their own priorities.
- Publishing a Communities White Paper to renew government's focus on building stronger communities across England. This will consider, for example, how community rights are strengthened, promoted and made easier to take up; how funding for communities can be more simplified, integrated and less risk averse; and how communities can best shape local services and decision-making more broadly. The final scope of the White Paper will be developed in partnership with communities, including through the national conversation and Civic Deal pilots.

*By deeds and their results* is underpinned by four pillars, that will inform all work to strengthen communities across our department:

- i) Trust, connectedness and local pride;
- ii) Active citizenship and local control;
- iii) Shared community spaces;
- iv) Shared prosperity, with no community left behind.

This publication represents the next step in an ongoing conversation with communities that will shape the department's future activity. By working in partnership with all stakeholders – including other government departments, councils, businesses, faith groups and civil society organisations – we can create an environment that supports and enables stronger communities to flourish.

## Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework

[HLWS1739]

**Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford:** My Hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health and Primary Care (Seema Kennedy) has made the following written statement:

I am delighted to be able to announce a land mark 5-year settlement for the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework. This deal will transform the role of community pharmacy and embed them as the first port of call for minor illness and health advice in England.

Every day, in England there are around 1.6 million visits to community pharmacies. No appointment is necessary, and a person does not need to be registered with a pharmacy to benefit from their support or advice. The potential for community pharmacies to play a greater role across a wide range of health priorities is evident.

Over the last few months we have worked with the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) to develop a future vision for community pharmacy and expand their role across three key areas: prevention, urgent care and medicines safety.

We have agreed a settlement that will now translate this vision into practice and begin to transform the role of community pharmacy. It will see community pharmacies better utilised and integrated within the primary medical and community services we are working to deliver.

This agreement will come into effect from October 2019 and will mark the start of a series of developments that will continue over the course of the settlement period, through to 2024.

We will continue to work with the PSNC, and NHS England and Improvement to further deliver this programme of work in partnership.

### **Consultation on UK Export Finance's Foreign Content Policy: Response**

[HLWS1745]

**Viscount Younger of Leckie:** My Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for International Trade and President of the Board of Trade (Dr Liam Fox MP) has today made the following statement.

The Government will today publish the response to the consultation on UK Export Finance's (UKEF) Foreign Content policy. It sets out the approach UKEF will take to determine the level of non-UK goods, services and intangible assets in transaction supported by UKEF.

The purpose of the new approach is to ensure that UKEF's support is flexible and meets the needs of UK exporters to help them win business overseas, fulfilling UKEF's mission to ensure that no viable UK export fails for lack of finance or insurance from the private sector, while operating at no net cost to the taxpayer.

The consultation, published in April 2019, was part of UKEF's commitment in the Government's Export Strategy to review its products and policies to ensure they reflect the full breadth of its capability and the needs of business. The consultation received 28 responses, which were largely supportive of the approach proposed by Government in the consultation and reinforced the need for its foreign content policy to adapt to increasingly globalised supply chains.

The new policy ensures that UKEF will implement a principles-based approach to Foreign Content, recognising the full contribution of the UK supply chain. This approach will supplement UKEF's current UK content requirement, making it easier for UKEF to consider support for scenarios which are outside of a specific export contract, but which nevertheless are conducive to supporting and developing UK exports.

This approach will broaden the availability of UKEF support for all sectors including those to which it has not traditionally provided support. To align with this expectation, UKEF will be updating its definitions to clarify UKEF's ability to support intangible assets.

A copy of the consultation response will be placed in the libraries of the House.

### **Defending Democracy Programme**

[HLWS1725]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** My right honourable friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The UK has worked tirelessly to build our democratic system and values. In recent years, events across the world have demonstrated that sustaining and defending a flourishing democracy is increasingly important.

Therefore, the Cabinet Office is coordinating work and expertise across Government under a new Defending Democracy programme, which has been set up to:

- protect and secure UK democratic processes, systems and institutions from interference, including from cyber, personnel and physical threats;
- strengthen the integrity of UK elections;
- encourage respect for open, fair and safe democratic participation; and
- promote fact-based and open discourse, including online.

The Government has already started to roll out measures as part of this. On 5 May 2019 we announced a range of measures to crack down on intimidation, malign influence, interference and disinformation.

Following the Committee on Standards in Public Life report, the Government has published the Online Harms White Paper, committed to a new electoral offence, and will legislate to clarify 'undue influence' which includes acts or threats of violence to manipulate someone's vote. The Government recognises that rising levels of intimidation in public life can stop talented people, particularly women and those from minority backgrounds, from standing for public office. That is why we are taking action to confront it.

As part of the programme, we have also announced a plan for a consultation on electoral integrity, which will seek to address concerns around strengthen provisions which prevent UK democracy from foreign interference. This is something we would certainly invite



Parliamentarians and others to engage with as it goes forward and will publish in due course.

Though this is a Government programme, we want to work with people from a broad range of perspectives to inform our work. That is why we are inviting the views of Parliamentarians, political parties, third party organisations, academics, regulators and others on the programme and its outcomes. At the same time, we will continue to consider all the recommendations already made to the Government.

By taking a broad and inclusive approach, this programme can build a consensus on the way forward to continue to defend our democracy in the future.

### Electoral Integrity: ID Pilots

[HLWS1727]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** My honourable friend the Minister for the Constitution (Mr Kevin Foster) has today made the following written Ministerial Statement:

Today, the Cabinet Office published its evaluation of the 2019 voter ID pilots. The evaluation shows that a diverse range of local authorities delivered successful pilots. We know this because for the second successive year, the overwhelming majority of people who came to polling stations were able to cast their vote without difficulty.

When surveyed, people in areas testing the poll card model, and the mixed photographic and non-photographic model were significantly more confident in - and satisfied with - the process of casting their vote after polling day. Perceptions that there were sufficient safeguards in place to prevent voter fraud at polling stations increased in areas trialing photographic ID and mixed ID models.

Locally issued ID was made available, free of charge, whenever an elector was unsure that they were able to produce the required ID. In Pendle and Woking, 100 such voters made use of the provision. Woking, who were piloting voter ID for a second year, found the number of people who did not return after being asked to present ID had decreased from 2018. Electoral administrators from Woking have inferred this may be due to local electors viewing the ID requirements as the new standard.

Alongside the Government's evaluation, the Electoral Commission will publish their evaluation on the voter ID pilots today.

Electoral fraud is an unacceptable crime that strikes at a core principle of our democracy - that everyone's vote matters. In our current system, there is undeniable potential for electoral fraud and the perception of this undermines public confidence in our democracy.

The success of both rounds of voter ID pilots shows voter ID is a reasonable and proportionate measure to prevent this. Ensuring your vote is yours, and yours alone. The introduction of this measure across Great Britain will strengthen the integrity of our electoral system and give the public confidence our elections are secure and fit for the 21st century.

Both last year's pilots and decades of experience of Northern Ireland - including at the most recent local elections - show voter ID does not have an adverse effect on election turnout or participation. We remain committed to rolling out this effective anti-fraud measure and bringing the whole of the United Kingdom into line with Northern Ireland, which has required ID to vote in elections since 1985.

Running pilots again in 2019 allowed us to gain a deeper understanding of how voter ID will work on a wider scale - and what works best for voters before national roll out. We will continue to look carefully at the evaluations from both the 2018 and 2019 pilots to help inform our next steps and shape how the final policy will look when it is introduced.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Cabinet Office Evaluation of Voter ID Pilots 2019 [2019 Voter ID Pilots Evaluation.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2019-07-22/HLWS1727/>

### Enforcement Agents

[HLWS1738]

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

"Further to a Statement made by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, Lucy Frazer MP, on 26 November 2018, I wanted to update the House on the Ministry of Justice's review of the implementation of the enforcement agent reforms contained in the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007. These reforms, which came into force in 2014, aimed to provide protection to debtors from the aggressive pursuit of their debt from enforcement agents, whilst balancing this against the need for effective enforcement.

Our review was launched with a call for evidence on 26 November 2018 that ran to 17 February 2019. This sought to provide further information on the operation of the reforms following the Government's publication of the first post-implementation review on 2 April 2018. This review found that the reforms had led to many positive changes, including improved transparency and consistency, both in terms of the enforcement process and the fees charged by enforcement agents. The report noted, however, that some enforcement agents were still perceived to be acting aggressively and not complying with the new rules.

We received nearly 300 responses to the call for evidence from: individuals who have been visited by enforcement agents; enforcement agents, firms and trade associations; local authorities and other creditors; advice organisations and charities; MPs and members of the judiciary.

I am grateful to the Justice Committee for conducting an inquiry into this important issue. We are carefully

considering its recommendations for further reform. We will provide a full response to the report and to our call for evidence, following further engagement with stakeholders over the summer.

Based on their data, civil enforcement agents now enforce around 3 million civil cases each year. Creditors need an effective, sustainable way to ensure that they receive the money owed to them. At the same time, the government must ensure that those in debt, especially the vulnerable, including those with mental health issues, are treated fairly and given the protections they deserve.

Enforcement agents carry out an important job in often very challenging circumstances.

Many firms have made considerable efforts to make sure that they are treating those in debt fairly, but complaints continue. All enforcement agents must operate to the same high standards. So, we will be pushing forward with a reform package to make sure that people do not face aggressive action from enforcement agents and to improve trust in the industry as a whole.

One area of our focus will be how people can make complaints against enforcement agents. Data submitted to our call for evidence has shown that the volume of complaints made about enforcement agents is much lower than would be expected relative to the volume of debts enforced, and compared to similar industries. Whilst this may in part be due to improvements in the sector, we believe that there are a number of barriers in the current complaints system that may deter people from making a complaint. We will look to address these with enforcement agents and others with a view to making the complaints system more effective, transparent and independent.

We are also considering what role independent regulation of enforcement agents could potentially play in ensuring that vulnerable debtors are treated fairly. We believe that regulation of this sector could be strengthened but we do not yet have a firm view on the form this should take. It is an issue that would benefit from further discussions with stakeholders. We are clear that any further regulation must be effective, proportionate and sustainable.

Alongside considering these reforms, we wish to bring quicker changes to the system to improve how enforcement agents operate. Our call for evidence and the Justice Committee's inquiry found strong evidence that body-worn cameras are important in protecting both those in debt and enforcement agents, raising standards in the industry and enabling complaints to be properly investigated. We will be taking forward work to make use of body-worn cameras mandatory for all private enforcement agents and to produce best practice guidance.

Under the current system, all enforcement agents have to demonstrate knowledge of the law, customer care, dealing with conflict situations and identifying vulnerable situations. We believe that there is a good case, however, to look again at the guidance and requirements for how enforcement agents interact with those in debt, with a

view to addressing any unfair treatment of vulnerable people, including those with mental health issues.

The Ministry of Justice proposes to engage with the enforcement industry, debt advice agencies, creditors and others on these and other issues over the summer before responding in full to its call for evidence and the Justice Committee report. The response will include a full analysis of the variety of evidence submitted to the review and set out proposals for reform to enhance the regulation of enforcement agents. We will consult on any proposals for legislative reform.

This work forms part of wider cross-government efforts to improve the treatment of those in debt. This includes work by HM Treasury to implement a 'breathing space' and statutory debt repayment plan for people in problem debt and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government review of how local authorities can improve the way they collect Council Tax debt."

## Fiscal Risks Report 2019

[HLWS1734]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** My right honourable friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Philip Hammond) made the following Written Ministerial Statement last week.

In accordance with the Charter for Budget Responsibility, the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) has today published its second Fiscal Risks Report (FRR). The OBR published its first FRR in 2017, which the government responded to in 2018 through the Managing Fiscal Risks report (MFR). FRR 2019 fulfils the OBR's legal obligation to publish a statement setting out the main risks to the public finances at least once every two years. The report features an updated risk assessment of the original issues the OBR raised in FRR 2017, in addition to highlighting new risks to the public finances. It was laid before Parliament earlier today and copies are available in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office.

The UK is one of the few countries in the world to publish a standalone report on fiscal risks and the FRR is the only such report to be published by an independent agency rather than the government itself. The UK is a world leader in fiscal risk disclosure and management and is determined to set the global standard not only for the disclosure of fiscal risks but also for the active management of those risks. The IMF's 2018 Article IV consultation noted that "The UK continues to set international standards with respect to fiscal transparency". This report keeps the UK at the frontier of fiscal management internationally and demonstrates the government's commitment to fiscal transparency and accountability. The publication of FRR 2019 further strengthens the cycle of accountability that the first report started. As required under the Charter for Budget Responsibility the government will respond formally to the FRR 2019 within the next year.

The government has helped to build a stronger, fairer economy – dealing with the deficit, helping people into



work, and cutting taxes for people, families, and businesses. The economy has grown continuously for the past nine years, the employment level is currently at a record high, unemployment is currently at its lowest rate and level since 1975, inflation is at the Bank of England's target and real wages are rising. We are tackling the productivity challenge head on because it is the only way to sustainably improve living standards in the long term.

The government has also made substantial progress in improving the health of the public finances since 2010, which have now reached a turning point. The deficit has been reduced by more than four-fifths and debt has begun its first sustained fall in a generation. At Spring Statement 2019, the OBR confirmed that the government is forecast to meet both of the interim fiscal rules early, with the structural deficit now below 2% and debt falling in every year of the forecast. The government has achieved this through a balanced approach to fiscal policy; continuing to reduce debt, while also supporting vital public services, keeping taxes low and investing in Britain's future.

Within this balanced approach, the government took the decision to make the NHS the number one spending priority, committing to an historic settlement that provides a cash increase of £33.9bn a year by 2023-24. This record level of additional funding for our public services has been delivered within a responsible fiscal framework, and has been accompanied by a clear and credible NHS Long-Term Plan, which includes measures to put the NHS back onto a sustainable financial path.

Furthermore, the government has taken concrete action to reduce a number of risks, which the OBR has acknowledged in FRR 2019. This includes better management of new contingent liabilities, reducing the issuance of index linked gilts and improvements in the management and reporting of legal risks in the welfare system. The government has also made significant improvements in monitoring and transparency of its fiscal risks, including introducing stricter disclosure requirements for asset sales and revised budgetary treatment for financial transactions.

While the government has acted, many of the risks discussed by the OBR in their first report remain. In the medium term, the largest potential risks come from the macroeconomy and financial sector in the form of financial crises and major economic downturns. The OBR have also modelled the fiscal implications of the UK leaving the EU without a deal in their fiscal stress test. The stress test is based on the IMF's less disruptive no-deal scenario. The OBR note this scenario is not necessarily the most likely outcome and it is relatively benign compared to other possible scenarios (for example, assuming limited short-term border disruptions). The OBR report that this scenario would add around £30 billion a year to borrowing from 2020-21 onwards and around 12 per cent of GDP to net debt by 2023-24, compared with the OBR's March forecast baseline.

In the long term, the most significant fiscal risks come from structural economic and societal trends such as lower productivity growth, higher interest rates, changes

in consumption and working practice, demographic pressures and technological change. Additionally, the report highlights new risks – such as climate change and the costs associated with measures designed to adapt and mitigate the effects. The risks the OBR has highlighted further reinforce the need for prudent management of the public finances and the reduction of debt to more sustainable levels.

## Foreign Affairs Council 15 July 2019

[HLWS1732]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** My right Honourable Friend, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Jeremy Hunt), has made the following written Ministerial statement:

I attended the Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) on 15 July. It was chaired by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HRVP), Federica Mogherini. The meeting was held in Brussels.

### *Current Affairs*

The High Representative and Foreign Ministers discussed the most pressing issues on the international agenda. This included Turkey's current drilling activities in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Foreign Ministers also discussed the recent developments in Sudan. Finnish Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto reported on his visit to the region on behalf of the EU. Ministers noted that the agreement reached between the Transitional Military Council and Forces for Freedom and Change on 11 July was an important breakthrough, and underlined the importance of supporting the civilian transition, including through additional financial support.

Ministers also touched on Venezuela, following the visit of Special Adviser Enrique Iglesias to Caracas on 7-10 July. They reiterated the EU's support for a political solution through the Oslo process, while underlining strong concerns over the human rights situation following the report by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet.

The High Representative also covered the EU-Ukraine Summit, the 5th anniversary of the downing of MH17, her recent visit to the Sahel region (Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger) and the outcome of the fifth EU-G5 Sahel Ministerial meeting in Ouagadougou (9 July).

### *Iran*

I briefed the Council on my recent engagement on Iran. The Council discussed the tense situation in the Gulf region and recent announcements and steps by Tehran to reduce its implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Ministers referred to ways of reducing the ongoing risk of military escalation and reiterated the EU's regret at the decision by the US to re-impose sanctions on Iran.

Ministers also took stock of ongoing EU efforts to enable the continuation of legitimate trade with Iran,

including through the special purpose vehicle "INSTEX" which is now operational. They also urged Iran to reverse the steps taken and reaffirmed that the EU's commitment to the nuclear deal depended on full compliance by Iran.

#### *Iraq*

The High Representative spoke to Ministers about her visit to Bagdad on 13-14 July. Foreign Ministers took stock of developments in Iraq and discussed how the EU could provide further support.

#### *Central African Republic*

Ministers reflected on how the EU could strengthen its support to encourage further implementation of the peace agreement signed in Bangui on 6 February 2019. They agreed to start working on plans for a possible civilian Common Security and Defence Policy mission.

#### *External Aspects of Migration*

Ministers agreed that efforts to address migration should be stepped up. They noted that greater financial resources were needed, especially for the EU Trust Fund for Africa. Ministers also discussed the importance of accelerating resettlement of persons needing international protection and making progress on the disembarkation of migrants rescued at sea.

#### *Lunch with the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Moldova Nicolae Popescu*

Foreign Ministers conveyed their support, as well as their expectations, on the implementation of reforms related to the Association Agreement, and their willingness to resume conditional EU financial support.

#### *Council Conclusions*

The Council agreed a number of measures:

- The Council adopted conclusions on Iraq.
- The Council adopted conclusions on Turkish drilling activities in the Eastern Mediterranean.
- The Council adopted conclusions on the EU's priorities at the 74th UN General Assembly.
- A decision was adopted by the Council on sanctions against North Korea following the annual review.
- The Council authorised the opening of negotiations on a joint political declaration of the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and the European Union on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation.
- The Council adopted the EU's position in view of the second EU-Cuba Joint Council that will take place on 9 September in Havana.
- The Council approved the update of the military requirements for military mobility within and beyond the EU.
- The Council approved the adoption of an ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) statement on aviation partnership.
- The Council approved the adoption of an ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) statement on "Promoting

women, peace and security at the ASEAN Regional Forum".

- The Council transposed an amendment adopted by the UN concerning one person listed under the South Sudan sanctions framework.
- The Council adopted the position to be taken on behalf of the EU in the Joint Committee established by the Framework Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation between the EU and the Philippines.
- The Council adopted the position to be taken by the EU in the Cote d'Ivoire-EU EPA Committee regarding adoption of Protocol 1 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods for administrative cooperation (rules of origin).
- The Council endorsed the text of six Working Papers and one Information paper to be submitted by Finland on behalf of the European Union and its Member States to the 40th Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).
- The Council adopted a decision authorising the Commission to enter into negotiations on the modernisation of the Charter Treaty (10738/19). The Council also adopted negotiating directives (10745/19 ADD 1). In parallel, the representatives of the governments of the member states that are parties to the Energy Charter Treaty adopted a decision authorising the Commission to enter into negotiations for the elements falling under the competence of the Member States.

## **HMRC Powers and Taxpayer Safeguards**

[HLWS1748]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** My honourable friend the Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Jesse Norman) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC) have a vital purpose, to collect the tax revenue that pays for the UK's public services and benefits system. The Government recognises that public trust is essential to a healthy and effective tax system. UK citizens must know that their tax authority is fair, careful and even-handed and that it adheres to those core values in all its work.

But citizens also need to be reassured that HMRC have the powers they require to ensure that everyone pays their fair share of taxes. In some areas, particularly where HMRC are faced with fraud, evasion and complex avoidance, those powers are necessarily far-reaching. It is therefore of great public importance that they are exercised in a way that maintains public trust, with appropriate oversight and operational checks and balances, and statutory safeguards that enable taxpayers to dispute HMRC's decisions or complain about their treatment.

I am grateful to the House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee for its report *The Powers of HMRC: Treating Taxpayers Fairly* and for the opportunity to discuss these matters with them. I have also discussed matters of trust

at HMRC in detail with officials and outside stakeholders, and I am today announcing several actions HMRC are taking to maintain and develop public trust in their operations.

#### *Professional Standards Committee*

The context in which HMRC operate is changing faster than ever before. New technology presents significant opportunities to make tax administration easier for both HMRC and for taxpayers. But it also presents new challenges, as a small minority of taxpayers who wish to escape paying tax seek new ways to find unfair advantages.

As HMRC adapt to these changes, it is important both that they continue to maintain public trust in their approach to new technologies, and that the powers given by Parliament are implemented carefully and remain subject to appropriate oversight and safeguards.

So HMRC will establish a new Professional Standards Committee to advise the Commissioners of Revenue & Customs. The Committee, which will take advice from a range of independent experts, will consider, amongst other things, issues relating to the implementation of HMRC powers. The Committee will not consider individual cases or Government tax policies. HMRC will publish details of the Committee's membership and terms of reference in the autumn.

#### *Powers and Safeguards*

The House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee proposed a review of all powers granted to HMRC since the conclusion of the Powers Review in 2012. I have considered this carefully and concluded that a full review of HMRC powers is not necessary at this time. The powers granted to HMRC since 2012 were properly scrutinised before being granted by Parliament. The Government's view is that they remain necessary and proportionate. I have, however, asked HMRC to evaluate the implementation of powers introduced since 2012 in relation to the powers and safeguards principles, engaging with stakeholders, including taxpayers and their representatives. This will be published in early 2020.

#### *Adjudicator*

The Adjudicator's independent role in complaints handling is a core component of ensuring public trust in HMRC, and of HMRC's evolution as a service organisation.

HMRC will undertake a comprehensive review of the findings identified in the 2019 Adjudicator's report and will publish the results of the review by the end of this year. HMRC are working with the Adjudicator to ensure that they have effective mechanisms in place to learn quickly and appropriately from complaints and, if necessary, to make changes to their operational policy and processes.

To enable better access for taxpayers to the Adjudicator service, HMRC are also developing a secure digital channel for complaints.

#### *Support for Taxpayers*

HMRC understand that some taxpayers will always need extra help in their dealings with them and that others may need additional support at a point in time because they are dealing with a difficult life event. Some taxpayers may become anxious or distressed as a result of compliance activities, or when they get into debt. Ensuring that people who need support are treated with empathy and dignity is vital to maintaining wider public trust in HMRC.

HMRC have provided tailored assistance to taxpayers who need extra help and those in vulnerable circumstances since 2014 via their Extra Support service and also work closely with the voluntary and community sector. Working with their new Customer Experience Committee, and drawing on the experience of the Committee's independent, external advisers, HMRC have recently embarked on a programme to strengthen the support they provide to taxpayers who need extra help. Importantly, this includes extending the Extra Support service to people who may need additional help to deal with HMRC investigations and to help resolve disputes wherever possible without litigation. HMRC will report on the effectiveness of these measures in their next annual report.

HMRC will continue to work closely with external representatives through their forums, such as the Additional Needs Working Group and Individual Stakeholder Forum, to understand taxpayers' needs better and to improve support for taxpayers.

#### *Transparency*

HMRC have undertaken to increase transparency and enhance public trust by publishing more data and information about the exercise of their powers. HMRC will engage with stakeholders, including taxpayers and their representatives, to identify what further data and information HMRC should publish in support of these goals.

This year, as a first step towards that commitment, HMRC will expand the range of performance and management information they publish in their monthly and quarterly performance publications. Previous reporting focussed on specific aspects of their telephony and post processes, for instance, call waiting and post turnaround times, as well as compliance yield figures. From August HMRC will publish further information, including but not limited to, their debt management, registrations and repayment services.

#### *Taxpayer experience*

Compliance enquiries are a necessary and important feature of HMRC's work in collecting the right amount of tax. Maintaining public trust in HMRC requires that these enquiries are carried out, but also that they are done in an appropriate way. Compliance enquiries can be worrying for taxpayers and HMRC are committed to ensuring that their procedures are accessible and impartial and that HMRC officers treat taxpayers with professionalism and

respect. This includes taking into account the specific circumstances of taxpayers.

HMRC are reviewing taxpayers' experiences during compliance enquiries. Drawing on taxpayer feedback, this work will look at how each stage of an enquiry or investigation can affect taxpayers. It will seek to identify improvements in the process and draw out appropriate common standards and expectations. This work includes a review of the content, language and tone of letters, to ensure that they are clear, courteous and tailored appropriately to the needs of the taxpayer, including those who need extra help. In this, HMRC are working closely with a range of stakeholder groups and forums to develop best practice, which should help HMRC to improve the way that they interact with taxpayers.

The Government will provide a further update to the House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee later this year on all of the areas of work outlined in this statement.

### Local Industrial Strategies

[HLWS1726]

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

Our modern Industrial Strategy is a long-term plan to boost productivity and earning power for people throughout the country.

We set out to work in partnership with places to develop Local Industrial Strategies. These strategies are central to our aim of creating prosperous communities across the country. They are being developed locally and agreed with government, establishing a strong collaborative approach. They are long-term, based on clear evidence and aligned to the modern Industrial Strategy.

On 16 May we launched the first of these strategies – the West Midlands Local Industrial Strategy. We followed this with the Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy on 13 June. Now, alongside local partners, we are launching the next Local Industrial Strategies for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc (Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Oxfordshire and the South East Midlands) and the West of England.

The Oxford-Cambridge Arc Local Industrial Strategies mark a major contribution to the government's wider work on the Arc with their focus on driving productivity by outlining shared priorities across the region as a whole.

The four strategies set out how partners across the Arc will work to: harness the collective strength of the Arc's research base, driving greater collaboration in science and research; provide the skills needed for the future economy; maximise the benefits of new transport, energy and digital infrastructure; improve business support and finance for high growth companies and encourage foreign

direct investment; and take a Natural Capital planning approach to development, contributing to the Clean Growth grand challenge mission.

- Buckinghamshire aims to grow the county's creative, space, advanced manufacturing and digital health sectors, building on the world-leading assets it already has such as the Westcott Space Cluster and Pinewood Studios;

- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough aims to build an industrial ecosystem that is globally known for tackling the biggest challenges facing society, with interventions tailored to the needs of each of its sub-economies: Greater Cambridge, Greater Peterborough and The Fens;

- Oxfordshire plans to build on the county's world leading science and tech clusters to be a pioneer for transformative technologies and sectors, with its overarching ambition for the county to be a top three global innovation ecosystem by 2040;

- The South East Midlands' overarching ambition is to position the area as the 'Connected Core' of the Arc, a place with the right R&D assets, business environment and networks to foster, test and commercialise new innovations.

The West of England Local Industrial Strategy focuses on four key priorities:

- Strengthening innovation and driving productivity by: Connecting researchers, businesses and residents through a Global Centre of Innovation Excellence, and testing new products and services through a new West of England Network of Living Labs;

- Supporting all residents to contribute to and benefit from economic success by: targeting support to communities facing challenges, tailoring employment and skills support and linking everyone to jobs, training and services through better physical and digital infrastructure, that is accessible, sustainable and low carbon;

- Providing businesses with the space, networks and skills they need to boost productivity, grow and thrive by: encouraging uptake of modern technology, management and leadership practices; including more regional providers in businesses' supply chains and widening access to public procurement for small businesses; and supporting low carbon business models;

- Investing in infrastructure that reduces energy demand, lowers carbon emissions and is resilient to the impacts of climate change, supporting businesses to adopt new clean technology and energy efficiency measures.

Copies of these five Local Industrial Strategies will be placed in the Libraries of the House.



## National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015: Third Annual Report

[HLWS1742]

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

Today, I am pleased to announce the publication of the third annual report of the National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR). This also provides an annual update on the National Security Capability Review (NSCR). I will be placing a copy of the report in the Libraries of the House and publishing the report on gov.uk.

In the SDSR, we committed to giving Parliament an annual update on implementation of the strategy. This Annual Report sets out our progress in delivering on our SDSR and NSCR commitments and shows how the United Kingdom continues to meet the threats and challenges posed by a changing world, proving the merits of Fusion doctrine, as introduced in last year's NSCR.

The NSCR reinforced our vision and values set out in the National Security Strategy and SDSR of a secure and prosperous United Kingdom with global reach and influence. Our overarching National Security Objectives: Protect Our People; Project Our Global Influence; and Promote Our Prosperity, continues to be the foundation of our National Security approach. In support of each of these objectives, we have made significant progress on a cross-government programme of activity, overseen by a sub-Committee of the National Security Council (NSC).

Much has changed since the National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review was published in November 2015 – not least the United Kingdom's historic decision to leave the European Union. Whilst the principal threats to our national security remain the same, we face a challenge from a resurgence of state based threats. These threats are more complex and are testing the norms of the rules-based international system on which we have come to rely for our prosperity and security. Nevertheless, NATO remains the bedrock of the UK's defence and the leading instrument of our national security.

Our outlook remains outward facing and the UK will not shy away from defending democratic principles across the globe whilst ensuring British values are safeguarded at home. We value that outreach, and our partnerships and relationships across the world which are the envy of friend and foe alike. They have proven time and again to be a critical factor in our successes on the global stage.

In the SDSR, we made 89 principal commitments. As at March 2019, we have completed 32, with the rest being progressed. The SDSR pledged to deliver a number of complex major projects and programmes, some with a delivery timescale of a decade or more; progress on these is as we would expect at this stage. The NSCR provided

27 further significant commitments of which 3 have already been completed.

We remain the only country in the G20 to meet both the expenditure targets of 2% of GDP on Defence and 0.7% of gross national income on overseas development, driving forward the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

NSS and SDSR Third Annual Report [NSS and SDSR 2015 Third Annual Report - FINAL.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2019-07-22/HLWS1742/>

## NHS Pay Review Body 32<sup>nd</sup> Report: Government Response

[HLWS1728]

**Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford:** My Rt Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care (Matthew Hancock) has made the following written statement:

I am responding on behalf of my Rt. Hon. Friend the Prime Minister to the 32nd Report of the NHS Pay review Body (NHSPRB). The report has been laid before Parliament today (Cm 147). Copies of the report are available to hon Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

This is the second year of the three-year Agenda for Change pay and contract reform deal (2018/2019 to 2020/2021), the NHSPRB was asked therefore not to make any pay recommendations for 2019/2020.

The Government welcomes the 32nd report of the NHSPRB and is grateful to the Chair and members for all their work and helpful observations, on effective workforce planning and how best to support the development of the NHS workforce.

We are pleased that their observations broadly reflect the themes published in the Interim People Plan and will help inform the upcoming final People Plan.

## Off-payroll Engagements

[HLWS1733]

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

In 2012, HM Treasury implemented a set of rules which required departments' most senior staff to be on payroll, and to seek assurance in relation to the tax arrangements of their long-term, high-paid contractors who are off-payroll.

Reforms to IR35 off-payroll working rules in April 2017 require public bodies to deduct tax and NICs if the off-payroll worker works like an employee, compliance of which is monitored by HMRC.



Following a review of the rules, I have concluded that the off-payroll rules implemented in 2012 are now superseded by the IR35 reforms, and the requirement for departments to include set contractual provisions and conduct an assurance process are no longer necessary.

However, it remains essential that board-level appointments and/or those with significant financial responsibility should be on the payroll of the department or other employing body, unless there are genuine exceptional circumstances that do not exceed 6 months. The HMT off-payroll rules have been amended to reflect the outcome of this review, and updated guidance has been published on the government website. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-tax-assurance-process-of-public-sector-appointees>

This guidance includes increased transparency requirements, whereby the duration of off-payroll engagements of board members and/or senior officials with significant financial responsibility is to be reported in departments' annual accounts in future reporting cycles. This will replace the need for annual reviews.

### **Police Remuneration Review Body 2019: Government Response**

[HLWS1730]

**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:

The fifth annual report of the Police Remuneration Review Body was published today. In line with our letter setting the Body's remit it has made recommendations on pay and allowances for police officers at all ranks in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The government has considered the recommendations of the report insofar as they relate to police officers in England and Wales, which the Home Office is responsible for. We wish to express thanks to the Chair and members of the Review Body for their work on the report and pay recommendations.

Last year, the government announced the largest pay rise in nearly a decade for almost a million public sector workers. Building on this, this year the government has accepted in full the recommendations of the PRRB that a consolidated increase of 2.5% should be awarded to all ranks at all pay points. It has also accepted a corresponding increase to London Weighting and the Dog Handlers' Allowance and an increase in the on-call allowance for officers in the federated ranks from £15 to £20 for each 24-hour period on-call. These will be implemented with effect from 1 September 2019.

We asked the PRRB to review the National Police Chiefs' Council's proposals for progression pay for police apprentices. The PRRB recommended that subject to further review in the next pay round, no change is made to the current arrangements for apprentice progression. The government has accepted this recommendation.

Thanks to the government's balanced approach to public finances – getting debt falling as a share of our economy, while investing in our vital services and keeping taxes low – we are able to continue our flexible approach to pay policy, allowing us to attract and retain the best people for our police forces.

We consider all pay awards in light of wider pressures on public spending. Public sector pay needs to be fair both for public sector workers and the taxpayer. Around a quarter of all public spending is spent on pay and we need to ensure that our public services remain affordable for the future. In addition to their pay, police officers continue to benefit from defined benefit pensions, which are amongst the most generous available.

It is also vital that our world class public services continue modernising to meet rising demand for the incredible services they provide, which improve our lives and keep us safe.

The Police Remuneration Review Body Report (CP 139) has been laid before Parliament and copies are available in the Vote Office and on GOV.UK

### **Prison Service Pay Review Body Recommendations 2019-20: Government Response**

[HLWS1735]

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

"I am today announcing the government's decision on pay rises for prison staff.

The Prison Service Pay Review Body has made its recommendations for the 2019-20 pay award and we are accepting these recommendations in full.

Last year, the government announced the largest pay rise in nearly a decade for almost a million public sector workers. Today we are building on that with a pay award that is worth at least 2.2% for all prison staff and 3% for our Band 3 officers on the 'Fair and Sustainable' terms and conditions. This is the second year in a row we have put in place awards over 2% for our prison staff and this year's settlement represents the highest consolidated increase for over 10 years.

In addition to the headline increases we will also implement the totality of the other Review Body recommendations. This represents a full package for staff that will support us to recruit and retain prison officers and managers, contributing to safer prisons and reduced reoffending. In addition to their pay, prison officers continue to benefit from defined benefit pensions, which are amongst the most generous available.

For a Band 3 officer on the modern terms and conditions the pay settlement is worth on average £1,277.

Alongside this investment in pay, prison officers are being trained to be more effective and gain experience in critical areas. The key worker role within the new offender management in custody model is currently being

rolled-out across prisons. This has been enabled by the investment in additional Band 3 officers, and supports officers at this grade to build more effective relationships with prisoners in order to improve safety and help reduce reoffending.

Thanks to the government's balanced approach to public finances – getting debt falling as a share of our economy, while investing in our vital services and keeping taxes low – we are able to continue our flexible approach to pay policy, allowing us to attract and retain the best people for our prisons.

We consider all pay awards in light of wider pressures on public spending. Public sector pay needs to be fair both for public sector workers and the taxpayer. Around a quarter of all public spending is spent on pay and we need to ensure that our public services remain affordable for the future.

It is also vital that our world class public services continue modernising to meet rising demand for the incredible services they provide, which improve our lives and keep us safe.

The report has been laid before Parliament today 22 July 2019 and a copy is attached. I am grateful to the Chair and members of the Review Body for their report."

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Prison Service Pay Review Body Eighteenth Report [MoJ.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2019-07-22/HLWS1735/>

## Rented Housing and Park Home Consultations

[HLWS1749]

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

The housing landscape has fundamentally changed since the introduction of the Housing Act 1988 – an Act that covers both the social and the private rented sector, as well as providing the tenure framework for a number of other landlords. With one in five households now in the private rented sector, with more families with children and older people renting their homes, it is time for a generational change to renting which better meets the needs of this important market.

Yesterday therefore, my Department launched a number of consultations, which will take forward this Government's commitment to protect tenants, support landlords, drive up standards in the rental sector and make the housing market fairer for everyone.

### *Cracking down on rogue landlords*

The Government is determined that those renting their homes are not forced into inadequate or unsafe housing.

The majority of landlords and property agents in the private rented sector provide decent and well-managed accommodation, but there is a small number who knowingly flout their legal obligations and rent out substandard accommodation. These few criminals account for a disproportionate amount of the 25% of private rented homes which are non-decent.

The Prime Minister committed to widen access to information on the database of rogue landlords and property agents to tenants. In its current form, the database is viewable only to local authorities. It is targeted at the most serious and prolific criminals, those who have been convicted of specified banning order offences such as failure to make a property habitable when instructed by the local authority, through to serious crimes such as specified drug and sexual offences.

Our consultation, *'Rogue Landlord Database Reform: Widening Access and Considering the Scope of the Database of Rogue Landlords and Property Agents'*, seeks views on how to open-up the database so tenants can know more about the landlord who they plan to, from or already rent from. We also want to consider the scope of the database, this consultation therefore also seeks views on whether the database should cover a wider range of relevant criminal, civil and housing regulation breaches to help further raise standards across the sector.

Abolishing section 21 'no-fault' evictions and supporting landlords to reclaim their property

On 15 April, I announced plans to abolish section 21 of the Housing Act 1988, putting an end to so-called 'no fault' evictions and giving tenants the certainty that they will not be asked to leave their home without a valid reason.

The Government wants to deliver a balanced and effective tenancy regime that is fair to both landlords and tenants and yesterday published *'A New Deal for Renting: resetting the balance of rights and responsibilities between landlords and tenants'*. This consultation seeks views on how tenancies should operate in future. It is the first step in a journey that will deliver on our commitment to bring greater fairness and transparency to tenants and ensure they have the security they need to plan for the future.

The consultation also proposes three new grounds and asks for views on the current grounds for eviction and how they can be improved. Landlords should have confidence that they will be able to regain possession of their property if they need to, and the consultation further explores whether the courts could use the accelerated procedure for dealing with possession order applications under some or all of the mandatory grounds in section 8 of the Housing Act 1988.

Taken together, the reforms proposed across these two consultations will build on government action to drive up standards across the sector, deliver the rental sector the country deserves and needs, and create a housing market that works for everyone.

### *Protecting residents of park homes*

Finally, we have also published a consultation seeking views on how the fit and proper person test for park homes sites will work in practice. In the Government response to the review of park homes legislation, we committed to introducing the test subject to a technical consultation to ensure the effective operation of the test. When implemented, the test will strengthen local authorities' powers to target the worst offenders and remove unscrupulous and criminal site operators from the park homes sector.

I am making a copy of all consultations available in the Library.

## **Response to Opposition Day Debate: Prisons and Probation**

[HLWS1744]

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

"Today I would like to update the House on prisons and probation following the Opposition day debate of 14 May 2019.

Our prison and probation systems have faced challenges in recent years, with changes in population, changes in the nature of crimes being committed and wider societal changes impacting the criminal justice sector, such as the use of Spice and other psychoactive substances. We need to ensure that our prisons and probation services provide appropriate punishment, and work with offenders to stop the root causes of criminality, supporting them to re-join their communities.

HMP Birmingham was an exceptional case caused by a number of complex factors and the Government had been working closely with G4S to try and resolve the issues in HMP Birmingham. However, it became increasingly clear that G4S alone were not able to make the improvements that were so badly needed. That is why the Government took decisive action to step in and did so at no additional costs to the taxpayer.

However, the Government is clear that the exceptional experience of HMP Birmingham is no more representative of the wider contribution of the private sector to our justice system than individual failings in the public sector are in the public estate. The Government remains committed to ensuring a mixed market for delivery of services in the justice system. Partnering with the private and voluntary sectors offers the taxpayer greater value for money, greater diversity of provision and greater innovation than we would see from the public sector alone. Our policy remains a commitment to what works; we will continue to resist ideological calls to spend taxpayers money in a particular sector, regardless of value proposition.

Government contracts are never awarded lightly: each is awarded following a robust process. Government has always been compliant with procurement regulations and

follows these diligently when assessing supplier's suitability.

Through the competition processes we undertake a rigorous financial and operational assessment of bids put forward by any existing or potential operator to ensure bids are of sufficient quality, value for money and affordability. The Government also ensures, through the procurement and contract management processes, that we have sufficient measures in place to have confidence in the delivery and maintenance of the contracted services over their lifetime.

The Chief Inspector of Prisons has highlighted many examples of excellent performance by private prisons in his inspection reports and competition for custodial services in England and Wales is well established, and has been in place since the early 1990s. Privately managed prison providers achieve the majority of their targets, and their performance is closely monitored by the robust contract management processes HMPPS has in place.

Privately-managed prisons have also pioneered the use of modern technology to improve the running of establishments and help promote rehabilitation – innovations that in many cases are still not widely found in the public estate. This includes the development of in-cell telephony to help prisoners maintain ties with their families; interactive story-time activities between prisoners and their children; and the introduction of electronic kiosks, which allow prisoners to have greater control of managing their day-to-day lives.

Private probation providers have drawn on prior experience delivering employability services to improve the sourcing of Unpaid Work placements for offenders on community sentences, with nine out of 13 Community Rehabilitation Companies rated 'Good' for the delivery of Unpaid Work by HM Inspectorate of Probation. CRCs have also demonstrated their potential to drive innovation in rehabilitation programmes, with London CRC helping pioneer the Safer Streets Partnership to tackle gangs and knife crime and Kent, Surrey and Sussex CRC developing the first behavioural intervention targeted at stalking offences.

The government therefore rejects the call to end plans to run competitions for new private prisons. We are also committed to ensuring a mixed market for service delivery in the probation system, with offender management delivered by the National Probation Service, but up to £280m allocated for contracting of unpaid work and rehabilitative services from the private and voluntary sector. In addition, we plan to ringfence an initial £20 million per year for a Regional Outcome and Innovation Fund to be spent on innovative, cross-cutting approaches. There will inevitably in any large organisation be occasional instances where service delivery is not as expected, regardless of whether the public or private sectors are responsible. In these instances, we ensure prompt action is taken to rectify any identified issues, and to learn lessons. This Government will not shy away from learning lessons where they are required – and will not seek to denigrate the dedicated work of large numbers of

those who deliver our public services simply because of who their employer is.

Instead, this government is committed to ensuring that all our prisons, public or private, are places of safety and reform, and that our probation services maximise their performance in keeping the public safe by helping offenders on community orders or leaving prison to turn their lives around in the community."

## **Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration 47<sup>th</sup> Report: Government Response**

[HLWS1729]

**Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford:** My Rt Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care (Matthew Hancock) has made the following written statement:

I am responding on behalf of my Rt. Hon. Friend the Prime Minister to the 47th Report of the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration (DDRB). The report has been laid before Parliament today (Cm148) and a copy is attached. I am grateful to the Chair and members of the DDRB for their report.

The government is today announcing pay rises for Doctors and Dentists working across the NHS.

Building on our ambition to make the NHS the Best Place to Work, as set out in the NHS Interim People Plan, this is a pay rise that recognises the hard work and dedication of Doctors and Dentists and puts forward an approach for a potential multi-year deal with contract reform for specialty and associate specialist (SAS) doctors to enhance recruitment, retention, morale and productivity for this group.

We have recently agreed multi-year deals for both non-medical Agenda for Change staff and Doctors and Dentists in training and this is part of our approach to make the NHS the best employer in the world whilst supporting the NHS workforce to deliver excellent patient care.

Thanks to the government's balanced approach to public finances – getting debt falling as a share of our economy, while investing in our vital services and keeping taxes low, we are able to continue our flexible approach to pay policy, allowing us to attract and retain the best people for our hospitals.

We consider all pay awards in light of wider pressures on public spending. Public sector pay needs to be fair both for public sector workers and the taxpayer. Around a quarter of all public spending is spent on pay and we need to ensure that our public services remain affordable for the future.

It is also vital that our world class public services continue modernising to meet rising demand for the incredible services they provide, which improve our lives and keep us safe.

This pay rise represents one of the biggest uplifts in pay for medical staff for over a decade. In addition to their

pay, medical staff continue to benefit from defined benefit pensions, which are amongst the most generous available.

Today's pay award is worth:

- Between £1,940 and £2,630 for consultants
- Between £970 and £1,820 for Specialty Doctors
- Between £1,360 and £2,250 for Associate Specialists

The DDRB were asked not to make a pay recommendation for General Medical Practitioners as this is the first year of the recently announced five-year contract deal. As part of this agreement, core general practice funding will increase by £978 million per year by 2023/24 providing greater certainty for GMPs to plan ahead.

The Government's response to the DDRB recommendations takes account of affordability in the context of the NHS Long Term Plan and the 2019 Spending Review. Given the NHS budget is now set for the next five years, there is a direct trade-off between pay and staff numbers and our response takes account of this trade-off.

The Government's response is as follows:

### *Consultants*

- A 2.5% general uplift in pay backdated to April 2019.
- the value of both national and old style local clinical excellence awards (CEAs) to be frozen

### *Specialty Doctors (new grade 2008) and Associate Specialist (closed grade) (SAS doctors)*

The government takes note of the DDRB's comments on the particular issues of morale and motivation in relation to this group that led to their pay recommendation. We agree that investment in raising the profile and attractiveness of SAS doctor roles is important and we are committing to negotiations on a multi-year pay agreement, incorporating contract reform for SAS doctors. SAS doctors will receive

- A 2.5% general uplift in pay backdated to April 2019.
- The potential for an additional 1%, on top of the 2.5% already paid to be added to pay in 2020/21 conditional on contract reform, through a multi-year agreement.

### *Doctors and dentists in training*

On 27 June the government announced that Junior Doctors had overwhelmingly backed a four year deal incorporating pay increases and improved flexibility and working conditions. This brings to an end the junior doctors dispute and the British Medical Association (BMA) and NHS Employers have now collectively agreed the amended Junior Doctor Contract.

The four year deal guarantees pay increases of 2% per annum for the next four years and there will in addition be around £90m of investment into the contract including a new pay point for the most senior doctors in training, an allowance for those working less than full time to support flexible working and increased pay for those working the most weekends or whose shifts end in the early hours of



the morning. Taken alongside an 8.2% four year pay rise, this will give junior doctors and current medical students the support they fully deserve.

#### *General Dental Practitioners*

- A 2.5% general uplift in the pay element of their contract backdated to April 2019.

#### *General Medical Practitioner Trainers and Appraisers*

- A 2.5% increase in full to the value of the GMP trainers grant and the GMP appraisers' grant.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration  
[CCS207\_CCS0419070440-001\_DDRB\_Web Accessible.pdf  
published DDRB.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2019-07-22/HLWS1729/>

## **Senior Civil Service and Senior Military Pay Awards**

[HLWS1731]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** My right honourable friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

I am today announcing the Government's decision on pay for the senior civil service and senior military.

The Government received the Senior Salary Review Body's (SSRB) report on 2019 pay for the senior civil service, senior military and police and crime commissioners on 7 June 2019. This will be presented to Parliament and published on Gov.uk.

Thanks to the government's balanced approach to public finances – getting debt falling as a share of our economy, while investing in our vital services and keeping taxes low, we are able to continue our flexible approach to pay policy, allowing us to attract and retain the best people for our Civil Service and Senior Military.

We consider all pay awards in light of wider pressures on public spending. Public sector pay needs to be fair both for public sector workers and the taxpayer. Around a quarter of all public spending is spent on pay and we need to ensure that our public services remain affordable for the future.

It is also vital that our world class public services continue modernising to meet rising demand for the incredible services they provide, which improve our lives and keep us safe.

The Government values the independent expertise and insight of the Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB) and takes on board the valuable advice, principles outlined, and constructive challenge to the Government's recommendations outlined in the report. The Government will follow the SSRB's recommendations, subject to a small number of differences which are set out below.

Within the current context there remains a need to take into account workforce requirements and affordability when making decisions on senior pay, as well as fairness in the approach for senior and junior grades.

#### *Senior Civil Servants*

SSRB recommendations set a 2.2% pay award with money allocated in the following priority order:

- 0.9% targeted at pay progression and anomalies
- 0.2% set aside for minima increases
- 1% increase for all SCS not benefiting from the minima increases, and those benefiting by less than 1% from the minima increases should be 'topped up' to a 1% increase (estimated cost of 0.9% of the paybill)
- 0.2% set aside to implement any specialist pay proposals.

The SSRB also recommended reductions to the maxima and commented on priority work to be undertaken for the 2020-21 pay award.

The Government accepts the SSRB's recommendations in full with the following exceptions:

- The overall figure should be limited to an average 2% increase in line with the figure contained in the delegated pay remit guidance. The reduction of 0.2% will be taken from the money set aside for specialist pay which we will not be implementing this pay year.
- The Government accepts the recommendation to decrease the maxima for all pay bands, but to delay implementation of this to next year whilst further work is undertaken on capability-based pay progression to ensure the levels set are robust and there is a clear and positive narrative for reduction.

In addition to the above action for this year's pay award, the Government commits to:

- To develop and evaluate a credible robust capability based pay progression system
- continuing to review the SCS performance management system as a priority; and
- keeping under review the impact of the interaction between Civil Service pensions and the current tax rules on recruitment and retention.

The Government will continue to engage closely with the SSRB to help develop our proposals further and invites the review body to contribute towards the further review of the Senior Civil Service pay framework including the commitments made above.

#### *Senior Military Officers*

The Government has rejected the SSRB's headline pay award recommendation, and instead will implement a 2% consolidated pay award with effect from 1 April 2019. The Government has accepted the SSRB's recommendations on senior military salaries to maintain the 10% increase to base pay on promotion from 1-star rank and to not change the current pay differentials for senior medical and dental officers.



The Statement includes the following attached material:

Forty-First Annual Report on Senior Salaries 2019 [CP138.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2019-07-22/HLWS1731/>

## **Support for Armed Forces Personnel and Veterans**

[HLWS1747]

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

Our Armed Forces do an incredible job to protect us and our nation. They endure great hardships and separation from their loved ones, and they place themselves in harm's way and bear the physical and mental scars of traumatic experiences. They are prepared to risk their lives for us. We owe them a huge debt, and we also owe them justice and fairness.

The Government is clear that the Armed Forces are not above the law. It is right that whenever the Armed Forces embark on operations outside of the UK our people and their chain of command are bound to abide by the criminal law of England and Wales, as well as international humanitarian law as set out in the Geneva Conventions. Our service men and women are required to conform to the highest standards of personal behaviour and conduct. And when they fall short they must be held to account. Justice must be served.

The Government believes that, other than in exceptional circumstances, the conclusion of investigations into allegations made against members of the Armed Forces should draw a line – addressing the uncertainty faced by Armed Forces personnel concerned about the prospect of re-investigation and prosecution many years after the event. But the law as it stands cannot allow that line to be drawn with any confidence. That is why the Government believes change is needed to afford Armed Forces personnel and veterans greater protection from the threat of prosecution for alleged historical offences committed in the course of duty outside the UK. Armed Forces personnel and veterans should not be left with the threat of prosecution hanging over their heads for years to come, in circumstances where their actions have been investigated at the time.

Similar issues arise in relation to civil litigation. Military operations in Iraq resulted in litigation against the Ministry of Defence on an industrial scale: nearly 1,000 claims seeking compensation for personal injury or death (most of which also sought compensation for human rights violations), and approximately 1,400 judicial review claims seeking an European Convention on Human Rights-compliant investigation and compensation. Although the law does provide for a time limit in such cases, the Courts are currently given broad discretion as to whether to enforce that limit. The effect is

that claims have routinely been brought late, with huge numbers of compensation claims permitted to proceed long after the relevant time limit.

The later a claim is brought, especially in respect of allegations emanating from a war zone, the harder it is to assess in a fair and proportionate manner. Records may no longer be sufficiently detailed to be able to prove or disprove specific allegations, and the memories of those involved in incidents fade over time. In such circumstances, the Government may have to choose between settling claims – the merits of which have not been established – or putting Armed Forces personnel and veterans through the ordeal of giving evidence on the Ministry of Defence's behalf. This is unfair to our personnel and to the taxpayer, who must pay the associated legal costs.

All of this goes to the heart of what is known as 'lawfare' – the judicialisation of war. And the risks and impacts of lawfare are clear: in terms of the financial costs; the stress and strain placed on veterans; the potential impact on the morale of serving personnel and our ability to recruit future Armed Forces personnel; and the risk that decisions taken on operations may be corrupted in order to avoid the possibility of legal proceedings many years in the future – the "chilling effect" feared by military commanders.

This is why I announced on 21st May (HCWS 1575) my plans to take forward work to address this important and concerning issue. I am pleased to be able to announce today the launch of a public consultation on legal protections measures for the Armed Forces and veterans.

The consultation document contains proposed measures which we believe can be enacted in a manner which is consistent with our obligations under domestic and international law, while providing genuine benefits to our personnel:

- First, a proposal to legislate for a presumption against prosecution of current or former Armed Forces personnel for alleged offences committed in the course of duty outside the UK more than ten years ago. This measure would in effect raise the threshold to be applied by prosecutors when considering whether a prosecution is genuinely in the public interest in such cases. Two different options are set out in the consultation document for how this measure could be enacted.

- And secondly, a proposal to ensure that going forward, the law reflects the unique pressures faced by Armed Forces personnel while deployed on operations outside the UK, through the creation of a new partial defence to murder. This would be available to current and former Armed Forces personnel who caused a death in the course of duty outside the UK through using more force than strictly necessary for the purposes of self-defence, providing that the initial decision to use force was justified. If convicted, the defence would reduce a conviction for murder to manslaughter.

As part of the consultation, we are also seeking views on a proposal to restrict the Court's discretion to extend

the normal time limit for bringing civil claims for personal injury and/or death in relation to historical events outside of the UK.

We hope that the proposals set out in the consultation will help ensure that our Armed Forces receive the justice and fairness that they are owed. And, through the consultation, we hope to test and refine what is proposed with the aim of bringing forward legislation as soon as possible.

### Supporting Families

[HLWS1743]

**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.

In the Good Work Plan, the Government announced the largest upgrade to workers' rights in a generation and set out a series of ambitious reforms to ensure the UK leads the world in meeting the challenges of the changing world of work. Building on these reforms, today the Government has launched a consultation on measures to support parents to enter, remain in and return to the workforce. Employees who feel that they are more in control of the balance between home and work commitments are more likely to be engaged at work. Their employers will benefit from greater employee loyalty, commitment and motivation and are likely to be able to draw on a wider pool of talent when recruiting.

The consultation seeks views on:

- high-level options for reforming parental leave and pay, and the costs, benefits and trade-offs of potential reforms;
- a proposal for a new entitlement to Neonatal Leave and Pay for parents of babies who require neonatal care following birth;
- whether employers should have a duty to consider whether a job can be done flexibly and make that clear when advertising a role;
- options for requiring large employers (those with 250 or more employees) to publish their family related leave and pay policies.

The Government's modern Industrial Strategy is creating a fairer and more equal workplace, to boost productivity and earning power for all. The consultation supports this by helping people manage their wider commitments in life benefiting both families and employers.

The consultation on parental leave and pay will run for 16 weeks and will end on 8 November. The remaining consultations will run for 12 weeks until 11 October 2019. The consultation can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/good-work-plan-proposals-to-support-families>.

I am placing a copy of the consultation in the Library of the House.

### Teachers' Pay and Conditions

[HLWS1746]

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

The School Teachers' Review Body (STRB) has recommended a 2.75% uplift to the minima and maxima of all pay ranges and allowances in the national pay framework, which is due to be implemented in Autumn 2019.

Last year, the government announced the largest pay rise in nearly a decade for almost a million public sector workers. Building on this, this year I have decided to accept in full the STRB's recommendations for a 2.75% uplift to the minima and maxima of all pay ranges and allowances.

The pay award will both raise starting salaries and increase the competitiveness of the pay framework. As a result, minimum starting salaries for classroom teachers will see an increase between £652 (Rest of England) and £816 (Inner London), and classroom teachers at the top of the main pay range could see an increase between £963 and £1,110. For more experienced classroom teachers at the top of the upper pay range, it could mean an increase of between £1,084 and £1,327.

As a result, the pay ranges for all teachers and leaders will see an uplift. Thanks to the flexible performance-based pay system we have, schools can choose to give teachers and leaders a higher pay rise where this is appropriate to their local context and budget

As this award is more than the 2% we assessed was affordable in our evidence to the STRB, I will invest a further £105 million into the existing Teachers' Pay Grant this financial year. This is on top of the £321 million funding that schools are already receiving through the Teachers' Pay Grant in 2019-20.

Last year, we specifically targeted early career pay because of the growing retention challenges within the first 5 years of a teacher's career. The STRB has recognised the improvements we have made to the unqualified and main pay ranges following the 2% uplift to the main pay range in 2017 and 3.5% uplift to both in 2018.

It is now vitally important to increase the competitiveness of the pay framework and help address the teacher supply challenges across the workforce. This year's pay award will also support the Teacher Recruitment and Retention Strategy, which I published in January this year. The strategy underpins the Early Career Framework, which provides a fully funded 2-year package of support for all early career teachers.

In addition to their pay, teachers continue to benefit from defined benefit pensions, which are amongst the most generous available.

Thanks to the government's balanced approach to public finances – getting debt to fall as a share of our economy, while investing in our vital services and

keeping taxes low – we are able to continue our flexible approach to pay policy, allowing us to attract and retain the best people for our schools.

We consider all pay awards in light of wider pressures on public spending. Public sector pay needs to be fair both for public sector workers and the taxpayer. Around a quarter of all public spending is spent on pay and we need to ensure that our public services remain affordable for the future.

It is also vital that our world class public services continue to modernise to meet rising demand for the incredible services they provide, which improve our lives and keep us safe.

I am grateful for the in-depth considerations the STRB has given in concluding their report and recommendations for the 2019 teachers' pay award.

I will deposit in the House libraries a full list of the recommendations and my proposed approach for all pay and allowance ranges.

My officials will write to all of the statutory consultees involved in the STRB's 29th remit and invite them to contribute to a consultation on my response to these recommendations and on a revised School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document and Pay Order. The consultation will last for 8 weeks.

### **Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures: 1 March 2019 to 31 May 2019**

[HLWS1740]

**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:

Section 19(1) of the Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures Act 2011 (the Act) requires the Secretary of State to report to Parliament as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of every relevant three-month period on the exercise of his TPIM powers under the Act during that period.

The level of information provided will always be subject to slight variations based on operational advice.

TPIM notices in force (as of 31 May 2019)	3
TPIM notices in respect of British citizens (as of 31 May 2019)	3
TPIM notices extended (during the reporting period)	0
TPIM notices revoked (during the reporting period)	1
TPIM notices revived (during the reporting period)	0
Variations made to measures specified in TPIM notices (during the reporting period)	4
Applications to vary measures specified in TPIM notices refused (during the reporting period)	0
The number of current subjects relocated under TPIM legislation (as of 28 February 2019)	1

The TPIM Review Group (TRG) keeps every TPIM notice under regular and formal review. The second quarter TRG meetings took place on 4 and 13 June 2019.

On 15 March 2019 an individual was convicted for seven breaches of his TPIM notice and was sentenced to 16 months imprisonment.

On 22 March 2019 the trial of an individual charged with breaching his TPIM notice was discontinued as the jury could not reach a majority verdict. The CPS elected not to seek a re-trial as it was assessed not to be in the public interest.

On 13 May 2019 an individual was sentenced for one breach of his TPIM notice. He was sentenced to two years imprisonment (suspended for two years), a 12 hour curfew to be observed for 12 months, 150 hours unpaid work, 18 months attendance at an extremist risk guidance and identity help programme and a victim surcharge and collection order.

### **UN Mission: Sahel Region**

[HLWS1736]

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

Reflecting our continued commitment to multilateralism and international peace and security, the UK continues to support increased engagement in the Sahel under the Government's new strategic approach to Africa.

We have committed to reinforcing our support for countries on the front line of instability, including stepping up to the UK's role in tackling the underlying causes of poverty and conflict in Mali and the wider Sahel region (Mali, Niger, Chad, Burkina Faso and Mauritania).

I therefore wish to announce to the House the intention to expand the UK's contribution to The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) by deploying a Long-Range Reconnaissance Task Group of 250 personnel in 2020. The UK will support the Mission in implementing its mandated tasks - to support the implementation of the peace Agreement, promote stability in central Mali and to protect civilians, including supporting the rights of women and children.

The UK's intent is to provide the UN with high-quality forces to missions where their capabilities are most in demand. The UK contribution will provide improved situational awareness and information provision that will help the Mission – military and civilian – in support of the mandate, to progress towards a long-term and sustainable peace in Mali. This will signal a significant shift in the UK's approach to peacekeeping as we bridge the gap between those who pay and those who deliver by providing a highly employable, highly capable task force.

This announcement is a significant uplift from the two military staff officers the UK currently contributes to MINUSMA HQ, and the funding of a civilian role to

support the UN's work on Sahel issues. It also demonstrates a continued commitment to UN peacekeeping following the completion of our commitment in 2020 to the UN mission in South Sudan.

The UK is committed to supporting the international community in combating instability in Mali, as well as strengthening our wider military engagement across the Sahel region, and is proud to do so under the auspices of the United Nations.

# Written Answers

Monday, 22 July 2019

## Alternatives to Prosecution

*Asked by Baroness Gould of Potternewton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why they introduced community resolution orders as informal punishments for low-level offences in 2014; who was responsible for their introduction; and whether their use was approved by the Home Secretary. [HL16980]

*Asked by Baroness Gould of Potternewton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance they provide to police forces in England and Wales on the criteria for determining whether a person should be subject to a community resolution order rather than an alternative punishment; and who determines whether or not to use a community resolution order. [HL16981]

*Asked by Baroness Gould of Potternewton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that community resolution orders are being used for more serious offences than originally intended; and what plans they have to prevent such orders being used for anything other than low-level crimes. [HL16982]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** Out of Court Disposals (OOCs) allow police to deal quickly and proportionately with low-level offending without recourse to the courts. One type of OOC is community resolution. This is a non-statutory disposal that can be administered by police forces when the offender accepts responsibility for the offence, and in most cases, where the victim has agreed that they do not want more formal action taken.

'Community resolution' is a nationally recognised term for a disposal which has been in use by police for some years, and prior to 2014. In 2014, following consultation, the Ministry of Justice identified support for community resolution as part of a simplified framework for OOCs in which all disposals had conditions attached.

The College of Policing hold guidance on the use of community resolutions:

<http://library.college.police.uk/docs/appref/Community-Resolutions-Incorporating-RJ-Final-Aug-2012-2.pdf> (this was also summarised as part of a quick reference guide published by Ministry of Justice in 2013: <https://www.yjlc.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/MoJ-Quick-reference-guides-out-of-court-disposals-2013.pdf>).

Individual decisions around the appropriateness of issuing an OOC are an operational matter for police.

Typically, a Constable, Police Community Support Officer or Police Staff Investigator can decide to issue a community resolution, in accordance with Authorised Professional Practice, gravity matrices and local force policies which inform decision making.

Police and partners have a range of measures in place to ensure appropriate use of Out of Court Disposals. Supervisors are expected to check decision-making of their staff regularly. Out of Court Disposal scrutiny panels are also in place with external representation - these review in detail a selection of cases to determine whether the method of disposal is considered appropriate, based on a review of the information/evidence available to the decision maker at the time.

Government works closely with the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) whose Charging and Out of Court Disposals strategy (2017-2021) sets out their position and support for forces around OOCs. We publish data and pay attention to trends in the use of Out of Court Disposals on an ongoing basis.

## Armed Forces: Mefloquine

*Asked by The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford on 10 July (HL16834), what steps the Ministry of Defence has taken to address the concerns of the European Medicines Agency Pharmacovigilance Assessment Committee 2014 report on the toxicity of mefloquine (Lariam); and if they have not taken any such steps, why not. [HL17221]

**Earl Howe:** Anti-malarial drugs are prescribed to Service personnel with the UK product information leaflet. For mefloquine, this reflects the recommendations of the Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee of the European Medicines Agency.

All anti-malarial drugs have contraindications and a side effect profile which can be found in the British National Formulary or online at the Electronic Medicines Compendium. It is Ministry of Defence policy that healthcare professionals undertake a health risk assessment and to warn patients of the possible side effects of any anti-malarial drug.

## China: Ethnic Groups

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that Muslim children are being separated from their families, faith and language in schools in Xinjiang; and what representations they intend to make about such separations to the government of China. [HL16968]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We have serious concerns about the detention of more than a million Uyghurs, along with widespread surveillance and restrictions targeted at minorities. British diplomats in China visit Xinjiang every few months, in order to see at first-hand the situation there. They most recently visited in May 2019, and their observations have supported much of the recent open source reporting about the restrictions targeted at specific ethnic groups.



Ministers and senior officials frequently raise the human rights issues in the region with their Chinese counterparts, most recently in a public statement on 3 July at the 41st session of the UN Human Rights Council. The Foreign Secretary also highlighted our concerns with Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi during his most recent visit to China, in July 2018. Later that month, the Minister for Asia and the Pacific did the same with his Chinese counterpart Vice Minister Guo Yezhou. Additionally, our Embassy in Beijing regularly raises the treatment of Uyghurs in Xinjiang with the Chinese authorities.

Reports about forced separation of children add to the growing body of disturbing evidence highlighting the situation Uyghurs face in Xinjiang. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and raise our concerns with the Chinese government at all levels bilaterally and in appropriate UN fora, including the Human Rights Council.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that in one township in Xinjiang more than 400 children have lost both of their parents to some form of internment in camps or prisons; and what assessment they have made of whether those internments are part of a campaign to systematically remove children from their roots and their family's beliefs. [[HL16969](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We have serious concerns about the detention of more than a million Uyghurs, along with widespread surveillance and restrictions targeted at minorities. British diplomats in China visit Xinjiang every few months, in order to see at first-hand the situation there. They most recently visited in May 2019, and their observations have supported much of the recent open source reporting about the restrictions targeted at specific ethnic groups.

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*Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of China about reports of (1) forcible separations, and (2) re-education, of Uighur children in the eastern province of Xinjiang. [[HL17001](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We have serious concerns about the detention of more than a million Uyghurs, along with widespread surveillance and restrictions targeted at minorities. British diplomats in China visit Xinjiang every few months, in order to see at first-hand the situation there. They most recently visited in May 2019, and their observations have supported much of the recent open source reporting about the restrictions targeted at specific ethnic groups.

Ministers and senior officials frequently raise the human rights issues in the region with their Chinese counterparts, most recently in a public statement on 3 July at the 41st session of the UN Human Rights Council. The Foreign Secretary also highlighted our concerns with Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi during his most recent visit to China, in July 2018. Later that month, the Minister for Asia and the Pacific did the same with his Chinese counterpart Vice Minister Guo Yezhou. Additionally, our Embassy in Beijing regularly raises the treatment of Uyghurs in Xinjiang with the Chinese authorities.

Reports about forced separation of children add to the growing body of disturbing evidence highlighting the situation Uyghurs face in Xinjiang. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and raise our concerns with the Chinese government at all levels bilaterally and in appropriate UN fora, including the Human Rights Council.

## **Commonwealth Games 2022: Finance**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the capital costs of the forthcoming Commonwealth Games in Birmingham; and how those costs will be split among (1) central government, (2) local and regional authorities, and (3) the Commonwealth and other sources. [[HL17083](#)]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The public funding for the 2022 Commonwealth Games was announced on 25 June 2019 and will be £778m. This funding will be split approximately 75%/25% between investment from central government (£594m) and Birmingham City Council and a number of its key partners in the region (£184m). Further funding will be raised from commercial revenue. This funding includes public contribution to the stadium and aquatics centre which are both currently subject to commercial negotiations.

A number of other infrastructure projects with funding from other sources will deliver benefits for the Games. These include a £496m development of 1,400 new homes at Perry Barr, which will include government funding of £165m from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, with the remainder coming from BCC and its partners, which will serve as the athletes' village.

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether staffing and other running costs of the forthcoming Commonwealth Games in Birmingham will be covered by (1) admission charges, (2) sponsorships, (3) advertising income, and (4) other means; and if not, who will be responsible for any deficit. [[HL17084](#)]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The budget for the 2022 Commonwealth Games that was announced on 25th June 2019 includes funding for staffing and running costs for the Organising Committee for the 2022 Commonwealth Games. In addition to public funding, commercial revenue will be raised from ticketing, sponsorship, merchandise and broadcast rights sales. The funding arrangements are as described in the Written Ministerial Statement of 25th June.

### Crime: Taxis

*Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many crimes have been recorded as committed by drivers of private hire vehicles in each year since 2013. [[HL17109](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office collects and publishes data for notifiable crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales. From this data, specific offences where a private hire vehicle was involved are not distinguishable, and so Home Office does not hold this information.

### Criminal Proceedings: Evidence

*Asked by Lord Carlile of Berriew*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what changes, if any, they plan to make to disclosure procedures operated by the police and the Crown Prosecution Service to ensure that (1) trials are not disrupted by late or inadequate disclosure, and (2) incursions into the privacy of complainants and witnesses are material and proportionate. [[HL17033](#)]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** There has been unprecedented joint commitment and focus from the police and the CPS to finding solutions to the problem of getting disclosure right.

Proper disclosure of unused material is vital if there is to be a fair trial. That is why in 2018 the Attorney General published his review, looking at the efficiency and effectiveness of the current disclosure system, including how sensitive data is handled. We are now working hard to implement the recommendations made in the review,

and extensive action has already been undertaken to bring about necessary changes. The government remains committed to ensuring that errors in the disclosure process are driven down to their absolute minimum.

### Disadvantaged: Children and Young People

*Asked by Lord Bird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what assessment they have made of the report by Barnardo's *Overcoming Poverty of Hope*, published on 8 July; and what steps they intend to take to improve how they (1) listen to, and (2) act upon, the concerns of younger generations. [[HL16973](#)]

**Baroness Buscombe:** We welcome the *Overcoming Poverty of Hope* report which provides valuable insight into young people's views and concerns about their own future.

We are committed to providing support for young people so that everyone, no matter what their start is in life, is given the best chance of getting into work. The department has a variety of support for young people such as the Youth Obligation Support Programme which provides support tailored to the needs and ambitions of individual 18 to 21 year olds. We have been working with Barnardo's to develop a pilot specifically for care leavers. The pilot offers enhanced work experience and a personal mentor to support the care leaver throughout the placement, building the skills and confidence needed to start a career.

### Doctors: Tax Allowances

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to revisit the 2016 rule changes to tax relief for medical practitioners, in order to resolve the current staffing crisis. [[HL17005](#)]

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

Pensions tax relief is one of the most expensive reliefs in the personal tax system. In 2017/18 income tax and employer National Insurance Contributions relief cost over £50 billion, with around two-thirds going to higher and additional rate taxpayers.

The tapered annual allowance is therefore focused on the highest-earning savers, to ensure that the benefit they receive is not disproportionate to that of other pension savers. Less than one per cent of pension savers will have to reduce their saving or face an annual allowance charge as a result of the tapered annual allowance.

The Government recognises that some senior clinicians face tax charges owing to the increase in the value of their pension accrual. The tax rules must apply identically to everyone in the same situation, regardless of their employer.

However, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has announced plans to consult on proposals for a new flexibility for senior clinicians in the NHS pension scheme via the introduction of a 50:50 option. This option will give senior clinicians in England and Wales more choice in respect of their pension accrual, and therefore better control in relation to any pensions tax charges.

### Emergency Services: Counselling

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to introduce mandatory weekly counselling sessions for (1) frontline police officers in England and Wales, and (2) ambulance staff in England. [\[HL17095\]](#)

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Front line police officers in England and Wales

Each Chief Constable has a duty to manage and support their workforce effectively, ensuring the welfare of all officers and staff. It is therefore for Chief Constables to determine the appropriate wellbeing and occupational health provision within their police forces, including access to counselling.

The Government takes the issue of police welfare very seriously and has invested in programmes which offer help directly to officers and staff. In July 2017 the Home Office awarded £7.5 million from the Police Transformation Fund to the College of Policing over three years to pilot and, if these pilots were successful, roll out a dedicated national service to help provide enhanced welfare support to serving police officers and staff.

Following two years of development and piloting, the National Police Wellbeing Service (NPWS) was launched in April 2019. The NPWS has developed evidence-based guidance, advice, tools and resources which can be accessed by forces, as well as individual officers and staff.

Ambulance staff in England

Policy relating to ambulance staff is the responsibility of the Department for Health and Social Care.

### Emergency Services: Sirens

*Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord West of Spithead on 15 November 2007 (HL80), what action they are taking to ensure that drivers of emergency service vehicles (1) are aware of, and (2) abide by, the restrictions on the use of sirens at night when other vehicles are not on the road set out in regulation 99 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986. [\[HL17092\]](#)

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** It is for the emergency services to consider how best to use sirens for maximum effectiveness and minimum disturbance. Subject to the regulations and any guidance from the respective services, drivers of emergency vehicles are

expected to use their professional judgment to decide when and where the use of sirens is appropriate.

Drivers ought to be fully aware that sirens must be used with restraint, particularly at night, so as not to cause a nuisance to residents or other road users. There will, however, always be occasions when it is necessary for the emergency services to use sirens in the interests of road safety and the protection of the public.

### Eritrea: Health Centres

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 4 July (HL16637), whether they can now provide an assessment of the impact of the government of Eritrea's enforced closure of Church-run health centres; whether staff in Eritrea have been able to visit and gather evidence of the impact of such closures on the local community; what assessment they have made of the reported deaths resulting from the closure of those facilities; and when they intend to raise this matter with (1) the government of Eritrea, and (2) the Eritrean Ambassador to the UK. [\[HL16970\]](#)

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We understand that the majority of the Catholic Church managed health centres recently closed by the Eritrean Government have reopened under Ministry of Health management. Due to restrictions on travel, and with no independent media in Eritrea, it is difficult for UK Embassy staff to verify these reports themselves or the consequences of the original closures. The Eritrean Government has stated that the closures are part of a long-term plan to bring all healthcare provisions under the Government. We have raised with the Eritrean Ambassador in London and our Ambassador in Asmara has requested a meeting with the Eritrean Foreign Minister.

### Financial Services: Education

*Asked by Lord Evans of Watford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to support (1) the introduction of financial education, and (2) the understanding of consumer products, in secondary schools. [\[HL17111\]](#)

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** Education on financial matters helps to ensure that young people are prepared to manage their money well, make sound financial decisions and know where to seek further information when needed. In 2014, financial literacy was made statutory within the national curriculum as part of the citizenship curriculum for 11-16 year olds. Pupils are taught the functions and uses of money, the importance of personal budgeting, money management and the need to understand financial risk. We have also introduced a rigorous new mathematics curriculum, which provides young people with the knowledge and mathematical skills to make important financial decisions.

An understanding of consumer products and how they are advertised can be important in personal finances. In the statutory relationships, sex and health education guidance, to be implemented in all schools within England from September 2020, it states that pupils should be taught about how advertising is targeted at them, and how they should be discerning consumers of information online. The department has published further guidance on teaching online safety, to support schools in their delivery of online safety content within their curriculum and wider whole school approaches. This guidance is attached and is available [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teaching-online-safety-in-schools): <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teaching-online-safety-in-schools>.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL17111\_PDF

[HL17111\_Teaching\_online\_safety\_in\_schools.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-07-11/HL17111>

### **Government Departments: Bain and Company**

*Asked by Lord Hain*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Young of Cookham on 15 July (HL16911), whether they will cease using Bain and Company for consultancy work. [HL17296]

*Asked by Lord Hain*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Young of Cookham on 15 July (HL16909), whether they will now (1) cancel existing future contracts, and (2) commit to not taking out any future contracts, with Bain and Company in the light of its consultancy work for the South African Revenue Service. [HL17297]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** I refer the noble Lord to my answer given to Question HL16911 on 15 July 2019.

### **Intelligence Services: Languages**

*Asked by Viscount Waverley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people whose first language is not English are employed by each of the intelligence agencies; what languages they speak; and what assessment they have made of the adequacy of language proficiency in the intelligence services. [HL17014]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government has a longstanding policy of not commenting on intelligence matters.

### **Iran: Nuclear Fuels**

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they intend to take in response to the government of Iran's announcement on 8 July that it had exceeded the stockpile limit of its low-enriched uranium permitted by the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action 2015 (JCPOA), and that government's stated intention to continue to raise the level at which it enriches uranium above the threshold allowed by the JCPOA. [HL17088]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The International Atomic Energy Agency has now verified that Iran has exceeded its JCPOA low enriched uranium (LEU) stockpile and enrichment limits. We have called on Iran to immediately reverse these actions and not to take further steps. With other parties to the deal we are urgently considering next steps under the JCPOA, including convening a Joint Commission.

### **Israel: Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty**

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 4 July (HL16619), whether they expect the government of Israel to join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty; if so, when; and what steps they are taking, with international partners, to encourage that government to join that treaty. [HL17066]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government continues to support the universalisation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), as recently set out in the UK's draft National Report to NPT's 2019 Third Preparatory Committee. While we are not aware of any current plans by Israel to accede to the NPT, the Government will continue to urge Israel, and all States that have not yet done so, to sign and ratify.

### **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 mother of a wanted Palestinian child was abducted and imprisoned in order to pressure that child to turn themselves in for interrogation. [HL17065]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** While we have not made any representations on this specific issue, we continue to have strong concerns about continued reports of ill-treatment of Palestinian minors and to seek improvements to Israeli practices. We continue to urge Israel to provide the necessary protections for Palestinian children living in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and to fulfil their obligations under international law.



*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that Israeli authorities are withholding the bodies of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces until certain conditions have been met, including the payment of 25,000 shekels. [[HL17067](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We have not made an assessment of this issue. We urge all sides to treat casualties and the dead with respect and urge Israel to return any bodies they are holding.

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel following reports that Israel's High Court of Justice refused to hear an Israeli human rights organisation's petition that Palestinian minors held in Israeli prisons should be allowed to call their parents. [[HL17069](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** While we have not raised the specific issue, we continue to have strong concerns about continued reports of ill-treatment of Palestinian minors in Israeli military detention. We continue to make representations to the Israeli authorities on this issue and we remain committed to working with Israel to secure improvements to the practices surrounding Palestinian children in detention in Israel. I discussed this issue in Parliament on 8 July, and officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv last raised our concerns with the Israeli Ministry of Justice on 6 June.

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the extent to which the United States-led Peace to Prosperity workshop, held in Bahrain on 25 to 26 June, has advanced efforts to find a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. [[HL17087](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We welcome US efforts to support the development of the Palestinian economy. It is important that economic discussions complement a political process, which is ultimately required to unlock lasting and sustainable economic growth for Palestinians and overdue peace in the region. A peace deal and the lifting of access and movement restrictions would generate the ultimate economic dividend not only for the Occupied Palestinian Territories but also for Israel, Jordan, Egypt and the wider region. The UK's longstanding position on the Middle East Peace Process remains that we support a negotiated settlement leading to a two-state solution based on 1967 borders, with Jerusalem as the shared capital of both states.

## Israeli Settlements

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about reports that it allowed a settler organisation

to acquire the home of a Palestinian family in Silwan, East Jerusalem, following their eviction. [[HL17070](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** While we have not made any representations on this specific issue, we continue to be gravely concerned by the impact of demolitions and evictions on ordinary Palestinians and the impact this has on the viability of a future Palestinian state. Demolitions and evictions of Palestinians from their homes cause unnecessary suffering to ordinary Palestinians; call into question Israel's commitment to a viable two-state solution; and, in all but the most exceptional of cases, are contrary to International Humanitarian Law. On 26 April the EU issued a statement, on behalf of the UK and other EU Member States, requesting that Israel reconsider the pending demolition orders in Silwan. We fund a number of projects to monitor and report on settlement expansion in East Jerusalem and the West Bank and to protect vulnerable Palestinian communities from the effects of settlement expansion.

## Jerusalem

*Asked by **Lord Hylton***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had, if any, with the government of Israel about (1) the demolition of Palestinian properties in East Jerusalem, (2) tunnelling in East Jerusalem, and (3) the activities of the Ateret Cohanim and Elad organisations. [[HL17116](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Our Embassy in Tel Aviv discussed our concerns about the increase in demolitions in East Jerusalem with the Israeli Authorities on 25 June. The nature of these demolitions which took place within an area of the West Bank controlled by the Palestinian Authority is particularly concerning and we continue to monitor the situation closely. We regularly make clear our serious concerns about the situation in East Jerusalem to the Israeli authorities, both bilaterally and in co-operation with EU partners. We are strongly opposed to any attempts to change the facts on the ground in the East Jerusalem. The UK continues to regard Israeli settlements as illegal under international law and an obstacle to peace, and we regularly raise our concerns about settlement activity with the Israeli authorities.

## Jerusalem: Excavation

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of any damage to Palestinian homes and the al-Aqsa Mosque in East Jerusalem caused by tunnels created by archaeological excavations beneath them. [[HL17068](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** While we have not made an assessment of this issue, we regularly make clear our serious concerns about the situation in East Jerusalem to the Israeli authorities, both bilaterally and in co-operation with EU partners. We are strongly opposed to any



attempts to change the facts on the ground in the East Jerusalem.

## Languages: Education

*Asked by Baroness Coussins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the 2019 Language Trends Survey, published by the British Council in July, in particular its findings that (1) disadvantaged pupils are less likely to take a language GCSE, and (2) only a quarter of state schools offer pupil exchanges abroad, compared to almost half of independent schools. [HL17079]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** The department notes the British Council Language Trends 2019 Survey and wants to see more pupils take languages at GCSE and experience international opportunities, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds. We have included languages as a pillar within the English Baccalaureate school performance measure to address the sharp fall in take up following the decision to make the subject non-compulsory at key stage 4 in 2004. This has seen the proportion of pupils who take languages GCSE increase from 40% in 2010 to 46% last year, and we want to see these numbers increase.

In the department's £4.8 million Modern Foreign Language (MFL) Pedagogy pilot programme, one of the 9 lead schools is in an Opportunity Area and another is in the Opportunity North East area. We have launched a pilot project in MFL undergraduate mentoring for secondary school pupils. This project specifically targets areas of high disadvantage to extend access to languages for all pupils and focuses on areas of low uptake. We are also piloting a financial incentive to improve the retention of MFL teachers in 25 local authorities that are most in need.

In partnership with the British Council, the department is offering thousands of young people the chance to take part in international exchanges and visits. Backed by £2.5 million, schools in England can apply for grants to take pupils aged 11 and above to visit partner schools around the world. The programme is principally focused on those from disadvantaged backgrounds and we want to encourage as many schools as possible to sign up for this opportunity.

## Libya: Politics and Government

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the current situation in Libya, following the removal of pro-Haftar militias from Gharyan by the government of National Accord; and what steps they are taking, together with international partners, to support a process of dialogue and negotiation in Libya. [HL17086]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK is deeply concerned by the continuing fighting, and actively engaged in international diplomatic efforts to bring it to an end. On 5 July we secured agreement to a UN Security Council statement stressing the need for all parties to urgently de-escalate and commit to a ceasefire. We are working closely with Security Council members, regional governments and UN Envoy Ghassan Salamé to convince the parties on the ground to return to a UN-led political process, the objective of which is to facilitate agreement on a more inclusive political settlement, which is the best way of stabilising the country.

## Ofsted: Training

*Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made, with Ofsted, in the implementation and training of Her Majesty's Inspectors who are subject specialists. [HL17076]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** This is a matter for Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, Amanda Spielman. I have asked her to write to my noble friend and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## Omar al-Bashir

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress is being made in bringing Omar al Bashir to trial at the International Criminal Court (ICC); what assessment they have made of the proposal that any ICC trial could take place in Khartoum if removal to the Hague is not acceptable to the government of Sudan; what resources they have offered to enable such a trial to occur; and what support they intend to provide to assist with (1) the training of judges, (2) ensuring credible judicial processes, (3) transitional justice mechanisms, (4) institutional reform, and (5) restitution for victims of violence in Sudan. [HL17018]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The arrest warrant against Omar al Bashir still stands and we urge the Sudanese authorities to cooperate with it. The UK strongly supports the mission of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and its independence. The location of any ICC trial is a matter for the Court to decide.

For a number of years, the UK has supported the strengthening of the Sudanese Parliament towards becoming an institution capable of providing effective scrutiny. Our Embassy in Khartoum has also supported civil society groups advocating on behalf of victims at international fora such as the Human Rights Council. As the transition deal is agreed, respect for human rights, accountability for past abuses and a process of rehabilitation for victims will be essential for its success.

We are assessing opportunities of further engagement and support to develop justice and reconciliation mechanisms offered by the current political environment.

## Parcels: VAT

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure more foreign companies sign up to the new parcel tax scheme in preparation for a possible no-deal Brexit. [[HL17003](#)]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** HMRC's Import VAT on Parcels online service was launched in February 2019 to allow businesses to prepare for a potential no deal EU exit, and remains open for registrations. HMRC are working with key partners to communicate the potential changes to overseas businesses. While HMRC expect registrations would increase if a no deal exit were confirmed, registration numbers for the online service are not a reliable indicator of overall readiness because there are other ways to pay import VAT on parcels via third parties.

## Pension Credit

*Asked by Lord Foulkes of Cumnock*

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. [[HL16979](#)]

**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 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 Pension Credit calculator at gov.uk 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.

## Philippines: UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the government of the Philippines has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC); and what plans they have to discuss with that government how the provisions of the UNCRC could be applied to children in detention in the Philippines. [[HL16990](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Philippines ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990.

Officials at our Embassy in Manila regularly raise the issue of Children in Conflict with the Law and the detention of children as part of the Embassy's engagement with the relevant local authorities and the Philippines security sector.

## Police: Recruitment

*Asked by Lord Wasserman*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 8 July (HL16591), how many people who have joined police forces through (1) the Direct Entry Inspector scheme, and (2) the Direct Entry Superintendent scheme, in each year since 2014 are still serving as police officers. [[HL17123](#)]

*Asked by Lord Wasserman*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 8 July (HL16591), what is the present rank of each of those who have joined police forces through (1) the Direct Entry Inspector scheme, and (2) the Direct Entry Superintendent scheme, in each year since 2014 and are still serving as police officers. [[HL17124](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Direct Entry Inspector Scheme • 17 people started the direct entry to inspector scheme in 2016. Of these, 13 are serving police officers: 11 in the rank of Inspector and two in the rank of Constable (the latter having resigned from the scheme and re-joined as Constables)

• 21 people started the direct entry to inspector scheme in 2017. Of these, 16 are serving police officers who are part way through the programme. All hold the rank of Probationary Inspector and are due to complete the programme in October 2019

• 17 people started the direct entry to inspector scheme in 2018. All are serving police officers who are part way through the programme. All hold the rank of Probationary Inspector and are due to complete the programme in November 2020.

Direct Entry Superintendent Scheme • Nine people started the direct entry to superintendent scheme in 2014. Of these, eight are still serving as police officers: seven at the rank of Superintendent and one at the rank of Chief Superintendent

- Six people started the direct entry to superintendent scheme in 2015. Of these, four are still serving as police officers: two at the rank of Superintendent and two at the rank of Chief Superintendent

- Eight people started the direct entry to superintendent scheme in 2016. Of these, seven are still serving as police officers: six at the rank of Superintendent and one at the rank of Assistant Chief Constable

- Six people started the direct entry to superintendent scheme in 2017. All six are still serving as police officers at the rank of Superintendent

- Four people started the direct entry to superintendent scheme in 2018. All are serving police officers who are part way through the programme and are now undertaking both their sergeant and inspector rotations in forces. They currently hold the rank of Probationary Superintendent and are due to graduate from the programme in March 2020.

### Police: Technology

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to invest in technology provided to police officers. [HL17096]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office is working closely with policing on technology investment plans.

The current police settlement includes both a significant portfolio of Home Office led technology programmes as well as the Police Transformation Fund which supports a further group of national and local police led programmes. These are delivering transformational opportunities for officers including mobile communications, biometrics and programmes to improve contact with the public. As part of preparation for a spending review we are designing plans which build on these programmes as well as seeking innovative solutions to more complex problems.

### Public Finance

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Young of Cookham on 8 July (HL16704), whether they will carry out a cumulative impact assessment of tax and spending decisions by gendered household type, which avoids the need to make assumptions about income sharing within households. [HL17162]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** The government carefully considers the impact of its decisions on those sharing

protected characteristics - including gender - in line with both its legal obligations and with its strong commitment to promoting fairness.

However, analysis of the impact of tax and spending decisions by gendered household type will present a partial picture of the impact of policy decisions on different genders as most people live in households with other people.

### Radicalism

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether government departments or agencies use the term "domestic extremism" in any capacity; and, if so, what assessment they have made of its (1) accuracy, and (2) validity, as a concept for policy and decision making. [HL17156]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We do not use the term "domestic extremism". Government departments use the definition of extremism set out in the Counter-Extremism Strategy published in October 2015 (CM9148).

The strategy defines extremism as: 'the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also regard calls for the death of members of our armed forces as extremist.

### Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Highways England holds a schedule of rates for (1) damage to Crown Property, and (2) unplanned and emergency works; and if so, whether they will publish those schedules. [HL17000]

**Baroness Vere of Norbiton:** On 24 June 2019, Highways England published a National Schedule of Repair Costs for damage to the network (Crown Property). This includes the rates for planned and reactive (unplanned) works. The schedule can be found on Highways England's website.

### Saudi Arabia: Military Aid

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 8 July (HL16673), whether they have assessed training provided to the Saudi Arabian military financed by the Integrated Activity Fund since the Court of Appeal ruling that the sale of arms to Saudi Arabia was unlawful. [HL17002]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** All IAF-funded project work undergoes assessment and review. We are not able

to disclose information related to particular IAF projects in greater detail as we have a duty to maintain the confidence and confidentiality of our partners.

### Schools: Census

*Asked by The Earl of Clancarty*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how nationality and country-of-birth data have been used by (1) the Department for Education, and (2) any other third party, since their collection from schoolchildren between October 2016 and June 2018. [HL17038]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** The department collected data on the nationality and country of birth of pupils via the school census for 2 years between autumn 2016 and summer 2018. The data was collected for the purposes of internal educational research, to help the department ensure that all children, wherever they are from, have the best possible education.

The department has so far published 2 (annual) high-level summaries of the pupil nationality, country of birth and proficiency in English data, which have been attached:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-nationality-country-of-birth-and-proficiency-in-english>.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-nationality-country-of-birth-and-proficiency-in-english-2018>.

This data has not been shared externally with third parties, including other government departments.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL17038\_PDF [HL17038\_Summary\_Report\_2017.pdf]

HL17038\_PDF [HL17038\_Summary\_Report\_2018.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-07-09/HL17038>

### Sudan: Human Rights

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they intend to have with the government of Sudan about that country becoming a signatory to the Convention on Torture; and whether they will table a motion at the United Nations Human Rights Council to seek a hearing on any violations of human rights, war crimes and genocide committed by the government headed by Omar al Bashir in Sudan. [HL17019]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK is very concerned by the human rights situation in Sudan, which is identified as a priority country in the UK's Annual Human Rights Report. Our Embassy in Khartoum monitors the human rights situation in Sudan closely, and frequently raises our concerns in meetings with the authorities. It also administers programmes and workshops to support greater progress on Sudan's human

rights obligations. In March 2018, our Embassy in Khartoum funded a workshop for senior representatives of the Sudanese Government, which focused on the steps needed for Sudan's ratification of the UN Convention against torture, which it signed in 1986. We will continue to provide support on this issue and to ensure Sudan meets its human rights obligations.

There must be accountability for the crimes committed by members of the former regime. We will continue to work with Troika (UK, US and Norway), EU, UN and regional allies to explore how best we can support accountability, including at the UN Human Rights Council in September.

### Sudan: Internet

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Sudan about (1) restoring access to the internet to its citizens, and (2) allowing the dissemination of information as required under Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human rights. [HL17020]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The British Government welcomes the restoration of access to the internet on 9 July. We were deeply concerned by the disruptions to the internet that began on 3 June. British officials in Khartoum, including the UK Envoy to Sudan and South Sudan, raised our concerns through direct and public messaging to the military leadership on 5 and 23 June. The Minister of State for Africa raised it when she summoned the Sudanese Ambassador on 6 June. The UK's statement at the UN Human Rights Council on 9 July called for the rights of the Sudanese people to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly to be respected. The Sudanese authorities must uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for all people in Sudan.

### Sudan: Politics and Government

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that members of the Transitional Military Council were guaranteed immunity from prosecution for the actions of the Sudanese armed forces and the Rapid Support Forces on 3 June in exchange for signing a power-sharing agreement with the Forces for the Declaration of Freedom and Change. [HL17017]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We are aware of reports that issues of accountability and immunity for members of Sudan's armed forces and Rapid Support Forces are part of the current negotiations between the Transitional Military Council and the Forces of Freedom and Change. We are not currently aware of any guarantees of immunity in respect of the events of 3 June. We welcome



the agreement between the Transitional Military Council and Forces of Freedom and Change to conduct a transparent and independent investigation into the violence committed against peaceful protestors since 11 April.

### Traffic Commissioners

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are conducting a review into the role of the Traffic Commissioners for Great Britain; if so, (1) whether they will place copy of any such review's terms of reference in the Library of the House, (2) what consultation is taking place as part of that review and with whom, and (3) when they expect to publish the conclusions of any such review. [HL16972]

**Baroness Vere of Norbiton:** The Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) is conducting an internal review of the Office of the Traffic Commissioner (OTC) to consider ways of working and potential for efficiencies. It has consulted trade associations as part of this process. This is an internal review and therefore DVSA will not be publishing its terms of reference or any conclusions. DVSA expects to complete the review in early autumn 2019.

### Turkey: Iraq

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that Turkey is planning to establish a permanent military base in the Hakurk region of northern Iraq; and whether the government of Iraq is in agreement with any such plan. [HL16987]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We are aware of media reports stating that Turkey is planning to establish a permanent military base in the Hakurk region of northern Iraq. We cannot verify the accuracy of these reports, nor the consent of the Government of Iraq on this matter. We continue to urge dialogue between Iraq and Turkey, in order to ensure sustained co-operation in combatting terrorism in the region.

### Type 26 Frigates

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether contingency work has occurred with BAE Systems to ascertain whether the T26 programme could be accelerated in a time of national emergency or for any other reason; and if not, why not. [HL17238]

**Earl Howe:** I refer the noble Lord to the answer I gave to the noble Lord, Lord Moonie on 12 March 2019 in response to Question number HL14108.

Any Ministry of Defence plan could be subject to revision in the event of a national emergency if the nature of that emergency required it.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL14108 - Type 26 Frigates [HL14108 - Lord Moonie - Type 26 Frigates.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-07-16/HL17238>

### Type 31 Frigates

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the action information system in the Type 31e frigates will be compatible with that in the Type 26 frigates in terms of operations room training and cross-operating of personnel. [HL17237]

**Earl Howe:** The Type 31e frigate programme is currently in its Competitive Design Phase. I am unable at this time to comment on the ship systems being offered by the bidders as to do so would be prejudicial to the commercial interests of the Ministry of Defence.

### USA: Detention Centres

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they intend to have with the government of the United States about the case for independent inspections of detention centres for refugees and migrants held near the frontier with Mexico. [HL16989]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We share concerns over recent reports on the conditions faced in US detention facilities. The President signed a Bill on 1 July providing emergency funding, including humanitarian support, in part to help address those conditions. We will continue to monitor the situation, but immigration policy in the US, including the conduct and manner of independent inspections, is a matter for the US Government.

### Whitehall History Publishing

*Asked by Lord Rodgers of Quarry Bank*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the last two publications in the series Whitehall Histories: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Publications previously edited by Gill Bennett and Keith Hamilton were last published; whether that series has continued; and if so, what are the next publications. [HL17057]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** I am pleased to report that the series Documents on British Policy Overseas (DBPO), now edited by Patrick Salmon and Richard Smith, is flourishing. DBPO is the documentary history of post-1945 British foreign policy published by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the series Whitehall Histories. The last two publications were: Series III, Volume X: The Polish Crisis and Relations with Eastern Europe, 1979-1982 (2017) and Series III, Volume XI: The Unwinding of Apartheid: UK-South Africa Relations,

1986-1990 (2019). The next publication, Series III, Volume XII: Britain and the Revolutions in Eastern Europe, 1989 is due out in autumn 2019.

### **Yemen: Human Rights**

*Asked by Lord Bates*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the conclusions and recommendations of the report by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Situation of human rights in Yemen, including violations and abuses since September 2014, published on 17 August 2018. [[HL16971](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We are deeply concerned by the human rights violations and abuses reported by the UN in August 2018. It is vital that all

parties to the conflict make every effort to promote and protect human rights. Yemen remains a human rights priority country for the UK. In the 2018 Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Human Rights and Democracy Report, we highlighted our concerns over women's rights including girls' education, the recruitment of child soldiers, arbitrary detention, and attacks on freedom of religion or belief and on freedom of speech and association. We have raised the FCO's report directly with the Human Rights Minister for the Government of Yemen, voicing our concerns. We will continue to work with all parties and international partners, including the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, to find a political solution to the conflict, in order to create the conditions to improve and protect human rights in Yemen.

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