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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
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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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Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon	Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Lord Ashton of Hyde	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
Baroness Barran	Whip
Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health and Social Care
Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Wales Office
Baroness Buscombe	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions
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Lord Henley	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
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Baroness Vere of Norbiton	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Transport, Whip
Baroness Williams of Trafford	Minister of State, Home Office
Lord Young of Cookham	Cabinet Office Spokesperson and Whip
Viscount Younger of Leckie	Whip

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Written Statements

Tuesday, 23 July 2019

Advancing our Health: Prevention in the 2020s

[HLWS1758]

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:

Further to the Prevention Vision published on 5 November 2018, I wish to inform the House of the publication of the green paper, *Advancing our Health: Prevention in the 2020s*. The consultation will launch today and will run for 12 weeks.

For the first 70 years of the NHS, we have been successful in helping people live longer. Life expectancy has increased by almost 30 years over the past century. Cancer survival rates are up, mortality rates from heart disease and stroke are down.

Despite this progress, over 20% of our lives are spent in poor health. On average, men born today can expect to live 16 years in poor health and women 19 years. There is also a clear social gradient, with people in deprived areas living shorter lives in poorer health. Now we must move from thinking about life span to health span: the number of years we can expect to live healthy, independent lives.

The NHS is already making good progress, placing prevention at the heart of its Long-Term Plan and supported by our record £20.5bn additional investment. In the years ahead, the challenge is to deliver on these commitments, to move from a national treatment service (focussed on illness) to a national wellness service (focussed on good health), and to work even more closely with local authorities who have specific responsibilities around prevention and influence many of the determinants of good health.

As well as modernising prevention services, we also need to lay the foundations for good health across society and make healthy choices easier. This is because less than a quarter of our health is shaped by the services we receive.

Our health is our greatest asset. Just as we save for our retirement, we should be investing in our health throughout life. We know that some people find this easier than others. Not because of innate differences in their values or beliefs, but because of differences in their experiences and circumstances. We believe that everybody has the right to a solid foundation on which to build their health. This means giving our children a good start and growing the conditions for good health throughout life.

When it comes to living a healthy life, the modern world presents many challenges. It can feel like the odds are stacked against us. This green paper is not about

nannying but making healthier choices easier for people, so they are empowered to make decisions that are right for them and their families. To live a healthy, happier life, evidence suggests our focus should be on: eating a healthy diet, being physically active, being smoke-free and taking care of our mental health.

The commitments in the green paper help us towards our mission of healthy, happier lives. We aim to publish a government response by Spring 2020, setting out our proposals in more detail.

Health is a shared responsibility. Only by working together can we achieve our vision of healthier, happier lives for everyone.

Consumer Update

[HLWS1754]

Lord Henley: My Rt hon friend the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (Greg Clark) has today made the following statement:

Last week, on Thursday 18 July, I gave a speech at the Social Market Foundation which considered three current challenges in relation to competition. The speech is available on the department's website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/competition-rules-must-continue-to-evolve-with-emergence-of-digital-platforms>.

First, reducing consumer harm caused by the "loyalty penalty" in sectors such as cash savings, mortgages, household insurance, mobile phone contracts and broadband. Second, addressing the new competition issues that are arising in digital markets, including in relation to the market power of large platforms. Third, harnessing the power of competition to raising the UK's productivity.

In conjunction with this speech, the Government last week brought forward publications relating to the role and performance of the UK's competition institutions. Together, these pave the way for further consideration of potential reforms to address the challenges identified.

Strategic Steer to the Competition and Markets Authority

On Thursday 18 July, I published the Government's Strategic Steer to the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA). For each Parliament the Government issues a non-binding Strategic Steer to the CMA. The intention of the Steer is to support the CMA in achieving its legal duties and objectives to promote competition, both within and outside the UK, for the benefit of consumers and the UK economy. The Steer provides a transparent statement of how the Government sees competition fitting with its wider objectives for the economy alongside the CMA's accountability framework.

Review of Aspects of Competition Law

I also laid before Parliament on 18 July the review of aspects of the law on competition as required under sections 46 and 56 of the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013. The review considers the effectiveness

of competition enforcement and changes made to the competition regime by the 2013 Act.

The review finds that the direction of travel is broadly positive. More competition cases are being opened, merger reviews and market studies are being brought to conclusion more quickly, and stakeholder views suggest a good degree of confidence in the regime.

The review notes that we need to consider how well-equipped the UK's competition framework is to respond to current and future competition challenges. In its upcoming Competition Green Paper, the Government will take a wide-ranging look at the institutions, powers and tools that promote and enforce competition in the UK.

Consultation on the Statutory Audit Services Market

The Government has also published a consultation in response to the statutory audit services market study by the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA).

We have a problem with audit quality, as has been recognised and analysed by Sir John Kingman's review, the BEIS Select Committee, the CMA and, more recently, the Financial Reporting Council itself. This is why it is right that we continuously review our audit regime to maintain the UK's world-leading position.

In October 2018, I asked Lord Tyrie, Chair of the CMA, to consider what can be done to improve competition in the statutory audit sector. I took this action because I want the UK to continue to benefit from a high quality, competitive and resilient audit services market. Good governance underpins our modern Industrial Strategy and audits are a vital contributor to the trust and confidence required in a modern economy.

The CMA's final report concluded that the statutory audit market has fallen short of what the UK needs in a modern economy, and made a series of compelling and wide-reaching recommendations to improve quality and increase choice in the audit market. I am most grateful to Lord Tyrie and his colleagues for their detailed and comprehensive study, which captures evidence and views from a wide variety of stakeholders. I share their concerns, and I am pleased that this study complements a wider body of work being undertaken to improve audit quality. Most importantly, we have endorsed Sir John Kingman's recommendation to replace the Financial Reporting Council with an independent statutory regulator with a new mandate and powers.

The government is committed to creating a fit-for-purpose and proportionate regulatory regime that delivers a competitive and resilient audit market that works for shareholders, investors and the wider public. I would welcome views on the CMA's final proposals. I would also strongly encourage proposals from the sector outlining what they believe could be done to address the CMA's concerns on a voluntary basis ahead of regulatory intervention. The Government will then develop a full set of proposals for reform taking account of both the recommendations from the CMA and the outcome of Sir John Kingman's Review of the Financial Reporting Council. I do not believe that the government need wait

on the outcome of Sir Donald Brydon's review of the purpose of audit before continuing with the process of reform of the audit market.

The consultation document will be placed in the Libraries of the House and is available on the Gov.UK website. The consultation is open for 8 weeks and I look forward to the continued contribution of interested parties.

Crossrail

[HLWS1764]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: My Right Honourable friend, the Secretary of State for Transport (Chris Grayling), has made the following Ministerial Statement:

It has been a challenging year for the Crossrail project. Since August 2018 when Crossrail Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Transport for London (TfL), announced that the opening of the Elizabeth line through central London would be delayed, the project has been fully reviewed and reset.

Crossrail Ltd, TfL and the Department for Transport (DfT) have taken significant action in response to issues raised in the independent reviews by KPMG, as well as the reports from the National Audit Office, the Public Accounts Committee and the London Assembly's Transport Committee. Lessons have been learned and Crossrail Ltd and both project Sponsors, DfT and TfL, remain fully committed to the completion of the project which will transform London rail transport, and carry around 200 million passengers per year.

Actions taken this year have included:

- The commissioning and completion of two wide ranging and detailed independent reviews into the project's governance, commercial and financial agreements with all recommendations acted upon by June 2019.
- The agreement in December 2018 to an additional £2.15bn financing package to deliver the final stages of the project in a way that is fair to the UK taxpayer.
- The appointment of a new executive leadership team within Crossrail Ltd, a review of the organisational structure to ensure maximum efficiency, and the strengthening of the Crossrail Board to ensure the right skills are in place right across the organisation and its Board.
- The announcement in April 2019 of a revised schedule which confirmed a six month window for delivery of the central tunnel section between Abbey Wood and Paddington (not including Bond Street), with a mid-point in December 2020, with more certainty to follow as testing progresses.
- The publication in April 2019 of a joint report by the Department for Transport and the Infrastructure Projects Authority (IPA) on lessons learned from the sponsorship of major projects including Crossrail.

Despite the challenges, the project has seen some key achievements during this year. Main dynamic testing of the trains commenced in January, and Crossrail Ltd

recently achieved a further milestone with the commencement of close-headway testing of multiple trains in June.

Fifteen new Class 345 trains are in operation on the eastern and western parts of the route, building reliability and achieving a high standard of performance. Testing of the trains in the Heathrow tunnels is continuing and a TfL Rail service between Paddington and Reading is planned to commence in December of this year. This will be another important stepping stone to the opening of the full railway as soon as possible after the central section is completed.

The Network Rail (NR) On Network works on the eastern and western sections of the Crossrail route are well advanced. Over the past year, work completed has included the installation of the steelwork for new accessible footbridges, stairs and lift shafts at Ealing Broadway, West Ealing and Acton Main Line. The contracts to build and upgrade six ticket halls between Acton Main Line and West Drayton have been awarded, and the new ticket halls at Forest Gate and Gidea Park have now opened to the public.

Updated costings for Network Rail's programme show that the costs are now forecast at around £2.8bn. The additional costs are the result of some work taking longer than planned and have been managed by Network Rail from within its own internal budgets. No further funding has been provided from Government, and this has not had an impact on any other programmes.

Further details on Crossrail Limited's funding and finances in the period to 29 May 2019 are set out in the table below.

The coming months will be critical for the project as Crossrail Ltd work to complete the installation and integration of the tunnel, stations and signalling systems, and Network Rail continue their works on surface sections of the route. It remains a hugely complex project and uncertainty and risk remains across the programme, with significant testing and integration work remaining. The new leadership team has committed to being fully open and transparent as it works through the final stages of the project, which is supported by the Department and TfL. However, it is positive that Crossrail Ltd now has a new plan in place to complete the outstanding works and bring the Elizabeth line into passenger service at the earliest possible date. When complete, the Elizabeth line will transform the rail network in London, reducing overcrowding and increasing central London rail capacity by 10%.

During the passage of the Crossrail Bill through Parliament, a commitment was given that an annual statement would be published until the completion of the construction of Crossrail, setting out information about the project's funding and finances. The relevant information is as follows:

Total funding amounts provided to Crossrail Limited by the Department for Transport and TfL in relation to the construction of Crossrail to the end of the period (22 July 2008 to 29 May 2019)	£ 13,165,913,790
Expenditure incurred (including committed land and property spend not yet paid out) by Crossrail Limited in relation to the construction of Crossrail in the period (30 May 2018 to 29 May 2019) (excluding recoverable VAT on Land and Property purchases)	£ 1,481,243,170
Total expenditure incurred (including committed land and property spend not yet paid out) by Crossrail Limited in relation to the construction of Crossrail to the end of the period (22 July 2008 to 29 May 2019) (excluding recoverable VAT on Land and Property purchases)	£ 13,958,459,007
The amounts realised by the disposal of any land or property for the purposes of the construction of Crossrail by the Secretary of State, TfL or Crossrail Limited in the period covered by the statement.	£ 143,778,674

The numbers above are drawn from Crossrail Limited's books of account and have been prepared on a consistent basis with the update provided last year. The figure for expenditure incurred includes monies already paid out in relevant period, including committed land and property expenditure where this has not yet been paid. It does not include future expenditure on contracts that have been awarded.

Energy Policy: Net Zero Emissions

[HLWS1752]

Lord Henley: My Rt hon friend the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (Greg Clark) has today made the following statement:

On 27 June, the UK became the first major economy in the world to legislate to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

Achieving this target will require significant changes in the way we produce, deliver and use energy. We will need to harness the power of innovation and new technology to ensure the energy system remains flexible and resilient. We will need to provide confidence to businesses across the country to invest in a greener future by maintaining clear and stable policy frameworks. We will also have to ensure that as we move to cut greenhouse gas emissions across the economy, the security of our energy supplies is never in doubt and energy costs are kept low for all households and businesses.

As we set out on the path to reach net zero emissions, the government is today outlining a series of important reforms across the energy system. These include new approaches to how low-carbon infrastructure is financed, potential changes to the retail energy market so it works better for all consumers, a new strategy for tackling fuel poverty and significant changes to the way we set the detailed rules that govern the energy system.

The action we are taking today is only a first step. Continuous action over the next three decades by successive governments will be required if we are to end the UK's contribution to global warming and inspire the necessary action at a global level.

The government has today published the following public consultations and reviews:

Regulated Asset Base financing model for new nuclear projects

The government committed in January 2019 to publish an assessment of the Regulated Asset Base model as a means of financing new nuclear projects. We are today publishing that assessment as part of a public consultation on the Regulated Asset Base model. The purpose of this consultation is to set out the basis for our assessment and to seek views from a range of interested parties on how it could be implemented within the current energy system in such a way that allows new nuclear to be built at low cost to consumers. The consultation includes a set of core principles that have resulted from our feasibility assessment and considers important issues such as the approach to risk-sharing under such a model. This consultation will be open for responses until 14 October 2019.

Business models for Carbon Capture Usage and Storage (CCUS) projects

As we committed to in the CCUS Action Plan, we are today publishing a consultation on how we can bring CCUS projects to market in the years ahead. This is an important step in order to meet our Action Plan commitment of delivering the UK's first CCUS project from the mid-2020s. The consultation seeks views on possible CCUS business models for industry, power, and carbon dioxide transport and storage, as well as a framework to support hydrogen production with CCUS. The consultation sets out the risks that are inherent in first of a kind CCUS projects, and the possible delivery and coordination challenges of deploying CCUS at scale. This consultation will be open for responses until 16 September 2019.

The re-use of oil and gas assets for Carbon Capture Usage and Storage (CCUS) projects

This consultation fulfils the government commitment in the CCUS Action Plan to identify existing oil and gas infrastructure that has the potential for re-use and to develop a policy to support the development of CCUS in the UK. It seeks views on whether government should introduce a discretionary power for the Secretary of State to remove the decommissioning liability from previous oil and gas asset owners if assets are transferred to CCUS projects; and on changing guidance from the Oil and Gas Authority and government to encourage owners and operators of oil and gas assets to propose a period of suspension prior to decommissioning in circumstances in which there is a reasonable prospect of the asset being acquired by a CCUS project. This consultation will be open for responses until 16 September 2019.

Flexible and responsive energy retail markets

The consultation is issued in partnership with Ofgem and sets out a vision for the future energy retail market, the key challenges which the government and Ofgem wish to address, and the outcomes the retail energy market needs to deliver for all consumers. This includes how the regulatory framework may need to change to facilitate the introduction of innovative products and services that may face barriers today and could support our transition to a greener future. The consultation assesses the case for making reforms which could remove market distortions so as to improve the functioning of the energy retail market as a dynamic and competitive sector. The consultation also outlines how the energy retail market can benefit all consumers, ensuring they are able to secure a fair deal and receive a good level of customer service. This consultation will be open for responses until 16 September 2019.

Reforming energy industry codes

This consultation seeks to address the fact that the way the detailed rules governing the energy system are managed may be frustrating the shift towards a greener future. The consultation suggests creating a new function to translate the government's vision for the energy system into a strategic direction for codes, as well as giving code administrators more power to change codes, ensuring that vision can be delivered. We propose creating a new process that allows for greater agility in how codes and code changes are governed. We also set out an approach that will ensure we can deliver rules that are clear, accessible and simpler. This consultation will be open for responses until 16 September 2019.

Fuel Poverty Strategy

We are consulting on proposed reforms to the 2015 Fuel Poverty Strategy to ensure that the actions we are taking to support people out of fuel poverty are as effective as possible. This includes a potential change to the way that fuel poverty is measured to ensure that we are able to include all those living in fuel poverty. We also propose making changes to ensure that those most at risk from living in a cold home get the support they need by aligning our fuel poverty policies with medical evidence. We are also proposing a new principle which would ensure that policies contributing to the fuel poverty target are complementary to other government priorities such as the Clean Growth Strategy. This consultation will be open for responses until 16 September 2019.

Capacity Market five-year review and consultation on proposals for Capacity Market emissions limits

We are today publishing a five-year review of the Capacity Market mechanism. This review has found that the scheme is working effectively and performance against the original objectives has been achieved. In considering the future of the scheme, we propose focusing on specific areas of the scheme that will need to change as we maintain security of electricity supply while also moving towards net zero emissions. One of the first steps we propose to take is to implement a restriction on the

most polluting types of energy generation, such as coal, within the Capacity Market by introducing new carbon emissions limits. To implement these changes, we are today issuing a public consultation on carbon emission limits within the scheme. This consultation will be open for responses until 2 September 2019.

Facilitating energy efficiency in the electricity system

Increasing our ambition on improving energy efficiency across the UK energy system will be vital if we are to reach net zero emissions. The Electricity Demand Reduction pilot evaluation we are publishing today has concluded that energy efficiency projects are not yet ready to enter the GB Capacity Market. We are therefore publishing a Call for Evidence on market barriers to energy efficiency, and how we can create new markets for energy efficiency and secure its role in the wider energy market. This includes considering how energy efficiency could help reduce the requirement for network reinforcement and help compliment the growth in distributed generation. This Call for Evidence will be open for responses until 25 September 2019.

Funding for advanced nuclear technologies

In addition to the above consultations, we are today announcing that we are developing proposals to invest government money in the creation of innovative small modular reactors (SMRs) which are less expensive to build than traditional nuclear power plants. As stated to this house on 17 January, we have received a proposal from a consortium of businesses, led by Rolls-Royce, who have proposed a significant joint investment of more than £500m focused on designing a first-of-a-kind SMR. The consortium expects to more than match any Government funding both by direct investment and by raising funds from third party organisations that wish to invest.

The government can today confirm that the Consortium's proposal has been accepted into Wave 3 of the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund. The Challenge is to design a working model that could be operational by the early 2030s. We are looking to make an initial award of up to £18m to the Rolls-Royce-led consortium in early Autumn 2019. This is subject to final decisions to invest, including business case and other approvals, and this consortium representing the best option for pursuing this technology. The Rolls-Royce led consortium believes this new technology could create 40,000 jobs at its peak and each power station could produce enough clean energy to power 750,000 homes.

This money is alongside up to £45 million to be invested in the second phase of the Advanced Modular Reactor programme, with project bids currently under consideration.

The Office for Nuclear Regulation and the Environment Agency plan shortly to publish their modernised guidance for developers of SMRs on their Generic Design Assessment, the process through which reactor designs are scrutinised by the regulators prior to further necessary

regulatory steps, including site specific assessment and issuing of site licence and environmental permits, to enable subsequent deployment.

Firearms Licensing: Statutory Guidance

[HLWS1757]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: My rt hon Friend the Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service (Nick Hurd) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

Today, I am publishing a public consultation on the introduction of statutory guidance to the police on firearms licensing. The proposed guidance aims to ensure that the highest standards of public safety are maintained in the firearms licensing process, improving consistency between police forces and in court when licensing decisions are appealed. It is being introduced following a recommendation made by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services in September 2015, which found that police forces were not always following the Home Office firearms guidance, resulting in inconsistent application of the law.

We have acted on this recommendation and the Policing and Crime Act 2017 made provision for the Home Secretary to issue statutory guidance to the police on their firearms licensing functions. The police will have a duty to have regard to the guidance, which will include existing safeguards relating to firearms ownership, such as police background checks or the criteria around applicants with a history of domestic violence.

The draft guidance in the consultation also contains new proposals on the arrangements for assessing the medical suitability of firearms applicants, following consideration of how the system is currently operating, and concerns raised about the variation in practice across the country. It is important that the arrangements support doctors in providing the necessary medical information to the police who have responsibility for firearms licensing, and that the police are able to require sight of the medical information before they proceed to grant the firearm certificate. I am seeking views on these arrangements from all those with an interest so that we can ensure the system operates as effectively as possible. It is vitally important to ensure that those in possession of firearms are medically fit, to safeguard the public and the firearm certificate holder themselves.

The consultation is seeking views from police forces, firearms owners and other interested parties and the wider public on the contents of the proposed statutory guidance. I am also consulting the National Police Chiefs' Council and the Chief Constable of Police Scotland, as required by the legislation. I will consider very carefully the views which are put forward during the consultation, which will last for a period of eight weeks, following which the Home Office will publish the new statutory guidance. I am committed to efficient and effective operation of the firearms licensing system, and once the statutory guidance has been in place for a suitable period, I intend to review

the operation of the new medical arrangements to ensure they are working effectively.

Copies of the consultation along with the draft guidance and Impact Assessment will be made available on Gov.uk and will be placed in both Libraries of the House.

Government Chemist Review

[HLWS1755]

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

The twenty-second Annual Review of the Government Chemist has been received. The Review will be placed in the Libraries of the House plus those of the Devolved Administrations in Wales and Northern Ireland. The Review will also be laid before the Scottish Parliament.

The Government Chemist is the Referee Analyst named in Acts of Parliament. The Government Chemist's team carry out analysis in high-profile or legally disputed cases. A diverse range of referee analysis work was carried out during 2018, which included pioneering work undertaken to detect mycotoxins in sultanas and Brazil nuts; pesticides in animal feed; formaldehyde in food contact materials and molecular biology approaches to support "consumer as analyst" devices for food testing.

Higher Education Student Finance

[HLWS1759]

Viscount Younger of Leckie: My honourable friend Chris Skidmore, Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation, has made the following written statement.

I am announcing details of student finance arrangements for higher education students undertaking a course of study in the 2020/21 academic year starting on 1 August 2020.

Maximum tuition fees for the 2020/21 academic year in England will be maintained at the levels that apply in the 2019/20 academic year, the third year in succession that fees have been frozen. This means that the maximum level of tuition fees for a standard full-time course will remain at £9,250 for the 2020/21 academic year.

Maximum undergraduate loans for living costs will be increased by forecast inflation (2.9%) in 2020/21. And the same increase will apply to maximum disabled students' allowances for students with disabilities undertaking full-time and part-time undergraduate courses in 2020/21. Maximum grants for students with child or adult dependants who are attending full-time undergraduate courses in 2020/21 will also increase by forecast inflation in 2020/21.

We are also increasing support for students undertaking postgraduate courses in 2020/21. Maximum loans for students starting master's degree and doctoral degree courses from 1 August 2020 onwards will be increased by forecast inflation (2.9%) in 2020/21. And the same increase will apply to the maximum disabled students'

allowance for postgraduate students with disabilities in 2020/21.

Further details of the student support package for 2020/21 are set out in the attached document.

I expect to lay regulations implementing changes to student finance for undergraduates and postgraduates for 2020/21 late in 2019 or early in 2020. These regulations will be subject to Parliamentary scrutiny.

The Government will consider the recommendations of the independent panel to the Review of Post-18 Education and Funding, published on 30 May 2019, and will conclude the review at the Spending Review later this year.

Higher Education Student Finance for 2020/21

1) Fees for full-time and part-time undergraduate students.

Maximum fees for full-time and part-time undergraduate courses will remain at 2019/20 levels in 2020/21.

The maximum fee for standard full-time courses offered by Approved (Fee Cap) Providers with an Access and Participation Plan (APP) and a Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Award (TEF) will remain at £9,250 in 2020/21.

The maximum fee for full-time accelerated degree courses offered by Approved (Fee Cap) Providers with an APP and a TEF will remain at £11,100 in 2020/21.

The maximum fee for part-time courses offered by Approved (Fee Cap) Providers with an APP and a TEF will remain at £6,935 in 2020/21.

Lower maximum fees will remain at 2019/20 levels in 2020/21 for (i) courses offered by providers without an APP and/or a TEF and (ii) overseas study years, work placement years and short final years of full-time courses.

Students undertaking courses at Approved (Fee Cap) Providers will be able to apply for up-front tuition fee loans to meet the full costs of their tuition.

Maximum fees for undergraduate courses offered by Approved Providers are not capped. Students undertaking courses at Approved Providers will be able to apply for up-front tuition fee loans towards the costs of their tuition which will remain at 2019/20 levels in 2020/21: up to £6,165 for a standard full-time course; up to £7,400 for a full-time accelerated degree course and up to £4,625 for a part-time course.

2) Living costs support for full-time undergraduate students.

Loans for living costs for new full-time students and continuing full-time students starting their courses on or after 1 August 2016.

Maximum loans for living costs for new full-time students and eligible continuing full-time students starting their courses on or after 1 August 2016 will be increased by forecast inflation (2.9%) in 2020/21.

The maximum loan for living costs for 2020/21 will be £9,203 for students living away from home and studying

outside London. The equivalent loan rate for students living away from home and studying in London will be £12,010; for those living in the parental home during their studies, £7,747; and for those studying overseas as part of their UK course, £10,539.

Loans for living costs for new full-time students and continuing full-time students starting their courses on or after 1 August 2016 who are eligible for benefits.

Maximum loans for living costs for new full-time students and eligible continuing full-time students starting their courses on or after 1 August 2016, and who are eligible for benefits, will be increased by forecast inflation (2.9%) in 2020/21.

The maximum loan for living costs for 2020/21 will be £10,490 for students who are eligible for benefits who are living away from home and studying outside London. The equivalent loan rate for students who are eligible for benefits who are living away from home and studying in London will be £13,098; for those living in the parental home during their studies, £9,140; and for those studying overseas as part of their UK course, £11,732.

Loans for living costs for new full-time students and continuing full-time students starting their courses on or after 1 August 2016 who are aged 60 or over on the first day of the first academic year of their course.

The maximum loan for living costs in 2020/21 for new full-time students and eligible continuing full-time students starting their courses on or after 1 August 2016 who are aged 60 or over on the first day of the first academic year of their course, will be increased by forecast inflation (2.9%) to £3,893.

Maintenance grants and special support grants for full-time students who started their courses before 1 August 2016.

The maximum maintenance grant and special support grant for eligible full-time students who started their courses on or after 1 September 2012 but before 1 August 2016, will be increased by forecast inflation (2.9%) to £3,801 in 2020/21.

The maximum maintenance grant and special support grant for eligible full-time students who started their courses before 1 September 2012 will be increased by forecast inflation (2.9%) to £3,489 in 2020/21.

Loans for living costs for full-time students who started their courses before 1 August 2016.

Maximum loans for living costs for eligible students who started their courses on or after 1 September 2012 but before 1 August 2016, will be increased by forecast inflation (2.9%) in 2020/21.

The maximum loan for living costs will be £6,597 for students who are living away from home and studying outside London. The equivalent loan rate for students living away from home and studying in London will be £9,205; for those living in the parental home during their studies, £5,247; and for those studying overseas as part of their UK course, £7,837.

Loans for living costs for eligible students who started their courses before 1 September 2012.

Maximum loans for living costs for eligible students who started their courses before 1 September 2012 will be increased by forecast inflation (2.9%) in 2020/21.

The maximum loan for living costs will be £5,938 for students who are living away from home and studying outside London. The equivalent loan rate for students living away from home and studying in London will be £8,309; for those living in the parental home during their studies, £4,604; and for those studying overseas as part of their UK course, £7,068.

Long Courses Loans.

Maximum long courses (living costs) loans for new and continuing students who are attending full-time courses that are longer than 30 weeks and 3 days during the academic year will be increased by forecast inflation (2.9%) in 2020/21.

3) Targeted support for undergraduate students with dependants and undergraduate students with disabilities.

Dependants' Grants.

Maximum dependants' grants (adult dependants' grant, childcare grant and parents' learning allowance) will be increased by forecast inflation (2.9%) in 2020/21 for all new and continuing full-time undergraduate students.

The maximum adult dependants' grant will be increased to £3,094 in 2020/21.

The maximum childcare grant payable in 2020/21, which covers 85% of actual childcare costs up to a specified limit, will be increased to £174.22 per week for one child only and £298.69 per week for two or more children.

The maximum parents' learning allowance payable in 2020/21 will be increased to £1,766.

Disabled Students' Allowances.

Maximum grants for undergraduate students with disabilities will be increased by forecast inflation (2.9%) in 2020/21.

For a full-time course: to £23,258 for a non-medical personal helper, £5,849 for major items of specialist equipment and £1,954 for other disability related expenditure.

For a part-time course: to £17,443 for a non-medical personal helper, £5,849 for major items of specialist equipment and £1,465 for other disability related expenditure.

4) Support for part-time undergraduate students.

Fee and course grants for students who started part-time courses before 1 September 2012.

Maximum fee and course grants for students who started part-time courses before 1 September 2012 will be increased by forecast inflation (2.9%) in 2020/21. Maximum fee grants will be increased to £959, £1,150 or £1,442, depending on the intensity of study of the course.

The maximum course grant will be increased to £314.

Loans for living costs for new part-time students and continuing part-time students starting degree level courses on or after 1 August 2018.

Maximum loans for living costs for new part-time students and continuing part-time students who started degree level courses on or after 1 August 2018 will be increased by forecast inflation (2.9%) in 2020/21.

The maximum loan for living costs for 2020/21 will be £9,203 for students living away from home and studying outside London. The equivalent loan rate for students living away from home and studying in London will be £12,010; for those living in the parental home during their studies, £7,747; and for those studying overseas as part of their UK course, £10,539.

Part-time students qualify for a proportion of the full-time loan for living costs depending on their intensity of study compared with a full-time course.

5) Support for postgraduate students.

Loans for students undertaking postgraduate master's degree courses.

Maximum loans for new students starting postgraduate master's degree courses in 2020/21 will be increased by forecast inflation (2.9%) to £11,222.

Loans for students undertaking postgraduate doctoral degree courses.

Maximum loans for new students starting postgraduate doctoral degree courses in 2020/21 will be increased by forecast inflation (2.9%) to £26,445.

Disabled Students' Allowance.

The maximum grant for postgraduate students with disabilities will be increased by forecast inflation (2.9%) to £20,580 in 2020/21.

More details of Higher Education student finance arrangements for the 2020/21 academic year will be published on Government websites in due course.

Labour Market Reforms

[HLWS1751]

Lord Henley: My hon Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Small Business, Consumers and Corporate Responsibility (Kelly Tolhurst) has today made the following statement:

The Good Work Plan sets out the Government's vision for the future of the UK labour market and how we will implement the Taylor Review recommendations. It forms an integral part of the modern Industrial Strategy and this Government's long-term plan to boost the productivity and earning power of people throughout the UK and to develop better jobs for all. We are now delivering the next phase of the Good Work Plan.

Flexibility has been a key factor behind the success of our labour market, but we are aware there are a small minority of employers who transfer too much risk to the individual, sometimes to the detriment of their financial security and personal wellbeing. The Taylor Review

termed this 'one-sided flexibility'. The Low Pay Commission found that this was particularly relevant for low paid, vulnerable workers and has made recommendations to Government. We are committed to tackling the problem and on 19 July we launched a consultation with proposals to:

- provide a right to reasonable notice of working hours – with the aim to give workers more certainty about their shifts and work patterns so they can have more control over their working lives.
- provide workers with compensation for shifts cancelled without reasonable notice – The Low Pay Commission found that the practice of cancelling shifts at the last minute, sometimes on arrival at work or partway through a shift was not uncommon.

Earlier this year, the Government also consulted on measures to prevent the misuse of confidentiality clauses in cases of sexual harassment or discrimination in the workplace. This followed unacceptable cases of their misuse as evidenced in the media, inquiries by the Women and Equalities Select Committee and individuals' responses to our consultation. These cases highlighted the seriousness of abuse that has taken place and the impact this has had on the lives of individuals.

We have now published the Government Response and will be legislating on the proposals we consulted on, and in some cases going even further. For example, for the first time, no provision in an employment contract will be able to prevent someone from disclosing information to the police or to regulated health and care and legal professionals. The proposals will increase clarity on the limitations of confidentiality clauses, increase protections for vulnerable individuals and ensure employers use confidentiality clauses appropriately.

The Government also recently consulted on proposals to extend redundancy protections for pregnant women and new mothers returning to work. We have now published the Government Response to this consultation.

Any form of discrimination against pregnant women and new mothers is unacceptable and unlawful. Despite this, evidence from the Women and Equalities Select Committee, amongst others, suggests that new mothers are still being unfairly forced out of work. We are therefore taking action and are committing to extending the redundancy protection period that currently exists for pregnant women for a further six months once a new mother has returned to work. The Government response also looks at how we can increase awareness amongst pregnant women and new mothers of their maternity rights. As part of this the Government will establish a taskforce which will make recommendations on what improvements can be made to the information available to employers and families.

The reforms we have announced are the next important step in delivering on the Good Work Plan, ensuring we have a labour market that is fit for purpose. We recognise that the world of work is changing and are delivering the necessary reforms to ensure the UK labour market can

adapt effectively, and support the needs of both workers and employers.

Copies of the referenced consultations and Government responses will be placed in the Libraries of the House and will be available electronically on the GOV.UK website.

New Unitary Councils

[HLWS1753]

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.

In my written statement of 1 November 2018 (HCWS 1058) to the House, I committed to set out in due course the specific circumstances in which I would be prepared to issue a formal invitation to councils under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, to submit proposals for the establishment of new unitary councils.

Today I am confirming the circumstances in which I would be prepared to issue such an invitation; how I intend to assess any unitary proposals councils make in response; and our continued approach to any proposals two or more district councils may make to merge in order to form a new larger district council.

Locally-led changes to the structure of local government, whether in the form of unitarisation or district mergers, can – with local support – be an appropriate means of ensuring more sustainable local government and local service delivery, enhanced local accountability, and empowered local communities. This statement today continues the Government's commitment to supporting those councils that wish to combine, to serve their communities better and will consider unitarisation and mergers between councils when locally requested.

However, I recognise that unitarisation may not be appropriate everywhere. I also recognise that it is essential that any local government restructuring should be on the basis of locally led proposals and should not involve top-down Whitehall solutions being imposed on areas. The Government does not support top-down unitary restructuring. This has been the Government's consistent approach since 2010.

Today, I want to provide further clarity for those councils who might consider the possibility of restructuring, by setting out the factors councils should consider and the processes to be followed – including with regard to local support.

For councils wishing to restructure to form unitary local government, the first step of the statutory process as set out under the 2007 Act is for me to issue an invitation to councils to submit proposals. There are two circumstances in which I will consider issuing such an invitation.

The first circumstance is where the following two conditions are met:

i) There is a local request for an invitation.

ii) That I consider that the request demonstrates local opinion is coalescing around a single option which is reasonably likely to meet the existing publicly announced criteria for unitarisation.

In forming my view I would carefully consider the request, including the groups making and supporting it and their reasons for so doing. Where I issue an invitation, I would do so to all those councils that I consider to have regard to the area concerned, whether or not they were among those who had made the original request.

The second circumstance is where I consider that doing so would be appropriate given the specific circumstances of the area, including in relation to the long-term sustainability of local services. This is the situation in which my predecessor, the Rt Hon Member for Bromsgrove (Sajid Javid), issued an invitation to the councils in Northamptonshire.

Following such an invitation, it would be for the councils concerned to decide whether to develop and submit proposals for unitarisation, either individually or jointly by two or more councils.

I confirm that I will assess any locally-led unitary proposal that I receive against the criteria for unitarisation which we announced to Parliament in 2017 and which I and my predecessor have consistently used since then. These criteria state that subject to Parliamentary approval a proposal can be implemented, with or without modification, if I conclude that across the area as a whole the proposal is likely to:

- improve the area's local government;
- command a good deal of local support across the area; and
- cover an area that provides a credible geography for the proposed new structures, including that any new unitary council's population would be expected to be in excess of 300,000.

On district council mergers, I confirm that where two or more district councils submit a proposal to merge, I will assess this against the criteria for mergers which we announced to Parliament in November 2017 and which we have used since then. The statutory process for such mergers does not involve my inviting proposals, and I recognise that particularly small district councils may wish to propose merging as a natural next step following a number of years of successful joint working, sharing of services and senior management teams.

The criteria for district council mergers are that, subject to Parliamentary approval, a proposal to merge would be implemented if I had reached a judgement in the round that if so implemented it would be likely to:

- improve the area's local government;
- command local support, in particular that the merger is proposed by all councils which are to be merged and there is evidence of a good deal of local support; and
- the area is a credible geography, consisting of two or more existing local government areas that are adjacent,

and which, if established, would not pose an obstacle to locally-led proposals for authorities to combine to serve their communities better and would facilitate joint working between local authorities.

This statement is intended to provide clarity to councils and communities and help ensure that time and effort are not wasted on pursuing proposals which are unlikely to get the go ahead. It is important that those seeking to pursue locally led proposals are confident that there is a broad basis of common local support for the proposals to avoid unnecessary local conflict and distraction from the delivery of quality public services. The statement underlines the need for any proposals to be innovative, improve services, enhance accountability, have local support and deliver financial sustainability if they are to be taken forward.

Moreover, restructuring is only one of the different ways that councils can move forward. Joint working with other councils and partners could also be an appropriate and sustainable way forward. Such joint working can take a variety of forms ranging from adopting joint plans, setting up joint committees, and sharing back office services, to establishing Combined Authorities, and may extend across county boundaries. Those in an area will know what is best – the very essence of localism to which the Government remains committed.

News UK: Sharing Journalistic Resources

[HLWS1762]

Lord Keen of Elie: My Rt Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (Jeremy Wright) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

On 10 January 2019, News UK submitted an application to vary certain conditions put in place in 1981 by the then Secretary of State for Trade. The changes proposed by News UK would allow The Times and The Sunday Times to share journalistic resources, subject to the agreement of each newspaper's editor.

Having considered News UK's application and representations made following an Invitation to Comment issued by DCMS on 17 January, I announced, in a Written Ministerial Statement dated 11 April, that I was minded to accept News UK's application to vary the 1981 conditions. However, in considering the proposed new undertakings as a whole, I also noted that the existing governance arrangements lacked clarity and certainty over roles and responsibilities. Following discussions between News UK and Officials, News UK submitted revised undertakings which substantially meet my concerns.

On 27 June, as required by legislation, I issued a further consultation notice seeking views on the changes to News UK's revised undertakings. Two responses were received. Neither response raised any issues that would warrant me seeking further modifications to the Undertakings from News UK. Accordingly, I have today formally decided to accept the new Undertakings and have today issued a Notice of Acceptance. A copy of the Notice of

Acceptance with the final signed undertakings and the revised articles of association of Times Newspapers Ltd (TNL) and Times Newspapers Holding Ltd (TNHL) will be published on the Government website. My Department will shortly publish in the Issues Note circulated to News UK prior to the discussions with Officials.

The new undertakings creates an explicit requirement for the CMA and the Secretary of State to monitor the effectiveness of the obligations placed on News UK and the TNHL Independent National Directors (INDs). As part of this, I can confirm that in line with the Government's commitments on the handling of media merger cases, that DCMS will publish a non-confidential version of the reports from the TNHL INDs which have to be submitted to DCMS and the CMA annually.

Parliamentary Question: Correction

[HLWS1765]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families (Nadhim Zahawi) has made the following written ministerial statement.

Information supplied by the HR Capability and Business Partnering Division of the Department for Education has been identified as containing incorrect facts in the response provided to two Parliamentary Questions from the Honourable Member for Ashton-under-Lyne concerning the number and proportion of staff employed in each group of the Department that are apprentices (PQ226124).

In response to PQ226124, the correct figures for the end of February 2019 are that the Department for Education employed 251 apprentices. These can be broken down as follows:

<i>Area</i>	<i>No of apprentices</i>	<i>No of employees per area</i>	<i>Proportion that are apprentices</i>
Early Years and School Group	40	1901	2%
Education and Skills Funding Agency	77	1543	5%
Government Equalities Office	0	103	0%
Higher and Further Education	9	501	2%
Operations Group	110	1740	6%
Social Care, Mobility and Equalities	15	677	2%
Legal Advisors Office	0	14	0%
	251	6479	4%

The Government Equalities Office is captured in Department for Education data because they were still employees of the Department for Education at the end of February. Legal Advisers Office remain departmental employees.

Following the identification of this issue, we have completed an audit of our database. A rigorous new process has been put in place to ensure the robustness of our data.

Pensions: NHS Clinicians

[HLWS1761]

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

The NHS Pension Scheme is a generous and valuable part of the package of pay, terms and conditions for NHS staff, which continues to compare favourably with schemes in other sectors. However, the interaction between the NHS pension scheme and the tapered annual allowance means some clinicians are facing unintended consequences. The tapered allowance rightly aims to see more higher earners contributing towards the public purse by reducing the amount they can save into their pensions tax-free.

The Government has been listening to concerns about the impact on patient care as clinicians decline to take on additional work or seek early retirement in response to the prospect of incurring pension tax charges, and evidence that some NHS clinicians are changing their working patterns due to this issue. The Government is determined to find a solution that provides the right balance of incentives for clinicians to provide the services that patients need. Retaining and maximising the contribution of our highly-skilled clinical workforce is crucial to delivery of the ambitions for patient care set out in the Long-Term Plan for the NHS.

The Government has therefore launched a full public consultation setting out proposals to make the NHS Pension Scheme more flexible for clinicians, to give them more control over their pension growth and tax liabilities. Greater pension flexibility will help clinicians avoid cutting their hours, allow them to undertake additional shifts to reduce waiting lists, or take on further supervisory responsibilities.

The consultation proposes a 50:50 flexibility, which lets clinicians halve their pension contributions in exchange for halving the rate of pension growth, balancing simplicity with the need to offer flexibility. Following discussions with clinicians and employers, the consultation goes further and invites views on other measures that Government should consider.

For NHS Pension Scheme members who do incur annual allowance tax charges, the Scheme Pays facility offers an alternative to finding funds up front to meet any tax charges for saving into their pension whilst they work. Instead they can choose for the pension scheme to pay the

tax charge. The pension scheme will then recoup the tax paid plus interest by deducting it from the value of their pension at retirement. The consultation proposes a potential improvement to the calculation of Scheme Pays deductions so that it is more transparent and staff can better assess the effect on their pension.

The consultation will listen to feedback on all potential ideas on pension flexibility before making changes in time for the new tax year.

Police and Criminal Evidence Act Codes of Practice

[HLWS1760]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: My rt hon Friend the Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service (Nick Hurd) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

I am today laying before the House an order under section 67(7A) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 ('PACE') to amend PACE Codes C and H, which govern the detention, treatment and questioning of suspects by the police. Copies of the revised Codes C and H will also be laid.

These revisions, which will come into operation on 21 August 2019, are being introduced to ensure that the menstrual needs of female and transgender detainees, and the health, hygiene and welfare needs of all individuals in police custody are protected. The new codes include the following revisions:

- Each female detainee must be asked if they require or are likely to require any menstrual products whilst they are in custody. They must be told that they will be provided free of charge and that replacement products are available
- Custody officers must ask all detainees if they wish to speak in private with a member of custody staff about any matter concerning their personal needs relating to health, hygiene and welfare; if the detainee wishes, this member of staff may be of the same sex. These changes provide an opportunity for female detainees to raise issues about their menstrual needs and also for all detainees to raise issues relating to other health and hygiene needs such as products that may be required for incontinence. If detainees wish to take this opportunity to raise health and hygiene needs, necessary arrangements should be provided/made as soon as practicable.
- The changes highlight that the clothing and personal effects that detainees may retain include menstrual and other health, hygiene and welfare products. A decision to withhold any such products must be subject to a further specific risk assessment.
- Access to toilet and washing facilities must now also take account of the detainee's dignity. For example, in cells subject to CCTV monitoring, privacy in the toilet area should be ensured by any appropriate means and detainees should be made aware of this when they are placed in the cell.

- The changes make it explicit that strip searches and intimate searches of detainees must take due regard of their dignity. This includes the detainee's health, hygiene and welfare needs including menstruation.

- The above provisions around health, hygiene and welfare products take into account the possible needs of transgender individuals.

These revisions were prompted by concerns raised by the Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA) that in some cases women were being left without basic menstrual products in police cells.

They received overwhelming support following a public consultation last year, and we have subsequently sought and secured the agreement of my Rt Hon Friend the member for Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford, in her role as Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee, that these straightforward revisions to the Codes can be brought into force as soon as possible, as per the commitments made by the then government during the introduction of section 67(7A) of PACE in 2003, without the approval of a resolution by each House.

I am grateful for the work and support of partners across the policing system, ICVA, and dedicated custody staff across the country. We all share a commitment to ensuring the dignity of detainees, and these changes will help ensure the needs of individuals are met across the board.

Prison Service Pay Review Body

[HLWS1763]

Lord Keen of Elie: My honourable friend the Minister of State for Justice (Robert Buckland QC) has made the following Written Statement.

"I am pleased to announce that the Prime Minister has appointed Tim Flesher CB as Chair of the Prison Service Pay Review Body. This appointment is for three years, with Mr Flesher's term commencing on 1 August 2019 and ending on 31 July 2022. This appointment has been made in accordance with the Governance Code on Public Appointments."

Terrorism Threat Level System

[HLWS1756]

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:

I am today announcing changes to the terrorism threat level system. As recommended in the Operational Improvement Review, the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre have taken an increased role in assessing all form of terrorism, irrespective of the ideology that inspires them.

The national threat level system will now take account of the assessments from all forms of terrorism, including Islamist, Northern Ireland, and extreme right-wing. The threat from Northern Ireland-related terrorism in Northern Ireland will remain separate from the national threat level.

Also, to ensure clarity in the threat level system, I am also announcing the change in definition of the LOW, SUBSTANTIAL and CRITICAL threat levels. The threat levels will now be defined as below:

- CRITICAL meaning an attack is highly likely in the near future
- SEVERE meaning an attack is highly likely
- SUBSTANTIAL meaning an attack is likely
- MODERATE meaning an attack is possible but not likely
- LOW meaning an attack is highly unlikely

The changes made today do not affect the current threat level. The threat level to the UK from terrorism remains at SEVERE, and the threat level to Northern Ireland from Northern Ireland-related terrorism also remains at SEVERE, meaning that an attack is highly likely.

Threat levels are designed to give a broad indication of the likelihood of a terrorist attack. They are a tool for security practitioners working across different sectors and the police to use in determining what protective security response may be required. They also keep the public informed and give context to the protective security measures which we all encounter in our daily lives.

There remains a real and serious threat against the United Kingdom from terrorism and I would ask the public to remain vigilant and to report any suspicious activity to the police regardless of the threat level.

The decision to change the terrorism threat levels are taken by the independent from Ministers. The Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre set the national threat level and the Security Service set the Northern Ireland-related Terrorism in Northern Ireland threat level. These are based on the very latest intelligence, considering factors such as capability, intent and timescale. Threat levels are kept under constant review.

Written Answers

Tuesday, 23 July 2019

Academies: Inspections

Asked by **Lord Storey**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the recommendations of the Ofsted report, Multi-academy trusts: benefits, challenges and functions, published on 15 July, and in particular the recommendation that Ofsted be empowered to inspect both multi-academy trusts and individual schools in order to strengthen their accountability. [HL17178]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The department requires a high level of accountability and transparency of trusts and has robust processes in place for monitoring their performance. This includes collecting and publishing a wide range of information, such as tables setting out measures of educational performance; financial benchmarking tables; and letters to academy trusts about poor or inadequate performance or weaknesses in safeguarding, governance and/or financial management. This goes beyond the information that the department publishes about local authorities.

Ofsted plays a vital role in holding trusts to account by providing independent judgements on the educational performance of schools within a trust and through its process of summary evaluations. Ofsted has so far published 6 summary evaluations of academy trusts since their introduction in December 2018.

The department will continue to make information about trusts more visible. As we do this, we will ensure that accountability is robust, transparent and proportionate for all schools.

Aggregates Levy

Asked by **Lord Berkeley**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to increase the Aggregates Levy for primary aggregates to encourage the use of secondary aggregates including that obtained from china clay. [HL17196]

Lord Young of Cookham: At Budget 2018, the government announced that the rate of Aggregates Levy would be frozen for 2019-20. The government also announced its intention to return the Levy to index-linking in future. Decisions on the rate of Aggregates Levy from 2020 will be taken at Budget 2019.

Following the conclusion of long-running litigation in February this year, the government launched a comprehensive review of the Levy at Spring Statement 2019.

As part of this, the government has convened a working group of industry and sector experts who are providing

input and challenge. Additionally, the government is engaging widely with stakeholders throughout the UK and has requested written representations (by 5th July). The government will announce next steps by the end of the year.

Apprentices: Arts

Asked by **Lord Foster of Bath**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to collate data in order to assess the amount of apprenticeship levy money that was (1) paid, and (2) spent on apprenticeships, by creative industry companies in the 2018/19 financial year. [HL17203]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The information requested is not held centrally. The apprenticeship levy is collected by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs from employers with a pay bill in excess of £3 million per year.

The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) does not require levy-paying employers to register a sector when they set up an online apprenticeship service account to manage their funds. Therefore, ESFA are unable to supply information on the sectoral distribution of spending on apprenticeships. There are currently no plans to change the registration process to collect this information from employers registering for an apprenticeship service account.

We continue to use detailed data on apprenticeship starts (including levy-supported starts) and work closely with employers and sector bodies to further develop our understanding of how apprenticeships work for the creative sector.

The quarterly 'Apprenticeships and Traineeships' data release provides an overview of the programme. The most recent update was published on 11 July 2019. All quarterly data releases include a 'main commentary' which summarises apprenticeship starts by level, framework or standard, and whether or not they were the levy-supported. This commentary has been attached and is available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/815291/Apprenticeships_and_Traineeships_release_July19_main_text.pdf. The whole quarterly release is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/apprenticeships-and-traineeships-july-2019>.

Data on apprenticeship starts by sector subject area and funding type can be compared using the interactive pivot tool entitled 'Monthly apprenticeship starts by sector subject area, framework or standard, age, level, funding type and degree apprenticeship' found in the monthly 'Apprenticeships and levy statistics' release. This was last updated in May 2019 and available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/804343/Monthly-apprenticeship-starts-fwk-tool_May-2019.xlsx. The whole monthly release is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/apprenticeship-and-levy-statistics-may-2019>.

We are working closely with employers in the creative industries so they can realise the benefits of apprenticeships. The Department for Digital Culture, Media and Sport is developing an innovative pilot which will enable apprentices to benefit from hands-on experience on the sets of major films and television shows. Launching later this year, it will explore a new model that fulfils the requirements of high-quality apprenticeships, but uses multiple placements on film and television productions, as well as addressing skills shortages.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL17203_Commentary

[HL17203_Apprenticeships_and_Traineeships_Quarterly_Data_Commentary.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-07-16/HL17203>

Borders: Northern Ireland

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the European Commission's position on renegotiating the Irish backstop. [HL17276]

Lord Callanan: The Government has been consistently clear in its intention to leave the EU in an orderly way on the basis of a negotiated agreement, and to do so in a way that ensures no hard border on the island of Ireland on a permanent basis.

The European Commission acts in negotiations in accordance with the position taken by the European Council, whose last expressed position on renegotiation of the Withdrawal Agreement is set out in the April 10 European Council Conclusions.

Brexit

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to address any economic downturn that may be caused by a no-deal Brexit. [HL17274]

Lord Young of Cookham: The government's priority has been to ensure a smooth and orderly withdrawal from the EU with a deal as soon as possible. The government has reached agreement with the EU on an extension until October 31st at the latest, with the option to leave earlier as soon as a deal is ratified. However, "No Deal" remains the legal default at the end of the extension period if a deal cannot be reached. As a responsible government we have been preparing for this possibility for almost three years to minimise any disruption in the event of no deal. The Treasury and the Bank of England together have all the tools of fiscal and monetary policy available to us, including the fiscal headroom the Chancellor has held in reserve.

Brexit: Advisory Bodies

Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 9 July (HL16639), who are the members of (1) the advisory, (2) the technical expert, (3) the business and trade union, and (4) the parliamentary engagement groups; what meetings have been held by each of those groups; when each such meeting occurred; and whether they will publish any documents those groups have (a) considered, and (b) produced. [HL17073]

Lord Callanan: The Government announced the formation of the Technical Advisory Group on 20 June, and of the Business and Trade Union Advisory Group on 26 June. We will set out further details of the parliamentary group in due course. The Technical Group has met twice, on 20 June and 17 July, and the Business Group has met once, on 26 June. Both groups will continue to meet throughout August and September.

The Technical Group is made up of technical experts in trade and customs and brings together individuals from the public and private sector, and academia, who have expertise on issues spanning law, customs, supply chains, cross-border trade and technology. The members represent a broad spectrum of views and expertise, all of which will be needed to achieve our economic, fiscal and security objectives in the unique circumstances of the Northern Ireland land border. A full list of members can be found on gov.uk.

The Business Group is made up of businesses and trade unions to ensure their experience and on-the-ground knowledge informs developments. This includes cross-sector representatives from Ireland, Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK. The members have been chosen based on their comprehensive backgrounds in cross-border supply chains; this includes large companies who can represent the views of themselves and their suppliers, as well as smaller companies who rely on cross-border "just in time" supply chains. A full list of members can be found on gov.uk.

We will set out further details of the Parliamentary group in due course.

Bullying and Harassment in the House of Lords Independent Inquiry

Asked by Lord Foulkes of Cumnock

To ask the Senior Deputy Speaker how much has been paid to date to Naomi Ellenbogen QC in connection with the Independent Inquiry into Bullying and Harassment in the House of Lords. [HL17114]

Lord McFall of Alcluith: As at 15 July, the Inquiry costs incurred so far were £137,045.86, including £122,873.50 for the work of Naomi Ellenbogen QC. Some invoices remain outstanding and so the overall cost of the Inquiry will be higher.

Asked by Lord Foulkes of Cumnock

To ask the Senior Deputy Speaker whether the work of Naomi Ellenbogen QC has now been completed. [HL17115]

Lord McFall of Alcluith: Naomi Ellenbogen QC was appointed by the House of Lords Commission to conduct an Inquiry into Bullying and Harassment. The independent Inquiry has now concluded and her report was published on 10 July.

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by Naomi Ellenbogen QC An Independent Inquiry into bullying and harassment in the House of Lords, published on 11 July. [HL17179]

Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: As the Prime Minister has said before, everyone working in Parliament deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. This inquiry has brought to light behaviour which is unacceptable, and it is incumbent on the House of Lords to take swift action. It is important that the House now carefully considers the concerns raised in this important report, and responds to its recommendations.

It is primarily for Parliament, rather than Government, to consider how best to respond to Naomi Ellenbogen QC's recommendations. The House of Lords Commission met on Wednesday 17 July in order to plan its response to the recommendations. Every member of the Commission committed to complete the Valuing Everyone training course, and the leaders of the political groupings committed their front bench to do the same. The Commission agreed the establishment of a Steering Group of staff, members and others to embark on the process of moving forward with Naomi Ellenbogen QC's recommendations, and the new Conduct Committee will examine those which relate to the Code of Conduct.

Bus Lanes: Taxis

Asked by Lord Carlile of Berriew

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review the limitation in London on the use of bus lanes to black cabs and include badged private hire vehicles. [HL17036]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Transport in London is devolved to the Mayor of London through the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It is the responsibility of the Mayor, and delivered by Transport for London. Decisions on how bus lanes are used are therefore a matter for the Mayor.

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 3

July (HL16512), how many UK-funded programmes and projects to support actions agreed at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2018 have been evaluated with those evaluations published; and what is the timeline for the evaluation of remaining programmes. [HL17049]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: All UK-funded programmes and projects to support actions agreed at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2018 are subject to regular reviews. The majority of such programmes and projects are subject to the standard Annual Review processes of either the Department for International Development (DfID) or the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF), which look at the effectiveness and value for money of each programme, and consider how teams have assessed risk and changing contexts. Summaries of the annual reviews are published on the CSSF page on gov.uk, while DfID reviews are published on DfID's Development Tracker, again accessed through gov.uk. DfID annual reviews are published throughout the year, depending on the date of the review. CSSF annual reviews are carried out in the first quarter of the financial year and summaries of the reviews are published later in the year.

A small number of programmes and projects are not funded by DFID or the CSSF, but they also undergo regular reporting throughout their implementation and on completion, including published annual reviews and/or internal annual progress reports.

Companies: Ownership

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many other countries have indicated that they will implement public registers of beneficial ownership apart from the UK and the Overseas Territories. [HL17282]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Twelve countries have expressed an interest in signing up to the Beneficial Ownership Transparency Disclosure Principles which the UK launched at the Open Government Partnership Summit in May 2019. These commit countries to developing open and free to access registers of beneficial ownership information by 2023.

Under the Fifth Anti-Money Laundering Directive, EU Member States are required to implement publicly accessible registers of company beneficial ownership information. In June 2019 the governments of Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man announced that they plan to implement their own publicly accessible registers of company beneficial ownership in line with EU norms.

In addition a growing number of countries already have public company beneficial ownership registers. This includes Denmark and Ukraine.

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: Public Consultation

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many consultations the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has carried out in each of the last five years; and to how many of those it published a formal response within 12 weeks of the consultation closing. [\[HL17052\]](#)

Lord Henley: Since its creation in July 2016, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has published 140 consultations.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of consultations</i>	<i>Response published within 12 weeks</i>
2016	24	7
2017	43	8
2018	50	11
2019	23*	5

*6 consultations are still open. 8 consultations are closed, but still within the 12 week period.

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport: Public Consultation

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many consultations the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has carried out in each of the last five years; and to how many of those it published a formal response within 12 weeks of the consultation closing. [\[HL17053\]](#)

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The information requested can be found in the table below:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No. of Consultations</i>	<i>No. of consultations that respondent in 12 weeks</i>
1	11.7.14 - 10.7.15	14	2
2	11.7.15 - 10.7.16	17	6
3	11.7.16 - 10.7.17	16	5
4	11.7.17 - 10.7.18	23	6
5	11.7.18 - 10.7.19	18	3
TOTAL	88	22	

Responses to consultations often do not take the form of a simple and clear response, but are instead fed into wider documents and work e.g. policy documents, which often cannot be completed within the given 12 week period.

Department for Education: Sanitation

Asked by Lord Lucas

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Agnew of Oulton on 11 July (HL16827, HL16828, HL16829, and HL16830), which people they consider would feel excluded (1) by separate communal male and female toilets, and (2) as a result of both toilets being gender-neutral. [\[HL17163\]](#)

Asked by Lord Lucas

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Agnew of Oulton on 11 July (HL16827, HL16828, HL16829, and HL16830), what estimate they have made of the percentage of visitors who would feel excluded (1) by separate communal male and female toilets, and (2) as a result of both toilets being gender-neutral. [\[HL17164\]](#)

Asked by Lord Lucas

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Agnew of Oulton on 11 July (HL16827, HL16828, HL16829, and HL16830), what consideration they have given, if any, to converting one toilet to gender-neutral and leaving the other as female only in the communal visitor area of Sanctuary Buildings; and which people they consider would feel excluded by such an arrangement. [\[HL17165\]](#)

Asked by Lord Lucas

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Agnew of Oulton on 11 July (HL16827, HL16828, HL16829, and HL16830), what discussions, if any, they have had with the cleaning staff in Sanctuary Buildings about the condition of the gender-neutral toilets in the communal visitor area compared to that of the female-only toilets. [\[HL17166\]](#)

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The department has not identified any particular group of visitors that might feel excluded by separate communal male and female toilets or by both toilets being gender-neutral. The current approach for visitors supports individual choice rather than pre-supposing that particular groups of individuals have set or pre-determined preferences.

With this in mind, no estimates have been made regarding the percentage of visitors who may feel excluded by separate communal male and female toilets, and of both toilets being gender-neutral. In addition, because visitors are served by a range of different toilet types, we would not expect individuals to feel excluded. Visitors have not fed back any concerns or sense of exclusion regarding the provision. The department rarely receives feedback on the visitors' area and where it does, it will take action.

In terms of the conversion of one toilet to gender-neutral status, while leaving the other as female only in the communal visitor area of Sanctuary Buildings, we are currently planning a major refurbishment of the visitor area. As part of that, we will review the facilities

including the distribution of single sex and gender-neutral toilets.

No discussions with the cleaning staff in Sanctuary Buildings have been held regarding the condition of the gender-neutral toilets in the communal visitor area compared to that of the female-only toilets. We have set standards of cleanliness across all facilities. We have not been made aware that these standards have not been met in the visitors' toilets. We will monitor this, and take action, if required.

Digital Technology: Sales

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to reform the Consumer Rights Act 2015 rules for digital content purchased post-Brexit to include a 28-day refund rule. [HL17180]

Lord Henley: HM Government has no plans to amend current legislation on digital content. However, the Government has committed to retaining strong protections for consumers post Brexit.

Domestic Abuse: Rural Areas

Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the National Rural Crime Network Domestic Abuse in Rural Areas, published on 17 July. [HL17325]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: On 16 July we introduced our landmark Domestic Abuse Bill to parliament, setting out our intention to transform the response to domestic abuse. Our Domestic Abuse Bill and wider action plan will help to ensure that victims have the confidence to come forward and report their experience, safe in the knowledge that the justice system and other agencies will do everything they can both to protect and support them and their children and pursue their abuser.

We will consider the findings of the report. Whether it takes place in our rural communities or cities, we are supporting Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners, so they can deploy resources as they best see fit to tackle crime, including domestic abuse.

The new Domestic Abuse Commissioner will play an important role in monitoring the provision of services for victims of domestic abuse, including those in rural communities.

East Coast Supervisory Board

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the East Coast Supervisory Board has met since November 2018; if not, why not; on which dates it has met since it was established in 2017; how frequently it is expected to meet; and how it has represented the views and

interests of its customers since its last meeting. [HL17056]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The East Coast Supervisory Board aims to meet quarterly; it met on 7 September and 24 November in 2017, and on 18 February, 17 March, 30 August and 9 November in 2018. A decision was taken to suspend the Board in the light of health problems being suffered by its independent chair. The membership and remit of the board will be reconsidered as work to establish the East Coast Partnership progresses.

Education: Digital Technology

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the role of digital technology in the UK education sector. [HL17234]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: In April 2019, my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Education, launched the attached Education Technology Strategy, 'Realising the potential of technology in education'. This was launched to support the education sector in England to use and embed technology effectively, and to develop a vibrant EdTech business sector in the UK.

Research informing the Strategy highlighted that technology has the potential to reduce teacher workload, create savings, and improve pupil and student outcomes. However, certain conditions need to be in place to maximise benefit; for example, good connectivity and infrastructure, teacher confidence in using technology, strong and supportive leadership, and awareness that technology supplements rather than replaces good teaching.

To further understand the impact technology can have on the education sector, the department is developing a testbed programme which will help build the evidence base on the use of technology within schools and colleges. We have also created a leadership group made up of sector experts to work in collaboration with the government to help understand best practice and champion the objectives of our Strategy.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL17234_Guidance [HL17234_Education_Technology_Strategy.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-07-16/HL17234>

Electric Vehicles

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Vere of Norbiton on 5 July (HL16757), why electrically powered cycles are allowed on cycle ways provided that the cycle is designed only to provide electric assistance if the rider

provides some pedal power, but electric scooters which can permit the addition of rider power by pushing on the road are not permitted on cycle ways. [HL17024]

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Vere of Norbiton on 5 July (HL16757), when they expect the Future of Mobility review to be published. [HL17025]

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Baroness Vere of Norbiton on 5 July (HL16757), whether, pending any relevant legislative changes, they intend to allow drivers of electric scooters to use cycle ways and cycle lanes on roads without requiring them to possess a driving licence for motor vehicles. [HL17026]

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Vere of Norbiton on 5 July (HL16757), whether electrically powered personal vehicles such as scooters, gyroscopic one or two-wheel vehicles and other similar vehicles are permitted to operate anywhere. [HL17027]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Electrically assisted pedal cycles (EAPCs) are allowed on cycle routes provided they conform with the Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycles Regulations. If an EAPC meets those regulatory requirements it is treated the same as a pedal cycle.

In the UK, electric scooters are treated like any other motor vehicle under the Road Traffic Act. This means they are subject to laws requiring them to conform to technical standards and be used safely. This includes requirements for users to have insurance, driving licences, number plates, and helmets. At present, it is difficult for electric scooters to meet these requirements.

Therefore, it is illegal to use an electric scooter on public roads and pavements. They are legal for use on private land with the landowners' permission.

The Future of Mobility regulatory review will address the challenges of ensuring our transport infrastructure and regulation are fit for the future. This is a broad programme of work, and we expect to publish an initial consultation in autumn this year.

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to promote the use of electric vehicles. [HL17118]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Government's mission is to put the UK at the forefront of the design and manufacturing of zero emission vehicles, and for all new cars and vans to be effectively zero emission by 2040.

The Road to Zero Strategy sets out a clear pathway to zero emissions. By 2030 we want at least half of new cars sold, and as many as 70%, to be ultra low emission, alongside up to 40% of new vans. To achieve this, we are investing nearly £1.5bn between April 2015 and March 2021, with grants available for plug in vehicles, and schemes to support charge point infrastructure at homes and workplaces and on residential streets. We have also put in place a favourable tax regime that rewards the cleanest vehicles.

To accelerate the shift to zero emission cars, all zero emission models will pay no company car tax in 2020-21; 1% in 2021-22 before returning to the planned 2% rate in 2022-23 – a significant tax saving for employees and employers. This adds up to one of the most comprehensive support packages in the world for the transition to zero emission vehicles.

The Government has been supporting vehicle manufacturers, technology companies and academia in delivering a major programme of R&D into cleaner vehicle technologies. For example, we announced nearly £40m investment in 12 projects to support innovation in wireless and on-street charging technology to encourage uptake of electric vehicles.

The Prime Minister announced that we are also consulting on proposals for chargepoints to be installed with all newly built homes in England, where appropriate, and on the introduction of smart chargepoints. To improve the consumer charging experience, we want to see all newly installed public rapid and higher powered chargepoints to offer debit/credit card payment from Spring 2020.

EU Action: Parliamentary Scrutiny

Asked by Lord Boswell of Aynho

To ask Her Majesty's Government for each Government department, from January to June, on how many occasions the Scrutiny Reserve Resolution was overridden in (1) the House of Lords, and (2) the House of Commons; and in respect of how many documents an override occurred in (a) both Houses, (b) the House of Lords, and (c) the House of Commons. [HL17328]

Lord Callanan: Between January and June 2019, 414 Explanatory Memoranda on EU proposals and other documents were submitted for scrutiny.

During this period there were 37 occasions when the Government supported decisions in the EU Council of Ministers before parliamentary scrutiny procedures had been completed. In compiling these statistics a further 4 overrides were identified which were not included in the previous written answer for the period July-December 2018 (HL13200). They are included in this latest table.

As with previous six-monthly periods, the largest category of instruments were fast-moving and sensitive Common Foreign and Security Policy/EU restrictive measures proposals where there were 32 such instruments adopted before scrutiny could be completed.

The figures requested are set out below:

<i>Department</i>	<i>(1 & b). House of Lords override</i>	<i>(2 & c). House Commons override</i>	<i>(a).No. of overrides in both Houses at same time</i>	<i>Total no. of overrides</i>
Cabinet Office	1	1	1	1
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	1	1	1	1
Foreign and Commonwealth Office*	31	33	31	33
HM Revenue & Customs	1	1	1	1
International Trade	0	1	0	1
Transport	0	1	0	1
HM Treasury	2	2	2	2
Home Office**	1	1	1	1
Totals	37	41	37	41

*3 overrides occurred between July-December 2018

**Override occurred between July-December 2018

Financial Institutions: Fines

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the total (1) number, and (2) amount, of fines that have been imposed on banks and other companies in the financial sector since 2015; and what the money collected has been used for. [[HL17307](#)]

Lord Young of Cookham: Information on the fines imposed on financial sector firms can be found on the FCA's website.

Between financial years 2015/16 and 2018/19 the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority have levied a total of 37 fines on banks and other financial sector firms. The total amount fined over this four year period was one billion, three hundred and sixty seven million pounds.

Since 2015 money from these fines, minus enforcement costs, has been transferred directly to the Government's consolidated fund. Fine income entering the Consolidated Fund is not earmarked for any specific purpose but is instead part of the Government's total revenues. Government revenues are used to pay for all Government spending on public services.

Financial Institutions: Switzerland

Asked by Lord Willoughby de Broke

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to permit Swiss financial institutions to continue to operate in London until the UK leaves the EU. [[HL17071](#)]

Lord Young of Cookham: Switzerland is an important financial partner for the UK. Swiss financial institutions can operate in the UK in line with existing applicable UK and EU law.

The UK has also taken steps to ensure the continuity of this relationship once we exit the European Union, including the transition of the EU-Swiss Direct Insurance Agreement into a UK-Swiss Direct Insurance Agreement.

Firearms: Licensing

Asked by The Earl of Shrewsbury

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Earl Howe on 4 March (HL Deb, col 490) that they would launch a consultation on the licensing of firearms and issues relating to medical records by the summer recess, whether they are on track to meet that commitment; and if not, when they intend to begin that consultation. [[HL17326](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government intends to launch a consultation on statutory guidance to the police on their firearms licensing functions, including the arrangements for the provision of medical information, very shortly.

Food Poverty

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reduce the number of people who need to use food banks. [[HL17254](#)]

Baroness Buscombe: This Government is committed to a sustainable solution to poverty in all its forms, by building a strong economy and a benefit system that supports employment and higher pay. Households where all adults are in work are around 6 times less likely to be in relative poverty than adults in a household where nobody works. Compared to 2010, there are 3.7 million more people in work and around 1 million fewer workless households.

We have worked with food insecurity experts, the Office for National Statistics and the Scottish Government to introduce a new set of food security questions in the Family Resources Survey starting from April 2019. This means that we will, in future, be able to monitor the prevalence and severity of household food insecurity across the UK and for specific groups, to better understand the drivers of food insecurity and identify which groups are most at risk.

Fuel Poverty

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to establish a national fuel fund to support those unable to meet gas and electricity bills. [[HL17253](#)]

Lord Henley: We have no current plans to establish a national fuel fund.

The Government provides support to those struggling with their gas and electricity bills through:

- The Warm Home Discount, which provides a £140 rebate to more than two million households;
- Winter Fuel Payments, that provides £200-300 to pensioners, ensuring that they can keep warm during the colder months; and
- Cold Weather Payments, which were automatically provided to more than one million households during winter 2018-19.

In addition, the default tariff cap protects all consumers on default tariffs from being overcharged and Ofgem's safeguard price cap protects consumers on pre-payment meter tariffs.

The most sustainable approach to decreasing energy bills is improving energy efficiency.

- The Energy Company Obligation drives £640 million of investment annually into improving the efficiency of low income and vulnerable households.
- The Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards require landlords spend up to £3500 (including VAT) improving their rented properties to EPC Band E.

Gatwick Airport Station

Asked by Lord Bradshaw

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of the cost of the improvements to Gatwick Airport Railway Station are being met by the airport authority. [[HL17078](#)]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Gatwick Airport Limited are contributing 25% of the capital costs of the scheme, up to a maximum of £37 million. These improvements will greatly improve the interchange for commuters, visitors and business which will support the sustainable growth of the area with Gatwick airport at its heart.

Government Bills

Asked by Lord Norton of Louth

To ask the Leader of the House, further to her Written Answer on 3 July (HL16472), what steps are being taken to increase the proportion of government bills published in draft and submitted for pre-legislative scrutiny by a joint committee or committee of either House. [[HL17091](#)]

Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: The Government is supportive of the role of pre-legislative scrutiny, and looks to take steps wherever possible to facilitate it. In the 2016-17 session, the Government published 3 draft bills. In this session we have published ten draft pieces of legislation for pre-legislative scrutiny by a joint committee or a committee of either house, these were: Draft Health Service Safety Investigations Bill; Draft

Domestic Gas and Electricity (Tariff Cap) Bill; Draft clause on the Personal Injury Discount Rate - subsequently included in the Civil Liability Bill; Draft Tenants Fees Bill; Draft Animal Welfare (Sentencing and Recognition of Sentience) Bill 2017; Draft Finance Bill; Draft Registration of Overseas Entities Bill; Draft Parliamentary Buildings (Restoration and Renewal) Bill; Draft Environment (Principles and Governance) Bill; Draft Domestic Abuse Bill.

Health Professions: Apprentices

Asked by Lord Evans of Watford

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had, and with whom, about the development of degree apprenticeships in healthcare, including nursing and pharmacy. [[HL17112](#)]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: The Government has had discussions across a wide range of stakeholders about the development of degree apprenticeships. However, it is the role of the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education along with the trailblazer group to take forward the development of any apprenticeship.

The Institute ensures that trailblazer groups are made up of a range of employers and reflective of those who employ people in the occupation, including small employers.

Health Services and Social Services: Data Protection

Asked by Lord Freyberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to design a new, improved data privacy shield that takes on board concerns about the current EU-United States Privacy Shield before negotiating a trade deal with the government of the United States after Brexit, so that it safeguards individuals as well as providing for the promotion of the UK's life science and technology sectors. [[HL17043](#)]

Asked by Lord Freyberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to explore the scope to design a dedicated privacy shield confined to health and care data before negotiating a trade deal with the government of the United States after Brexit. [[HL17044](#)]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: The Government has committed to maintaining a high level of data protection standards, which are set out in the Data Protection Act 2018.

These safeguards allow the public to have trust in how and why their data is used and it is important that we maintain them. Access and use of data should always be done lawfully, safely and securely. We reiterate that National Health Service data must always be held

securely, with appropriate and strong privacy and cyber-security protections.

As the United Kingdom leaves the European Union we have made arrangements with the United States that will ensure that in both 'deal' and 'no deal' scenarios, transfers of personal data from the UK to US Privacy Shield participant organisations can continue to be made under the Privacy Shield Framework.

Heathrow Airport: Railways

Asked by Lord Carlile of Berriew

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the adequacy of the rail service between Heathrow Central and Terminal 4; and what plans they have to ensure that the service meets requirements. [HL17032]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Transport in London is devolved to the Mayor of London and delivered by Transport for London. Rail services between Heathrow Central and Terminal 4 are the responsibility of Transport for London.

High Speed Two: Disclosure of Information and Redundancy Pay

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) non-disclosure agreements, (2) settlement agreements, (3) compromise agreements, and (3) similar legal agreements that contain non-disclosure provisions, HS2 has entered into with former members of staff. [HL17022]

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether HS2's redundancy payments scheme contributed in whole or in part to any settlement agreements or compromise agreements with former senior members of staff; and whether any of those members of staff made protected disclosures of HS2's financial statements. [HL17023]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: A response is provided to both 261785 and 261784 jointly, as the questions overlap. Since 1 January 2017, HS2 Ltd has entered into 47 Settlement Agreements with employees who no longer work for HS2 Ltd as at today's date. Specifically, 26 of the 47 were employees who had themselves applied to be made redundant as part of a voluntary redundancy scheme that HS2 Limited ran in 2016. Of the remainder, 3 were with employees who were being made redundant as part of 2 discrete organisational changes. Of the 47, 10 Settlement Agreements have been entered into with staff who were members of HS2's senior leadership team or higher (7 of the 10 were part of the voluntary redundancy programme mentioned above).

The Settlement Agreement contains terms relating to the cessation of the employment relationship between HS2 Ltd and the employee (e.g. termination date,

payment owed for annual leave not taken, any other payments owed, etc). There are mutual confidentiality obligations in each Settlement Agreement but these do not apply where information is required to be disclosed by law OR where a protected disclosure is made by the employee under whistleblowing legislation. Of the 47 Settlement Agreements referred to above, no employee has raised any such protected disclosure (in relation to HS2 Ltd's financial statements or otherwise). HS2 Ltd has not entered into any Non-Disclosure Agreements with any HS2 employee.

Before any Settlement Agreement is signed by HS2 Ltd and the employee, a certificate from an independent legal adviser must be provided, evidencing that legal advice has been given to the employee as to the effect of the terms of the Agreement. This process can lead to requests for changes to the template Agreement, which HS2 Ltd accepts where feasible.

Hotels: Taxation

Asked by Baroness Doocey

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 2 April (HL14646), whether they will assess how a tax levied on hotel stays on a per night basis might affect cities and their tourism sectors; and if not, why not. [HL17294]

Lord Young of Cookham: The Chancellor keeps the tax system under review, but has no plans to introduce a tax levied on hotel stays on a per night basis. Therefore, no such assessment is planned.

Immigrants: Detainees

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that all detention centres are fully informed of the Adults at Risk policy; and in particular that staff responsible for receiving new arrivals are fully briefed. [HL17217]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Training on the Adults at Risk in Immigration Detention policy has been provided to staff working in immigration removal centres, including healthcare staff and other staff who come into contact with detainees.

This is supplemented by the issuance of further guidance, which covers adults at risk matters, to staff involved in the induction process.

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to report to Parliament annually, or more often, on the progress of the (1) Alternatives to Immigration Detention, and (2) the 2-month auto-bail referral, pilot. [HL17218]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: There are no plans to provide an annual report on either pilot to Parliament.

We will update Parliament on progress at suitable points, for example, once the two-month auto bail pilot has been evaluated.

Immigration Controls

Asked by Lord Green of Deddington

To ask Her Majesty's Government what specific action they took in each of the last five financial years to reduce net migration to the UK. [HL17146]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government remains committed to reducing net migration to sustainable levels but has always been clear that this will take time to achieve.

Under the current immigration system, we have maintained numerical caps to limit the number of people who can enter and remain in the UK and introduced measures to ensure employers invest in and develop the UK's domestic workforce.

Following the end of Free Movement, our future skills-based immigration system will support the UK's dynamic economy and address public concerns around uncontrolled migration.

Immigration: Children in Care

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations the Home Office has received from local authorities about (1) the need for nationality advice for children in local authority care, and (2) problems in identifying children in local authority care and care leavers who need to use the EU Settlement Scheme. [HL17260]

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish the new burdens assessment produced in relation to the need for local authorities to identify and support eligible children in care from the European Economic Area and their family members to regularise their immigration status through the EU Settlement Scheme. [HL17263]

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they intend (1) to monitor, and (2) to ensure that (a) looked after children, and (b) care leavers, applying through the EU Settlement Scheme are getting the correct status, in particular that they are not assigned pre-settled status because they lack the necessary documents. [HL17264]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office has not received direct representations seeking nationality advice for looked after children from local authorities. The difficulties that local authorities may encounter when identifying eligible looked after children and care leavers has been raised.

During engagement sessions, with the Home Office EU Settlement Scheme Safeguarding User Group, as early as May 2018, stakeholders, representing looked after children and care leavers, highlighted that local authorities do not routinely record nationality of children. To help local authorities prepare for the launch of the EU Settlement Scheme, the Home Office made several recommendations. Identifying the eligible cohort of children and care leavers was one of the recommendations, along with identifying resource to manage this work stream. The Home Office has also produced an information pack to assist local authorities with responsibilities for looked after children. The pack details the need to obtain identity documents, a process which local authorities are familiar with as it is required for other circumstances.

The Home Office has no plan to publish the new burdens assessment in relation to looked after children and the EUSS.

The Home Office is committed to continuing to engage with local authorities as they undertake their responsibilities to ensure that all eligible looked after children and care leavers are supported to make an application to the EUSS. The Home Office will ensure that caseworkers liaise with and support applicants to get the status they require. The Home Office is directly engaging with local authorities, social workers, and those making applications on behalf of looked after children and care leavers to provide support and information.

If an applicant indicates that they expect to be granted settled status but the evidence for that status is incomplete, the Home Office will make multiple attempts to contact the applicant and help them to provide the evidence required.

The Home Office is monitoring applications in relation to children in care and care leavers both via engagement with local authorities and by tracking applications received.

Immigration: EU Nationals

Asked by The Earl of Clancarty

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to make phone calls free of charge for applicants seeking advice from the EU Settlement Scheme Resolution Centres. [HL17197]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office are not charging for this service, calls to the Settlement Resolution Centre from within the UK will cost the same as dialling any 01 or 02 number.

The charges will vary depending upon the provider and using landlines or mobiles. Applicants may get free calls to some numbers as part of their call package. We also have an 02 number available for those calling from overseas.

Infrastructure

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to implement a national infrastructure strategy to increase business growth after Brexit. [[HL17375](#)]

Lord Young of Cookham: High quality infrastructure is crucial for supporting business growth.

The Government established the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) in 2015 to provide impartial, expert advice on major long-term infrastructure challenges.

The NIC published their first National Infrastructure Assessment (NIA) last year, setting out their assessment of the UK's long-term infrastructure needs.

The NIA made over 60 recommendations, and the Government is planning to respond in full to all of the recommendations through a National Infrastructure Strategy, to be published later this year.

Islamic State: British Nationals Abroad

Asked by Lord Carlile of Berriew

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to invite the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation to report to the Home Secretary upon the options and possible solutions for dealing with cases of minors who wish to return to the UK from territories formerly held by Daesh, and who may hold nationality of both the UK and another country, where (1) a country refuses to admit the individual concerned, and (2) such a minor is at risk of capital punishment, torture or inhuman or degrading treatment. [[HL17034](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government is aware that there are British national minors in Internally Displaced Persons camps in Syria, and we continue to work at pace with our international partners on these issues. The Government has no current plans to ask the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation to report on this topic.

Lendy: Insolvency

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Young of Cookham on 19 June (HL16113), what discussions they have had with the Financial Conduct Authority about the case for that body to conduct an investigation into its decision to authorise Lendy when it had concerns about that firm's compliance with minimum regulatory standards and the adequacy of disclosure to lenders; and what assessment they have made of the case for any such investigation to include whether any investors in Lendy (1) suffered losses as a result of that authorisation, and (2) are entitled to compensation from the FCA or another institution. [[HL17269](#)]

Lord Young of Cookham: Treasury Ministers and officials have regular meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors, including the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

The operationally independent FCA's investigation into the circumstances that led to the administration of Lendy is ongoing, and it would be inappropriate for Government to pre-empt its findings.

LIBOR

Asked by Baroness Kramer

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the preparedness of the financial services industry to solve the issue of LIBOR-linked loan contracts before 2021. [[HL17312](#)]

Lord Young of Cookham: The Government is supporting a market – led transition away from LIBOR by end-2021.

UK financial services regulators have said that they will be expecting banks to show that they have eliminated dependency on LIBOR in their lending businesses, have suitable plans to move to non-LIBOR products in new lending well before end-2021, and to explain changes to affected customers.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency: Devon

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's (1) decision to discipline coastguards, and (2) management competence, in Devon; and what plans they have to review each individual case including the resultant resignations. [[HL17028](#)]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Her Majesty's Government appreciates the efforts of all of the volunteers in the Coastguard Rescue Service who often operate in hazardous environments, and it is important that volunteers operate safely and stay in touch with the operation centres.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has a Code of Contact which provides the standards by which their Coastguard Rescue Officers (CROs) are expected to follow. This Code sets out the policies, processes and standards for the MCA's volunteers and includes a three-stage disciplinary process— investigation, disciplinary meeting and appeal meeting. The competence of employed staff, which includes Coastguard management, is continually assessed and formal review meetings are held quarterly.

Meat: Exports

Asked by Lord Rogan

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether giving subsidies to farmers in the UK in the event of a no-deal Brexit to assist them

with the export of (1) lamb, and (2) beef, to the EU would be in breach of World Trade Organization rules. [HL17060]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The World Trade Organisation's (WTO's) rules covering agricultural subsidies are set out in the Agreement on Agriculture. A final assessment against these rules can only be made once a subsidy scheme has been designed in detail.

However, at the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference in 2015 a decision was taken to fully eliminate any form of agricultural export subsidy as part of the 'Nairobi Package'. This prevents the UK from putting in place measures such as: direct payments related to export performance; buying up non-commercial stocks of agricultural products and selling them overseas at less than domestic market value; or subsidising domestic or international transport costs for exported goods.

Medicine: Research

Asked by Lord Freyberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of the current public spending on research and development they intend to spend on health in (1) 2019, and (2) each of the next five years. [HL17207]

Lord Henley: We are increasing spending on R&D by £7 billion over 5 years by 2021-22. This will be the largest increase ever. The government has acknowledged the importance of investment in medical and health R&D to the continued health of the UK and to the continued excellence of our healthcare system. The government's commitment to this is laid out in the Industrial Strategy and the life science sector deal.

The Government funds health related R&D primarily through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). Within UKRI the main funder of health related research is the Medical Research Council (MRC). However, all of UKRI's councils fund projects that are connected to health e.g. Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) which has strategic investments in both human and animal health (including long term institute programmes at the Babraham Institute, the Quadram Institute and The Pirbright Institute). Innovate UK also supports business led innovation in healthcare and is involved in wider cross cutting UKRI programmes such as the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund which has several challenges related to healthcare including the £210 million 'Data to Early Diagnosis' Challenge.

UKRI funding decisions are based on the quality of applications, balancing this against wider opportunities and allowing for investigator-led proposals to inform priorities. As such, a total number for spending on health R&D is not available for 2019.

NIHR and MRC have budgets for 2019 of £1,078 million and £745 million respectively.

Allocations for 2020 onwards are subject to the Spending Review.

Money Laundering

Asked by Lord Vinson

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Young of Cookham on 8 July (HL16623), whether the requirement for business to "take a proportionate approach" and create "their own policies based on their assessment of risk" means that customer due diligence checks by businesses and banks for existing customers who have not given any cause for concern are optional. [HL17235]

Lord Young of Cookham: The Money Laundering Regulations 2017 are clear that all relevant persons (such as banks) must apply customer due diligence (CDD) measures if the person establishes a business relationship (regulation 27). Whilst CDD measures include conducting ongoing monitoring of a business relationship, as outlined in my previous answer, the extent of the measures taken must reflect the risk assessment carried out by the relevant person under regulation 18(1) and its assessment of the level of risk arising in any particular case. Therefore, if a customer is deemed low risk, the extent of ongoing CDD measures would be tailored to that risk assessment and minimum monitoring would be expected.

Neurology

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they are giving to establishing a national neurology plan to support people diagnosed with neurological conditions and to address any imbalances in the delivery of neurological services. [HL17090]

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: NHS England is responsible for commissioning specialised neurology services and started, last autumn, a national Specialised Adult Neuroscience Transformation Programme which includes specialised neurology services. The aim is to identify how best to commission services that deliver the right care at the right place and right time and reduce inequalities in access to specialist and specialised care when required.

The programme will focus on specialised neurology and how to organise services such that patients receive access to specialist care and input at key points in the pathway. However, while specialised services for people living with neurological conditions are commissioned by NHS England the bulk of care is funded locally by clinical commissioning groups. The programme will therefore work with wider policy and services across the National Health Service to deliver holistic improvements in care. The aim is to deliver seamless care for people living with neurological conditions, wherever they live.

Northern Ireland Assembly and Northern Ireland Office: Paintings

Asked by Lord Rogan

To ask Her Majesty's Government what criteria are used to determine which portraits are displayed or removed in (1) the Northern Ireland Office, and (2) the Northern Ireland Assembly. [[HL17173](#)]

Asked by Lord Rogan

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have received any reports that civil servants in Northern Ireland have been offended by portraits of the Royal Family in (1) the Northern Ireland Office, and (2) the Northern Ireland Assembly; and if so, how many civil servants have made such complaints. [[HL17174](#)]

Asked by Lord Rogan

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any Northern Irish civil servants received compensation for offence caused by portraits of the Royal Family; if so, how many; and in each case, how much compensation was awarded. [[HL17175](#)]

Lord Duncan of Springbank: The Northern Ireland Office takes its responsibilities under Fair Employment legislation very seriously and seeks to ensure a good and harmonious working environment for all staff; the requirements of which are set out in the 1989 Fair Employment Code of Practice.

In line with the Equality Commission of Northern Ireland's Guide, Promoting a Good and Harmonious Working Environment, the Northern Ireland Office is sensitive to the display of "posters, pictures, portraits or other displays that are more closely associated with one or other of the communities" and will consider any concerns raised by employees. I can confirm that the department takes steps to ensure no such images are displayed in Stormont House

Information on employees' personal data is sensitive, in order to comply with DPA requirements, and so I am unable to comment further. In line with the rest of the Civil Service, our staff need to be able to raise concerns in a confidential manner and without fear of repercussions.

In relation to the Northern Ireland Assembly, I would refer the noble Lord to the Clerk/ Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Organised Crime

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that there may be a rise in cross-border organised crime after Brexit; and if so, what steps they are taking to address this. [[HL17182](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government's position remains that leaving with a deal, which includes ambitious internal security arrangements, is in the UK's best interests.

We continue to work closely with operational partners to maintain readiness for a range of possible exit scenarios in October, including no deal. This includes taking into account risks associated with these scenarios.

The Home Office has therefore been working with operational partners to put in place contingency arrangements for a no deal scenario.

In a deal scenario, the UK would enter an implementation period during which we'd continue to use all the EU security tools we use now.

Palace of Westminster: Repairs and Maintenance

Asked by Lord Adonis

To ask the Senior Deputy Speaker what detailed evaluation was carried out into the option of building a new Parliament outside of London as part of the Restoration and Renewal preparation work; and whether they will publish any such evaluation. [[HL17101](#)]

Lord McFall of Alcluith: An option to move Parliament out of the Palace of Westminster to a new purpose-built building was included in the [Restoration and Renewal Pre-Feasibility Study](#) published in 2012. The House of Lords Commission, then known as the House Committee, reviewed that study on 30 October 2012. It decided to rule out the option of constructing a new building away from Westminster and agreed that no further analysis would be undertaken on this option. The House of Commons Commission had already taken a similar view. These commitments were reaffirmed by the Joint Committee on the Palace of Westminster in 2016 and in the resolutions of both Houses following the debates in 2018.

Pension Credit

Asked by Baroness Greengross

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of (1) the number, and (2) percentage, of eligible state pensioners who claimed pension credit in (a) 2017–18, and (b) 2018–19; and how many pensioners are forecast to claim that benefit in 2019–20. [[HL17147](#)]

Baroness Buscombe: In 2016–17, 1.81m (60 per cent) of eligible state pensioners claimed Pension Credit. Corresponding figures for 2017–18 and 2018–19 are not yet available.

Official statistics on the take-up of income related benefits at Great Britain level, including Pension Credit, can be found in the 'Income-related benefits: estimates of take-up in 2016 to 2017' publication on gov.uk.

Historic and forecast benefit expenditure and caseload data relating to DWP benefits at Great Britain level, including Pension Credit, can be found in the 'Benefit

expenditure and caseload tables 2019' publication on gov.uk.

Persecution of Christians across the Globe Independent Review

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the Final Report of the Bishop of Truro's Independent Review for the Foreign Secretary of Foreign and Commonwealth Office support for persecuted Christians was published; what were the recommendations of that Report; and whether they will set out their response to each such recommendation. [[HL17021](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are grateful to the Bishop for setting out ambitious recommendations in his report which was published on 16 July. The report has identified specific steps the British Government can take to address the issues faced by persecuted Christians around the world. I am pleased to confirm that the Government has accepted the recommendations in full and work will now begin to implement them. This work will include exploring how best to deliver a new Security Council Resolution on protecting Christians in North Africa and the Middle East; and sanctioning those who persecute people for holding a religion or belief.

Police: Recruitment

Asked by Lord Grocott

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 8 July (HL16590), if information on which forces recruited Direct Entry Superintendents or Inspectors is not held centrally, (1) how the data on the number of recruits each year included in her Answer were obtained, and (2) by what processes Direct Entry Superintendents and Inspectors are attached to individual police forces. [[HL17148](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Data pertaining to the Direct Entry Superintendent and Inspector schemes was provided by the College of Policing, which is the body responsible for administering those schemes.

The College of Policing works directly with police forces to assess the number of places required each year by forces. Applicants apply direct to participating forces and, if initial competency and eligibility checks are passed, are recommended for a national assessment centre run by the College. If successful, candidates are considered for appointment by their chosen force.

Poverty

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have (1) to review their policies to address poverty, and

(2) to ensure sufficient services for and assistance to those at risk of destitution. [[HL17250](#)]

Baroness Buscombe: This Government is committed to a sustainable solution to poverty in all its forms, by building a strong economy and a benefit system that supports employment and higher pay. We have acted to increase the incomes of the poorest in society, for example, by increasing the National Living Wage and announcing a £4.5 billion cash boost to Universal Credit in the last Budget. We are also working with the Social Metrics Commission, and other experts in the field, to develop new experimental statistics which will help us to find new and better ways to analyse poverty in this country. These will be published in 2020 and, in the long-run, could help us target support more effectively.

Through our Jobcentre network, we are taking wider action to support vulnerable claimants. Work coaches are upskilled to recognise and help claimants with a wide range of complex employment barriers and work with external partners to offer individualised, specialist support to help people to turn their lives around.

Railway Stations: Parking

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is National Rail's programme for increasing capacity in station car parks to encourage the use of public transport by existing and potential passengers. [[HL17094](#)]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The majority of station car parks are the responsibility of Train Operating Companies. The Department encourages these organisations to identify car parks that are at capacity and work with local partners. The result may be physical car park expansion, or a more innovative approach such as promoting car-sharing. Furthermore, the Department's Cycle-Rail programme has tripled the number of cycle parking spaces at more than 500 stations, bringing the total to over 80,000 since 2010.

Research: Finance

Asked by Lord Freyberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what proportion of the investment in research and development, intended to reach 2.4 per cent of GDP by 2027, they expect to spend on health each year. [[HL17209](#)]

Asked by Lord Freyberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of the investment in research and development, intended to reach 2.4 per cent of GDP by 2027, they expect to come from private sources each year. [[HL17210](#)]

Asked by Lord Freyberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of the investment in research and development, intended to reach 2.4 per cent of GDP by 2027, intended for

health research and development they expect to come from private sources each year. [HL17211]

Lord Henley: Through the Industrial Strategy we have committed to reaching the target of 2.4% of GDP investment in R&D by 2027, and 3% in the longer term. Achieving this ambition would provide a strong platform to transform the economy by enabling the development of new technologies, industries and products that bring new growth, good jobs, and a wide range of social improvements.

Reaching the 2.4% target will require concerted effort both for government and for business. Public investment will play an essential role in achieving the target, but this will also require a commitment from the private sector to invest substantially. Health-related Research and Development will be a vital element of our plan for reaching the ambition. We will publish a Roadmap for achieving the ambition, following the Spending Review. The Roadmap will explore the full range of policy measures that could encourage additional private investment in R&D.

Schools: Standards

Asked by **Lord Browne of Belmont**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many schools in England and Wales are currently under special measures; and how long each of those schools have been subject to such measures. [HL17135]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: For schools in England, this is a matter for Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, Amanda Spielman. I have asked her to write to the noble Lord Browne of Belmont directly and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

For schools in Wales, education is a devolved matter. It is for the National Assembly to decide on policy for schools in Wales.

Shingles: Vaccination

Asked by **Baroness Featherstone**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to require GP surgeries in England to put in place a call and recall procedure to require them to follow up patients in the shingles vaccination cohort who have not yet availed themselves of the vaccine. [HL17113]

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

- Ensure the system incentivises achievement of appropriate uptake rates for immunisations in line with national public health uptake rates;

- Reduce the administrative burden on general practices by simplifying the system if possible;

- Clarify what is expected on call/recall for immunisations delivered through the GP contract;

- Address anomalies in the system that directly incentivise some vaccines but not others;

- Look at how we deal with outbreaks and catch-up programmes; and

- Consider whether we extend the list of chargeable travel vaccines.

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

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Five-year framework for GP contract reform [Investment and Evolution - a five year framework for GP contract.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-07-11/HL17113>

Social Security Benefits: Families

Asked by **Lord Hylton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to increase family benefits and tax credits in line with the cost of living; and if so, when. [HL17252]

Lord Young of Cookham: As the Chancellor has made clear, the government has no intention of repeating the current freeze on working-age benefits, including family benefits and tax credits. From April next year, the government expect to resume increases to frozen benefits in line with CPI in the normal way.

Social Security Benefits: Uprating

Asked by **Baroness Lister of Burtersett**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Buscombe on 8 July (HL16599), what would (1) the weekly rates of Child Benefit, and (2) the monthly rates of Universal Credit standard allowances and child elements have been, if they had been raised in line with the Consumer Price Index. [HL17085]

Baroness Buscombe: If the weekly rates of child benefit had been uprated with CPI the rates would have been:

	<i>Amount in 2019/20 if they had been uprated with CPI</i>
First Child Rate	22.05
Subsequent Child Rate	14.60

If the monthly rates for the Universal Credit standard allowance and child element had been uprated with CPI from 2016/17 to 2019/20 the rates would have been:

	<i>Amount in 2019/20 if they had been uprated with CPI</i>
Single under 25	268.21
Single 25 and over	338.57
Joint claimants both under 25	420.99
Joint claimants one or both over 25	531.46
Child amount (standard amount)	246.79

More information on benefit uprating can be found at: <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8458/CBP-8458.pdf>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Briefing Paper -Benefits Uprating 2019 [Briefing Paper -Benefits Uprating 2019.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-07-10/HL17085>

Stalking: Mobile Phones

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to protect victims of abuse from being stalked through applications placed on their phones. [HL17306]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Stalking is an insidious crime that has a deep and significant impact on victims' wellbeing. Both online and offline, perpetrators leave victims feeling constantly at risk and looking over their shoulder. This Government is committed to ensuring that victims are supported. In March this year the Stalking Protection Act obtained Royal Assent – it introduces Stalking Protection Orders, which will provide protection to people who are stalked online and by phone, as well as offline. The Home Office part-funds the National Stalking Helpline, operated by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust, which helps victims of all methods of stalking.

On 16 July we introduced our Domestic Abuse Bill which sets out our intention to transform the response to domestic abuse, including the risk of technology being used to perpetrate abuse. We published the Government Online Harms White Paper on 8 April which sets out our plans for world-leading legislation to make the UK the safest place in the world to be online. This covers a broad range of online harms, including cyberstalking.

The Government has provided Refuge with £250,000 of funding through the Tampon Tax Fund to provide specialist nationwide support to staff and survivors who experience technologically facilitated abuse. We have also provided Northumbria PCC with £646,000 through the Home Office Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Service Transformation Fund for a project which includes work to tackle cyberstalking.

Stocks and Shares

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have ever formally reviewed the case for the UK establishing its own requirements for liquidity standards for Undertakings for the Collective Investment in Transferable Securities at higher levels than specified by EU Directives; or whether the UK is currently bound by EU rules and cannot introduce higher standards. [HL17324]

Lord Young of Cookham: This is a matter for the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), which is operationally independent from Government. The question has been passed on to the FCA. The FCA will reply directly to Lord Myners by letter. A copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Asked by The Earl of Sandwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what influence they estimate the Sudan Troika countries will have on the possible recurrence of human rights violations by the military council in Khartoum if the latest peace agreement fails. [HL17227]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Troika countries (UK, US and Norway) are engaging with the Transitional Military Council (TMC) and Forces of Freedom and Change (FFC), and regional allies to support the political agreement setting out the transition to civilian rule. We urge all sides to finalise swiftly the Constitutional Declaration and implement the full agreement. Our Embassy in Khartoum closely monitors the human rights situation in Sudan, and raises our concerns in meeting with the authorities on the political situation. The UK, alongside Troika partners, will continue to maintain an international spotlight on the human rights situation in order to encourage accountability and try and prevent further human rights violations. On 29 June, Troika countries issued a joint statement that called on the TMC to respect the rights of the people of Sudan to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, permit peaceful protests, and avoid any use of violence. The Troika released a further joint statement on 18 July. This welcomed the commitment of the TMC and FFC to support an independent investigation into acts of violence, including on 3 June.

Taxation: Electronic Government

Asked by Lord Colgrain

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review the Making Tax Digital service and improve the current (1) process of, and (2) software used by, that service. [HL17136]

Lord Young of Cookham: HMRC are constantly reviewing the progress of the Making Tax Digital (MTD) service. As at 18 July, over 712,000 businesses have joined the VAT service and over 460,000 VAT submissions have been made successfully.

The VAT Helpline has been performing within the 5 minute target for average waiting time. A small proportion of customers – around 0.5% - have been affected by service issues which HMRC are addressing.

The Government recognises the value of independent assurance. MTD is part of the Government's Major Projects Portfolio and the VAT service will be reviewed by the Infrastructure and Projects Authority (IPA) in September.

Software enabling customers to use MTD is provided by a wide range of third-party software providers. This approach has led to a rich choice of products to meet businesses' different needs, preferences and budgets.

Taxation: Young People

Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the level of (1) income tax, and (2) National Insurance contributions, paid to the public purse by people under the age of 18 in each of the last three years. [HL17134]

Lord Young of Cookham: This table contains estimates of the total amount of Income Tax and National Insurance Contribution (NICs) liabilities of individuals who are under the age of 18 at the end of the tax year.

Total Income Tax and NICs liability of individuals under age 18 (£ million)

	<i>Income Tax</i>	<i>NICs</i>
2014-15	41	12
2015-16	47	13
2016-17	38	10

i) All figures presented are rounded to the nearest whole number.

ii) These estimates are based on the latest outturn data from the Survey of Personal Incomes (SPI) for 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17.

iii) Figures for Income Tax are gross of dividend tax credit consistent with HMRC's Income Tax liabilities Statistics publication.

Technical Alternative Arrangements Advisory Group

Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 9 July (HL16639), who are the members of the Technical Alternative Arrangements Advisory Group; which government department each member is drawn from; how many meetings that Group has held; when each of those meetings occurred; and whether they will publish any minutes and documents relating to that Group. [HL17072]

Lord Callanan: The Government announced the formation of the Technical Advisory Group on Alternative Arrangements on 20 June. The group has met twice, on 20 June and 17 July, and will continue to meet throughout August and September.

It is made up of technical experts in trade and customs and brings together individuals from both the public and private sector, and academia, who have expertise on issues spanning law, customs, supply chains, cross-border trade and technology. The members represent a broad spectrum of views and expertise, all of which will be needed to achieve our economic, fiscal and security objectives in the unique circumstances of the Northern Ireland land border. A full list of members can be found on gov.uk.

Further information about the work of the groups will be made available in due course.

Tourism

Asked by Baroness Doocey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent steps they have taken to address the decline in inbound tourists' spending in 2018. [HL17247]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: 2017 was a record breaking year for inbound visits and spend. 2018 saw the second highest figures on record. We want tourism to continue to thrive and will continue to work closely with the tourism sector to ensure this happens as we leave the EU.

The recently published Tourism Sector Deal demonstrates that both Government and industry are committed to growing our tourism sector, through improving workforce skills, improving our international offer for disabled visitors, developing the concept of Tourism Zones to provide targeted support for specific areas and increasing investment in accommodation across the country.

Tourism: Productivity

Asked by Baroness Doocey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent steps they have taken to improve the tourism and hospitality industry's productivity. [HL17248]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: With both Government and industry working together, the recently published Tourism Sector Deal has a focus on increasing the sectors productivity through several means, including:

- Ensuring that the UK will become the most accessible tourism destination in Europe by 2025 and increasing the number of international disabled visitors by 33%.
- Creating a new independent Tourism Data Hub with support from some of our biggest travel companies. This will allow organisations, including SMEs, to make the most of big data revolution to understand activity and product preferences in their area - and better tailor their services as a result.
- The sector committing to deliver 30,000 apprenticeships per year, in England, by 2025 as well as leading a mentoring programme aimed at supporting 10,000 employees so that they are more likely to remain in the sector.
- Continuing to be Europe's leading hub for hotel investment for the next decade with over 130,000 additional bedrooms added to accommodation stock by 2025, with 75% of these outside of London.
- Introducing Tourism Zones, bringing businesses and local organisations together to establish a coordinated strategy for growth in their local visitor economy and a reduction in the impact of seasonality.
- Publishing the Business Events Action Plan which aims to improve our attractiveness as a destination for international business events.

Trade Agreements

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports of a shortage of experienced UK trade negotiators during the Brexit process. [HL17181]

Viscount Younger of Leckie: The number of negotiators required is dependent on how many trade agreements are ongoing at any given time and will involve teams of differing sizes, with expertise relevant to the specific chapters of sectors. The Department for International Trade has reviewed its resource requirements and continue to do so to ensure that it is sufficiently staffed. Since the Department was created its Trade Policy Group (TPG) has grown to approximately 700 people at the end of June 2019, bringing together trade policy, country specialists and experts on trade policy issues.

UK Research and Innovation

Asked by Baroness Deech

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether participation by an individual or an organisation in an academic boycott is taken into account in funding decisions by UK Research and Innovation, based on their principles of equality, diversity and inclusion, and

in compliance with the public sector Equality Duty; and if not, why not. [HL17140]

Lord Henley: UKRI funding decisions are made on the basis of the excellence of the proposals that are received, and any academic partnerships which strengthens applications and delivers such excellence are encouraged. UKRI does not ask applicants about their political views or activity, or those of the employing organisation. UKRI has clear eligibility criteria and EDI policy principles which the organisations we fund are expected to meet.

UK Trade with EU

Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether officials have visited the Sweden-Norway border to discuss with the governments of Sweden and Norway the impact of border arrangements on the passage and monitoring of goods across that border; and what conclusions they have drawn from their enquiries. [HL17074]

Lord Young of Cookham: HM Revenue & Customs and HM Treasury officials visited the Sweden-Norway border in 2017, where border arrangements were discussed with Norwegian officials at a working level. The visit offered greater understanding of how the Norwegian facilitative regime operates outside of the customs union.

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many cross-Channel transport companies have (1) applied for, and (2) received, Economic Operator Registration and Identification numbers to enable cross-Channel transport after Brexit; and what percentage of cross-Channel uninitiated transport those companies represent. [HL17279]

Lord Young of Cookham: If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, businesses will need to have a UK Economic Operator Registration and Identification (EORI) number to trade goods in to or out of the UK. Since December 2018, through to 14 July 2019, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has issued 66,000 EORI numbers, which are still live. HMRC has issued UK EORI numbers to all traders who registered for a number and did not already possess one at the time of their registration. HMRC does not hold data on how many of these traders are cross-Channel transport companies.

UK Trade with EU: Duty Free Allowances

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to re-introduce duty free trade with the EU after Brexit. [HL17063]

Lord Callanan: It remains the government's priority to agree a deal with the European Union, but as the Prime

Minister has said it will be for her successor to find a way forward on EU exit.

The Political Declaration sets out the UK's and EU's ambition to agree a future economic partnership which ensures no tariffs, fees, charges of quantitative restrictions across all sectors ensuring tariff free trade with the EU after Brexit.

If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, the UK would implement a temporary tariff regime (published on 13 March). This would apply for up to 12 months while a full consultation, and review on a permanent approach, is undertaken.

The link below sets out the Temporary Tariff Regime in detail:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/temporary-tariff-regime-for-no-deal-brex-it-published>.

Unexplained Wealth Orders and Freezing Orders

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unexplained wealth orders have been issued since those orders were introduced. [HL17309]

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much foreign owned property is currently subject to asset freezing orders in the UK. [HL17310]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: 7 unexplained wealth orders (UWOs) have been made on 3 cases, including one which was discharged and replaced by another.

6 interim freezing orders (IFOs) related to the UWOs have been made, covering a number of properties. The total estimated value of the IFOs is £140m. At this stage it is not possible to determine how much of this property is foreign owned.

USA: Diplomatic Service

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the ability of the UK ambassador to the United States to maintain a productive relationship with the government of the United States; and when that ambassador is due to be replaced. [HL17029]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: As the Noble Lord will be aware, Sir Kim Darroch resigned as our Ambassador to the United States on 10 July. A new appointment will be made in due course. The UK has a strong relationship with the US which is based on decades of close cooperation and partnership, and that will remain the case.

VAT: Databases

Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will seek continued access to the VAT Information Exchange System after the UK leaves the EU. [HL17107]

Lord Young of Cookham: The VAT Information Exchange system supports the free movement of goods between EU Member States. Access to the system will depend on the terms under which the UK leaves the EU. The current Withdrawal Agreement gives the UK continued access until the end of 2024.

Veterans: Mental Health Services

Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont

To ask Her Majesty's Government what mental health support armed service personnel currently receive when leaving Her Majesty's Armed Forces. [HL17133]

Earl Howe: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is absolutely committed to ensuring that both serving personnel and veterans are given the mental health treatment and support they need. We do this by working in close partnership with a variety of different organisations, including the NHS (which is responsible for the provision of healthcare, including mental healthcare, for veterans) and Service charities.

Personnel leaving the Armed Forces are provided with a final medical assessment by Defence Medical Services who can refer personnel to sources of civilian welfare support as necessary. Those who have had mental health issues during their service are able to access facilities at their nearest MOD Department of Community Mental Health (DCMH) for up to six months after discharge, to help them during the transition period. A Tri-Service Welfare Referral Protocol ensures any Service person discharged with a diagnosed mental health disorder who has given their consent is referred to the MOD's Veterans UK Veteran Welfare Service who can provide ongoing specialist advice, information and support. Where a Service person in England is approaching discharge but has an enduring need for mental healthcare, we work in partnership with NHS England through the Veterans Mental Health Transition, Intervention and Liaison Service, to ensure continuity of care.

The Government is not complacent about the need to further support our people. As part of the cross-Government 'Strategy for our Veterans' launched in 2018, this year we are also introducing a holistic transition policy. Transition support currently provided by the MOD largely focuses on employment support, delivered by the Career Transition Partnership. This supports Service leavers in their transition from military to civilian life through a range of career and employment support services, including skills development workshops,

seminars, resettlement training advice, vocational training courses, career consultancy, one-to-one guidance and job finding support. However, transition is far wider than finding employment, and relates to the significant life changing processes which affect both the Service person and their immediate family through the entire time they are within or connected to the Armed Forces, through to discharge and beyond. These need to be appropriately addressed to ensure successful transition into civilian life. This will include transition to civilian health care.

Visas: Tourists

*Asked by **Baroness Doocey***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of the potential impact of reducing long-term visitor visa costs for those coming from emerging tourism markets. [[HL17290](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office is currently offering, as a pilot, a two year validity multi entry visa for Chinese citizens applying for a UK visa in mainland China for a lower price. This pilot is ongoing and the Home Office is looking at whether and how the pilot can be incorporated into part of the UK's future visa offer and links to the development of mobility partnerships and trade deals.

Welfare Assistance Schemes

*Asked by **Lord Storey***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of local welfare assistance schemes. [[HL17230](#)]

Baroness Buscombe: The reforms to the Social Fund in 2013 allowed local authorities in England and the devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales to deliver their own local provision for people who are in need of urgent help. The Department for Work and Pension's (DWP) 2014 review found that local authorities delivered support more effectively than the previous provision and that councils are best placed to decide how to target flexible help to support local welfare needs. The Government has no further plans to review provision.

Yoga

*Asked by **Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent meetings they have had with yoga practitioners, or representatives of yoga practitioners; and what action they are taking as a result of those meetings. [[HL17104](#)]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: Government wants to encourage everyone to get physically active in a way that they enjoy, something we set out in our Sporting Future sport and physical activity strategy. As part of their roles the Secretary of State and Minister for Sport meet with the national governing bodies for sport and physical activity on a periodic and ongoing basis. Ministers continue to work with them to ensure that the government's Sporting Future strategy is implemented effectively and that grassroots participation is supported.

National governing bodies are also in regular contact with Sport England, the government arm's length body responsible for investing in and supporting grassroots sport and physical activity. Yoga clubs and associations are eligible to apply to Sport England for funding and are encouraged to consider this as an option to help increase participation.

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