P A R L I A M E N T A R Y  D E B A T E S
(HANSARD)

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND
WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

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

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Written Statements

Tuesday, 4 February 2020

Bilateral Loan to Ireland

[HLWS87]

The Earl of Courtown: My honourable friend the Economic Secretary to the Treasury (John Glen) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I would like to update Parliament on the loan to Ireland.

In December 2010, the UK agreed to provide a bilateral loan of £3.2 billion as part of a €67.5 billion international assistance package for Ireland. The loan was disbursed in 8 tranches, and the final tranche was drawn down on 26 September 2013. Ireland has made interest payments on the loan every six months since the first disbursement.

On 3 February, in line with the agreed repayment schedule, HM Treasury received a total payment of £404,714,183.56 from Ireland. This comprises the repayment of £403,370,000 in principal and £1,344,183.56 in accrued interest.

As required under the Loans to Ireland Act 2010, HM Treasury laid a Statutory Report to Parliament on 3 October 2019 covering the period from 1 April to 30 September 2019. The Report set out details of future payments up to the final repayment on 26 March 2021. The government continues to expect the loan to be repaid in full and on time.

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/bilateral-loan-to-ireland

The next Statutory Report will cover the period from 1 October 2019 to 31 March 2020. HM Treasury will report fully on all repayments received during this period in the Report.

Contingencies Fund Advance

[HLWS89]

Viscount Younger of Leckie: My Rt Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland (Mr Alister Jack MP) has today made the following statement:

I hereby give notice of the Scotland Office and Office of the Advocate General’s intention to seek a repayable cash advance from the Contingencies Fund of £1,900,000. The Department requires an advance to meet its cash requirements pending parliamentary approval of the Supplementary Estimate 2019-20.

The Department is operating within the budget agreed in the Main Estimate, however, will be seeking an increase in net cash requirement in the Supplementary Estimate. Accessing the contingency fund will allow the department to cover existing expenditure consistent with existing Parliamentary Estimates and does not represent additional spending.

The advance will be repaid immediately following approval of the Supplementary Estimate.

Parliamentary approval for additional cash of £1,900,000 will be sought in a Supplementary Estimate for Scotland Office and Office of the Advocate General. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £1,900,000 will be met by repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund.

Counter-terrorist Asset Freezing Regime

[HLWS88]

The Earl of Courtown: My honourable friend the Economic Secretary to the Treasury (John Glen) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Under the Terrorist Asset-Freezing etc. Act 2010 (TAFA 2010), the Treasury is required to prepare a quarterly report regarding its exercise of the powers conferred on it by Part 1 of TAFA 2010. This written statement satisfies that requirement for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 September 2019.

This report also covers the UK’s implementation of the UN’s ISIL (Da’esh) and Al-Qa’ida asset freezing regime (ISIL-AQ), and the operation of the EU’s asset freezing regime under EU Regulation (EC) 2580/2001 concerning external terrorist threats to the EU (also referred to as the CP 931 regime).

Under the ISIL-AQ asset freezing regime, the UN has responsibility for designations and the Treasury, through the Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation (OFSI), has responsibility for licensing and compliance with the regime in the UK under the ISIL (Da’esh) and Al-Qa’ida (Asset-Freezing) Regulations 2011.

Under EU Regulation 2580/2001, the EU has responsibility for designations and OFSI has responsibility for licensing and compliance with the regime in the UK under Part 1 of TAFA 2010.

EU Regulation (2016/1686) was implemented on 22 September 2016. This permits the EU to make autonomous Al-Qa’ida and ISIL (Da’esh) listings.

The annexed tables set out the key asset-freezing activity in the UK during the quarter.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Counter-terrorist asset freezing regime Q3 2019 [TAFA Q3 2019 Table.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2020-02-04/HLWS88/

Parental Bereavement Leave and Pay

[HLWS85]

Lord Duncan of Springbank: My Rt Hon Friend, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (Andrea Leadsom), has today made the following statement:

The Government is committed to supporting working families to balance work with their caring responsibilities. We have laid Regulations in Parliament which, subject to
Parliamentary approval, will implement our commitment to give employed parents a statutory minimum right to time off work in the devastating circumstances where their child dies or they suffer a stillbirth.

Parental Bereavement Leave and Pay are the first of a raft of new employment reforms which will make the UK the best place in the world to work and to start and grow a business. As announced in the Queen’s Speech, the Employment Bill will introduce further measures to benefit employees and their employers, including Carer’s Leave and Neonatal Leave and Pay.

The Parental Bereavement Leave Regulations 2020; the Statutory Parental Bereavement Pay (General) Regulations 2020; and the Parental Bereavement (Leave and Pay) Act 2018 (Commencement) Regulations 2020 (collectively referred to as “the Parental Bereavement Leave and Pay Regulations”) were laid in Parliament on 23rd January 2020. Taken together, they implement a statutory right to a minimum of 2 weeks’ leave for all employed parents whose child under the age of 18 dies or who suffer a stillbirth from 24 weeks of pregnancy.

Employment law is a devolved matter in the case of Northern Ireland so the new entitlement to Parental Bereavement Leave and Pay will only apply to parents in Great Britain (GB). There are around 7,500 child deaths a year in GB, including around 3,000 stillbirths. The Government estimates that this new entitlement will help to support over 10,000 GB parents a year.

The entitlement to Parental Bereavement Leave will be a “Day 1” right which means that employed parents will be entitled to time off work to grieve irrespective of how long they have worked for their employer. Parents who have worked for their employer for 6 months or more at the time of their child’s death will also be able to claim Statutory Parental Bereavement Pay.

Employed parents will be able to take their leave and pay as either a single block of 2 weeks, or as 2 separate blocks of one week each.

The right to Parental Bereavement Leave and Pay makes GB one of a very small number of countries worldwide to recognise the impact that the death of a child has on parents and to offer such support to parents. We are the first to offer a full 2 week’s parent leave and pay in the world.

Both the leave and pay can be taken at any time in the first 56 weeks after the child’s death. The ability to take time off work over a long period recognises that grief is a very personal matter – whilst some parents may want to take time off work immediately, others may prefer to take time off work on the first anniversary of their child’s death or to enable them to attend the funeral or inquest.

The new entitlement will be known as Jack’s Law in memory of Jack Herd whose mother Lucy has campaigned tirelessly on this important issue.

Subject to Parliamentary approval, the new entitlement will apply to parents who lose a child on or after 6 April 2020.

Paterson Inquiry

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

Today the report of the Independent Inquiry into the issues raised by the former breast surgeon Ian Paterson has been published.

This report follows two years of work by the Inquiry, led by Bishop Graham James. The Bishop has adopted a strong commitment to a “patients and families first” approach to public disclosure, which means that the process of public disclosure began earlier this morning with the patients and families themselves.

The report contains an analysis of the circumstances surrounding Ian Paterson’s malpractice that has affected so many patients and considers other past and current practices. It also tells the stories of patients who came forward to provide evidence to the Inquiry, which bears testament to their courage. As such it makes for difficult reading and it is with deep regret that we have to acknowledge the failure of the NHS and the independent sector to protect patients from Paterson’s malpractice.

The public should be able to trust that a health professional will never again be allowed to place personal gain or advancement over the best interests of his or her patients whether care is funded by the NHS or privately. It is therefore essential that the whole of the health sector responds quickly and effectively to the lessons of this inquiry. The Government will give a thorough and detailed consideration of its findings over the coming weeks.

We expect now for all the relevant agencies and organisations both nationally and locally, and across the whole health care sector to give this report urgent and thorough attention.

Once that work is done, the relevant agencies will decide what steps to take next.

Copies of the report will be laid before the House and will be available from the Vote Office and at: https://www.gov.uk

An oral statement will be delivered to the House today.

State of the Estate: 2018-19

Earl Howe: My Hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Jeremy Quin) has made the following written statement:

I have today laid before Parliament, pursuant to Section 86 of the Climate Change Act 2008, the “State of the Estate in 2018-19”. This report describes the efficiency and sustainability of the Government’s Civil Estate and records the progress that the Government has made since the previous year. The report is published on an annual basis.
To ask Her Majesty’s Government what assessment they have made of the (1) year-on-year fall in the number of apprenticeships started by young people, and (2) the effectiveness of the Apprenticeship Levy.  

[HL610]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: Our reforms to apprenticeships have fundamentally changed what apprenticeships are and the long-term opportunities they provide for people of all ages and backgrounds.

The tables below show apprenticeships starts, by age, from 2015/16 to 2018/19, including the percentage change from 2015/16 to 2018/19 and the breakdown of frameworks and standards.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 19</td>
<td>131,400</td>
<td>122,800</td>
<td>106,600</td>
<td>97,700 –26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 to 24</td>
<td>153,900</td>
<td>142,200</td>
<td>113,700</td>
<td>116,000 –25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25+</td>
<td>224,100</td>
<td>229,900</td>
<td>155,500</td>
<td>179,700 –20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>509,400</td>
<td>494,900</td>
<td>375,800</td>
<td>393,400 –23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Type of apprenticeship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frameworks</th>
<th>2015/16</th>
<th>2016/17</th>
<th>2017/18</th>
<th>2018/19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>505,100</td>
<td>470,300</td>
<td>212,100</td>
<td>145,300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Standards  | 4,300   | 24,600  | 163,700 | 248,100 |

The number of people starting apprenticeships has fallen across all age groups. A key reason for this is that we are moving away from old apprenticeship frameworks which employers said were not equipping apprentices to do the job; training was often poor or non-existent. As more standards have become available each year, the number of apprentices of all ages starting on standards has increased.

Employers are now in the driving seat, designing apprenticeship standards to give apprentices the skills that industry really needs. Over 63% of starts in 2018/19 were on standards, compared to 44% in 2017/18, and all starts will be on high quality standards from August 2020.

To promote apprenticeships to younger people, we launched the third phase of our apprenticeships marketing campaign, Fire it Up, in January. The campaign shines a spotlight on how apprenticeships can provide opportunities for ambitious young people and support businesses to diversify their workforce. Our annual National Apprenticeship Week will take place in February and celebrate the impact of apprenticeships on individuals, employers and the economy.

In 2019, we engaged with over 16,500 students in years 10 to 13, and 2,000 schools and colleges used the Apprenticeship Activity Pack for students. Throughout the year, our Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge (ASK) programme ensures that schools and colleges across England have free support to develop apprenticeship awareness activities.

The apprenticeship levy underpins our reforms to increase the quality of training and to support employers of all sizes to make a sustainable investment in the skills they need to grow.

We have already made changes to the levy in response to our engagement with employers. In April 2019, we raised the cap on transfers to 25%. We have already seen employers making use of transfers to support apprenticeship starts in their supply chains or to meet local skills needs.

In January, we extended the use of transfers to cover the full cost of training for 16 to 18-year-olds, eligible 19 to 24-year-olds and for receiving employers with fewer than 50 employees, creating opportunities for organisations who may have previously felt that employing an apprentice was beyond their reach. We are committed to continuing to look at how we can improve the working of the levy to ensure it delivers the skilled workforce that employers need.

Asylum: Children

 Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty’s Government how many unaccompanied children, in addition to those admitted under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016, (1) have arrived in the UK since the passage of that Act from (a) Europe, and (b) outside of Europe; and (2) how many were received by (i) hospitals, (ii) local authorities, (iii) their own families, and (iv) other carers. [HL638]


These statistics include the nationality of asylum claimants but not the country from which they arrived, which would only be available at disproportionate cost. In addition, the exact location of where each child is first encountered is not recorded centrally. Irrespective of where unaccompanied children first present, a local authority will assess whether they need to be provided with support under the Children Act 1989.

The Home Office also publishes information on the number of asylum claimants transferred to the UK from EU Member States under the Dublin Regulation:
Bahrain: Human Rights

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what assessment they have made of the human rights situation in Bahrain since 2017; and whether that situation has (1) improved, or (2) deteriorated. [HL647]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Bahrain is a Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Human Rights Priority Country. We publish our assessment of the human rights situation in Bahrain in the annual FCO Human Rights Report, most recently in June 2019.

Bus Services

*Asked by Baroness Eaton*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what plans they have to publish a national bus strategy; and if so, when any such strategy will be published. [HL683]

**Baroness Vere of Norbiton:** On 30 September 2019, the Government announced that it will be committing to the UK’s first-ever long-term bus strategy and funding settlement. The strategy will focus on the needs of passengers and set out how Government, both local and national, and the private sector will come together to meet the needs of local communities. This long-term vision for buses will be accompanied by a long-term funding commitment.

The Government expects to consult on the strategy later in the year.

Civil Proceedings

*Asked by Lord Bowness*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what plans they have to ensure that the law currently in place to resolve cross border disputes in family law matters and the resolution of cross border disputes between customers in the UK and suppliers in other EU countries remains in place after the UK leaves the EU. [HL607]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** Existing EU instruments in the area of civil judicial cooperation (including cross-border disputes in family and consumer matters) will continue to have effect between the UK and EU member states during the Implementation Period. The position after 11pm on 31 December 2020 will depend on the outcome of negotiations undertaken with the EU during the Implementation Period.

Climate Change

*Asked by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what action they are taking to ensure that their climate change targets are met. [HL838]

**Lord Duncan of Springbank:** The UK is a world leader in cutting emissions while creating wealth. Between 1990 and 2017, the UK reduced its emissions by 42% while growing the economy by 73% – the best performance in the G7 on a per person basis.

The UK over-achieved against the first (2008-12) and second (2013-17) carbon budgets. We exceeded the required emissions reduction in the first carbon budget by 1.2%, and the second carbon budget by nearly 14%.

Since setting the 2050 net zero target, we have invested £2bn and will continue to build on the strong frameworks we have in place for driving decarbonisation across the UK economy.

2020 will be a vital year for climate action, and we will set out our ambitious plans in the run up to COP26 through a number of sectoral strategies, including the Transport Decarbonisation Plan, Energy White Paper and a policy roadmap for heat.

Commonwealth: Foreign Relations

*Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what plans they have, if any, to build closer social and economic ties between the UK and other Commonwealth countries, in particular Canada, Australia and New Zealand, after Brexit. [HL553]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK is committed to working with the three pillars of the Commonwealth – the Secretariat, its member states, and its civil society organisations and networks - to build closer social and economic ties. We were particularly pleased to host
Commonwealth partners, including Australia, Canada, and New Zealand, at the sixth Commonwealth Trade Ministers’ Meeting in London last October. The meeting reaffirmed our shared commitment to deepening trade and investment ties across the Commonwealth, including through our plans for Free Trade Agreements following our departure from the EU. Canada, Australia and New Zealand are close and natural partners based on our shared history and values. These are invaluable relationships for the UK, which are further strengthened through our Commonwealth cooperation.

**Counter-terrorism**
*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government on what basis the National Counter Terrorism Policing Network included Critical Mass on their list of Left Wing and Associated Single Issues organisations in June 2019. [HL673]

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government on what basis the National Counter Terrorism Policing Network included Greenpeace in their 'Signs and Symbols' document, published in June 2019. [HL674]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Counter-Terrorism Policing produce a range of guidance documents designed to assist frontline officers and counter terrorism colleagues in making informed decisions.

The document in question clearly says that it was produced to help police and close partners identify and understand signs and symbols they may come across in their day-to-day work.

As both Government and the police have said, protest groups are not extremist groups and membership of a protest organisation is not an indicator that an individual is vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

Clearly, the inclusion of protest groups in documents like these without context can be concerning, which is why the police’s swift response in clarifying their position is welcome.

**Driving: Licensing**
*Asked by Baroness Masham of Ilton*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether they plan to recognise EU driving licences in the UK after Brexit; and whether they plan to seek recognition of UK driving licences by the EU. [HL645]

**Baroness Vere of Norbiton:** EU licences will continue to be recognised in the UK during the transition period, and vice versa. This means that motorists visiting the UK or the EU will not require an International Driving Permit, and vice versa.

Arrangements after the transition period will depend on the outcome of negotiations with the EU. The UK Government will work with its European partners to minimise any extra burden on motorists after the transition period, as this is advantageous for both the UK and the EU. 24 of the 27 EU Member States have already stated that they will continue to recognise UK photocard licences in all circumstances.

**Electric Vehicles**
*Asked by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what steps they are taking to ensure that the (1) number of charging points, and (2) supply of electricity, are sufficient to support any increase in the number of electric vehicles in the UK. [HL599]

**Baroness Vere of Norbiton:** Government and industry have supported the installation of over 17,000 devices, providing over 24,000 publicly available chargepoints, of which over 2,400 are rapid chargepoints. We will invest £1 billion in completing a fast-charging network to ensure that everyone is within 30 miles of a rapid electric vehicle charging station. We will set out a vision by Spring 2020 for a core rapid charger network on England’s strategic road network. We will also consult on the earliest date we can phase out the sale of new conventional petrol and diesel cars, while minimising the impact on drivers and businesses. As detailed in our Manifesto last year, this Government’s first Budget will prioritise the environment, including electric vehicle infrastructure.

Our various grant schemes and the £400m Charging Infrastructure Investment Fund will see the installation of thousands more public chargepoints, with the first £70 million of investment adding 3,000 additional rapid chargepoints by 2024. On 21 January, we announced that Government has doubled the value of the On-street Residential Charging Scheme for 2020-2021 to £10 million to support the provision of up to 3,600 chargepoints for those that don’t have off-street parking.

We are confident that the grid will be able to cope with increased demand from electric vehicles. The electricity market is already set up to bring forward investment in generation capacity to meet demand. Ofgem, the independent energy regulator, ensures – through the RIIO regulatory framework – that there is sufficient investment in electricity networks to deliver our net zero target and enable the transition to electric vehicles. This is alongside numerous measures to ensure a smarter, more flexible energy system, to help increase the efficiency of the system to prepare for new sources of demand, including electric vehicles. For example, Government consulted last year on mandating that all chargepoints sold or installed in the UK have smart functionality. Smart charging during off-peak periods, when electricity demand is low, can help reduce electricity network constraints.

**Energy: Housing**
*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what steps they are taking and over what period to assist over 60’s living in...
fuel-poor properties, and to improve the energy efficiency of existing homes. [HL893]

Lord Duncan of Springbank: Improving energy efficiency is the best long-term solution to tackle fuel poverty.

More than one quarter of fuel poor households in England include a resident over the age of 60. Government is taking steps to ensure low income, vulnerable households, including older people, are protected from living in a cold home.

The Energy Company Obligation Scheme provides support for low income and vulnerable households. Since ECO launched in January 2013, it has delivered energy efficiency measures to more than 2 million households. ECO, or a successor scheme, will continue to drive at least £640 million investment per year in home energy efficiency until 2028.

The Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards now require landlords spend up to £3500 improving their properties to energy efficiency Band E before renting them out. We intend to consult later this year on a long-term trajectory for improving Private Rented Sector homes to Band C.

In addition to receiving energy efficiency support, pensioners receive financial support to ensure they can keep their homes warm. Winter Fuel Payments provide pensioners with between £100 and £300 to keep their homes warm during the winter. Those on Pension Credit also receive a £140 Warm Home Discount rebate.

Our 2020 Fuel Poverty Strategy will detail our future plans to tackle fuel poverty.

Equal Pay: Ethnic Groups

Asked by Baroness McGregor-Smith

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether they intend to introduce legislation to address the ethnicity pay gap; and if so, when such legislation will be introduced. [HL700]

Lord Duncan of Springbank: The Government ran a consultation from October 2018 to January 2019 on Ethnicity Pay Reporting and received over 300 detailed responses. BEIS Ministers and officials have met with businesses and representative organisations to understand the barriers towards reporting and what information could be published to allow for meaningful action to be taken. We have also run voluntary methodology testing with a broad range of businesses to better understand the complexities outlined in the consultation using real payroll data and will share next steps in due course.

Faith Schools: Islam

Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Agnew of Oulton on 16 January (HL157), whether they assess what is being taught in madrasas in the UK; if so, how; and what plans they have to introduce inspections for such schools. [HL646]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: As stated in my answer of 16 January, religious settings such as madrasas would generally be considered an out-of-school setting. As a large and diverse sector these settings are not captured by a single dedicated regulatory framework; and as such, are not subject to assessment or inspection by the department or Ofsted.

There are currently a number of legal powers in place to protect children attending these settings – for example, child protection legislation, health and safety and fire safety law – and there are no plans by the department, at this time, to introduce a new system of regulation or inspection of these settings.

However, the department is taking forward a package of measures aimed at enhancing the safeguarding of children in this sector. This includes a £3 million pilot scheme outlined in my previous response, which will be used to inform the development of best practice on how existing legal powers, held by local authorities and other agencies, can best be used to identify and intervene in out-of-school settings of concern. This work started in summer 2018 and is due to conclude in March 2020.

Alongside this, we have also been developing a voluntary code of practice for out-of-school setting providers to support them to understand what they need to do to run a safe setting. There is accompanying guidance for parents and carers to help them make more informed choices when considering out-of-school settings for their children, as well as understanding the steps they can take where they have concerns. We consulted on these documents last year and will respond and publish the final guidance in due course. The consultation can be found here: https://consult.education.gov.uk/regulatory-framework-unit/out-of-school-settings-voluntary-safeguarding-code/.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL646_guidance_OSS [HL646_draft_guidance.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at: http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-21/HL646

Flexible Working

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what steps they have taken to (1) adopt the EU’s Work-life Balance Directive, (2) make paternity leave a day one right, (3) increase paternity pay, and (4) introduce eight weeks of paid parental leave as part of each parent’s current unpaid 18-week entitlement. [HL698]

Lord Duncan of Springbank: The Government is committed to maintaining and enhancing workers’ rights, and to supporting people to balance their work and caring responsibilities. This month we laid regulations in
Parliament which will give grieving parents a right to paid time off work. We also committed in the Queen’s Speech to bring forward an Employment Bill which will make it easier for fathers to take paternity leave; introduce a new entitlement to carer’s leave; and to introduce a new entitlement to leave and pay for parents of children who spend time in neonatal care. We have recently consulted on high-level options for reforming parental leave and pay, including Paternity Leave and Pay and Unpaid Parental Leave, and will respond to this consultation in due course.

After we leave the EU, we will be able to set our own standards for workers’ rights, and we intend to use this opportunity to make the UK the best place in the world to work.

Further Education and Higher Education

*Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government which Parliamentary constituencies have no further or higher education establishments within their boundaries. [HL612]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** Further education and higher education are devolved matters. The department does not have ready access to the location of all further education colleges within the UK and so cannot provide an answer in the form requested in the time available. The answer below therefore focuses on England.

In England, of the 533 parliamentary constituencies, there are 52 with no further education colleges or higher education institutions registered within their boundaries.

The attached tables contain the full list of these constituencies.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

- HL612_Table
  `[HL612_Constituencies_with_no_FE_or_HE_provision_in_England.xls]`

The material can be viewed online at: http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-21/HL612

Global High-level Conference on Road Safety

*Asked by Lord Robertson of Port Ellen*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what steps they are taking to ensure that individuals are able to access Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis even before routine commissioning starts. [HL654]

**Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford:** Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) is currently provided in England through the three-year PrEP Impact Trial. Participation in the trial is on a voluntary basis and it is for clinics and local authorities to decide the number of allocated places they can accept.

HIV Infection: Drugs

*Asked by Baroness Thornton*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government how they intend to ensure the routine commissioning of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis. [HL652]

**Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford:** The Department is continuing to work closely with NHS England and NHS Improvement, Public Health England and local authorities to plan for a seamless transition from the Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Impact Trial to routine commissioning from April 2020. Further information will be available shortly. PrEP continues to be available through the trial.

**Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford:** Regarding routine commissioning of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis. [HL653]

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**Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe**

*Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what is the UK’s annual contribution to the Horizon 2020 research programme from 2013 onwards; and what they estimate it will be for each year until 2027. [HL835]

**Lord Duncan of Springbank:** As a Member State of the EU, the UK did not contribute financially to specific programmes. Member States pay for participation in EU Framework Programmes through the general UK contribution to the EU Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

The Withdrawal Agreement means that the UK continues to participate in EU Programmes financed by the 2014-2020 MFF until their closure. Horizon 2020 is a Programme funded under the current MFF. UK scientists, researchers and businesses can continue to participate in these programmes and receive EU grant funding for the lifetime of individual projects, including projects finishing after the transition period ends in 2020. This will include UK participations in Horizon 2020 projects running until 2027 where the funding has been committed under the 2014 – 2020 MFF.
Information on the UK’s participation in Horizon 2020 can be found on the European Commission’s Horizon 2020 dashboard.

The shape and content of EU Programmes post-2020, including Horizon Europe, are currently being negotiated in the EU Institutions. This includes budget discussions which are decided as part of the EU’s Multi-annual Financial Framework negotiation. The Horizon Europe Regulation budget is as of yet unknown and will only be finalised after the overall EU budget has been agreed.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Horizon 2020 Dashboard quick guide [horizon_dashboard_quick_guide.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-28/HL835

**Horizon Europe**

*Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what is the timetable for negotiating the association agreement with the Horizon Europe research programme for the 2021–27 period; and when they expect that final details of the agreement will be published. [HL834]

**Lord Duncan of Springbank:** We will continue to collaborate with the EU on scientific research and have been clear that, where it is in the UK’s interests, we will seek to participate in some specific EU Programmes. The shape and content of the next EU Multi-Annual Financial Framework Programmes for 2021-2027, including Horizon Europe, are currently being negotiated in the EU Institutions and have not yet been finalised. Horizon Europe must be adopted by the EU before any I formal negotiations on possible association could begin.

The UK has played a constructive role in the development of Horizon Europe to ensure that it aligns with UK priorities and we look forward to continuing our relationship in research and innovation with our European partners.

**Human Rights**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what assessment they have made of the killing of 321 human rights defenders in 2018; and what plans they have to undertake a strategic review of how human rights defenders can be given more (1) support, and (2) protection. [HL668]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The British Government is appalled by the reported killing of 321 human rights defenders (HRDs) in 2018. On Human Rights Day in December 2018, which coincided with the 20th anniversary of the signing of the UN Declaration on HRDs, I made a commitment to ensure HRDs and others are fully aware of the support the UK offers to human rights defenders.

The UK published the document ‘UK Support for Human Rights Defenders’ in July 2019, making it available in all six UN languages to ensure its widest reach. It sets out our ongoing dedication to supporting and protecting human rights defenders worldwide. Our work to support human rights defenders across our global diplomatic network includes attending trials, making public statements, raising cases privately with the host government, and lobbying for safe and open space within which civil society and human rights defenders can operate freely. Our diplomatic network will always take into account the local context and regularly engage with NGO representatives and human rights defenders to discuss the challenges human rights defenders face and how the UK can help overcome them. The UK will continue to strongly support the rights of human rights defenders worldwide to enable them carry out their work safely and without fear, and regularly assesses how we can enhance our ability to make a positive different. The FCO’s work to support human rights defenders is kept under review by consulting embassies and high commissions annually.

**Incinerators: Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Duncan of Springbank on 5 November 2019 (HL460), how they calculate the greenhouse gas emissions from a tonne of domestic waste being processed in an energy from waste incinerator. [HL926]

**Lord Duncan of Springbank:** Domestic, or household, waste is currently included within the fuel category “MSW” (Municipal Solid Waste) in the UK Greenhouse Gas Inventory. MSW refers to waste collected by municipalities or other local authorities and includes sources other than domestic waste.

The emissions per tonne of MSW processed in an energy from waste incinerator is calculated using the 2006 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Guidelines. Figures are provided for methane and nitrous oxide along with separate figures for carbon (fossil) emissions from biodegradable MSW and non-biodegradable MSW. The proportions of total MSW that is biodegradable and non-biodegradable is calculated using data from DUKES (the Digest of UK Energy Statistics). These four figures are combined to give total greenhouse gas emissions emitted per tonne of MSW processed in an energy from waste incinerator.

**Kashmir: Politics and Government**

*Asked by Baroness Thornhill*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what assessment they have made of the government of India’s revocation of Article 370 of the Constitution of India. [HL724]
Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are monitoring the situation in Kashmir closely. We are in regular contact with the Government of India. Most recently, I raised our concerns regarding restrictions and detentions in Kashmir with the Indian Minister of State for External and Parliamentary Affairs, Mr Muraleedharan. We have called for restrictions to be lifted as soon as possible. It is important that individual rights are fully respected and that there is constructive dialogue with affected communities.

Livestock: Colistin

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what plans they have, if any, to ban the use of colistin in farming. [HL955]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: There are currently no plans to ban the sale of colistin. Colistin is classed as a Highest Critically Important Antibiotic (HCIA) meaning that this type of antibiotic is reserved as a last-line treatment for clinical conditions where no alternatives exist. In some instances, colistin may be the only effective means of treating certain animal diseases.

The UK Government is committed to working with livestock sectors to reduce inappropriate antibiotic use and there have been many successes over the last few years including the sales of antibiotics for food-producing animals decreasing by 53% in the last five years. Colistin is one of the least commonly used antibiotics in animals in the UK and its use in food-producing animals has reduced by 99% to a very low level.

London Underground: Air Pollution

Asked by Lord Hunt of Chesterton

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what discussions, if any, they have had with Transport for London about (1) pollution levels on the London Underground, (2) the comparative pollution level between London Underground, other undergrounds, and at street level in other urban areas, (3) measures to reduce air pollution on the London Underground system, and (4) any proposed provision of pollution warnings to travellers. [HL628]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Transport in London is devolved to the Mayor of London and delivered by Transport for London. It is the Mayor’s responsibility to monitor and mitigate levels of pollutants on the London Underground. The Department for Transport has not had any specific discussions with Transport for London or the Mayor on this matter.

Middle East and North Africa: Religious Freedom

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Leeds

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what plans they have to negotiate a United Nations Security Council Resolution calling on all governments in the Middle East and North Africa region to (1) ensure the protection and security of Christians, and other faith minorities, (2) facilitate the establishment of security and protection arrangements for Christians, and other faith minorities, within the legal and governance structures, and (3) permit UN observers to monitor the protection and security arrangements for Christians and other faith minorities, in each of those countries. [HL750]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are liaising with the UK mission to the UN in New York on how best to implement this recommendation. We are keen to work with all governments in the Middle East and North Africa region and support them to protect Christians and all religious minorities from persecution. The Government remains committed to implementing all the recommendations of the Bishop of Truro’s Review in full and in a way that will bring real improvements to the lives of those persecuted because of their faith or belief.

Nigeria: Development Aid

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty’s Government how much development aid has been given to Nigeria in each of the last ten years. [HL831]

Baroness Sugg: The total UK bilateral Official Development Assistance to the Federal Republic of Nigeria for each of the previous ten years is detailed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>£ thousands</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
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<td>327,199</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>296,819</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Baroness Sugg: The UK’s development assistance to Nigeria seeks to address some of the root causes of conflict throughout the country (and particularly in the North East) and help build stability in the longer term. In particular, the UK is promoting community cohesion in North East Nigeria through a range of interventions from £3m in 2019/20 to improve relationships between communities and security forces to both build trust and ensure the protection of civilians in target communities in Borno State, North East Nigeria; £900,000 to build the resilience of women and children survivors of violent extremism and reintegrate them into communities; and £2 million of support for Nigeria’s Defections, Disengagement, Demobilisation, De-radicalisation and Reintegration programme that is managed by the International Organisation for Migration from December 2019 to March 2021.

To protect those at risk of attack as a result of the insecurity, DFID has a £16m two-year programme dedicated to providing support to those affected by the conflict in North East Nigeria, particularly victims of sexual and gender-based violence. DFID works with partners, the UN and NGOs to save lives, strengthen resilience, and protect civilians from attacks and violations of international law. To improve the effectiveness of security responses and the protection of civilians in Borno state, the UK is providing up to £800,000 from October 2019 to March 2021.

We are careful to ensure that our ongoing work in a complex environment to bring potential perpetrators to justice is compliant with International Human Rights Law.

Nuclear Power

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty’s Government how much power can currently be supplied to the UK National Grid by nuclear power stations; and what percentage of the total power available to the National Grid that represents. [HL828]

Lord Duncan of Springbank: In 2018, nuclear power stations provided 9.3 GW of installed capacity to the GB electricity system, equating to 9.2%. They also provided 65 TWh of electricity which is 20.1% of the electricity generated in Great Britain and 19.5% of the electricity generated in the UK.

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Officials have been pursuing work on several fronts to improve our understanding of the characteristics of group-based child sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as the implications for the investigation and prevention of these crimes.

This internal work is being carried out as part of routine policy development. As such, it has not been undertaken with the intention of publication.

Much of the insight gained through our work with law enforcement partners contains operationally and personally sensitive information and will need to remain confidential.

In early 2020 the Government will publish a national strategy, the first of its kind, to tackle all forms of child sexual abuse.

Our new strategy will set out our whole system response to tackling child sexual abuse, including group-based sexual offending, drawing on this internal work. It will set out how we will work across government, law enforcement, safeguarding partners and industry to root out offending, protect victims and help victims and survivors rebuild their lives. We will work tirelessly to tackle all forms of sexual abuse; there will be no no-go areas.

Ofsted: Annual Reports

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what assessment they have made of The Annual Report of To ask Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Education, Children’s Services and Skills 2018/19, published on 21 January. [HL651]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: To ask Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector’s Annual Report paints a strong picture of success across early years, schools and further education in England, with 96% of early years, 86% of schools and 81% of further education and skills judged to be ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’ by the inspectorate. The report also shows positive developments in social care with 48% of local authorities now judged ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’, compared with 36% after their first inspections under the previous framework.
Ofsted’s findings are a testament to the dedication and professionalism of so many individuals working hard to improve the lives of young people and adults.

The government wants to build on this and go further. Hence, we are investing an additional £14.4 billion in schools over the next three years; an extra £1 billion for adult and children’s social care every year of this Parliament; an additional £3 billion over the course of this Parliament to support the creation of a National Skills Fund; and a further £4.4 billion to fund pension contributions into the Teacher Pension Scheme, one of the best pension schemes available. We are including a further £1.8 billion for funding on capital investment into further education colleges. We are also increasing 16 to 19 funding in 2020-21 by £400 million, the biggest injection of new money in a single year since 2010.

Parachute Regiment: Recruitment

Asked by Lord Birt

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what plans they have, if any, to ban the practice of “milling” as part of the selection process for the Parachute Regiment. [HL836]

Baroness Goldie: There are no plans to ban the practice of milling as part of the selection process for the Parachute Regiment. As a training activity milling is subject to risk assessment and review. To mitigate any risk milling bouts are regulated to ensure compliance under departmental Medical, Training and Health and Safety policy. A General Practitioner (GP), a dedicated ambulance and a paramedic are in attendance at all times milling takes place. The GP conducts a pre-medical to assess a participant's fitness and make them aware of the risks. Participants can withdraw at any time.

Patrol Craft

Asked by Lord Moonie

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, further to the announcement by the Secretary of State for Defence on 23 November 2018 that HMS Tyne, HMS Mersey and HMS Severn will forward-operate from their namesake rivers, what progress has been made towards the implementation of that announcement. [HL756]

Baroness Goldie: While HMS TYNE, MERSEY and SEVERN remain base ported in HM Naval Base Portsmouth, they continue to have strong associations with their namesake regions. The Royal Navy is considering how they can further optimise the use of the Offshore Patrol Vessels in supporting our national and global interests.

Peers: Attendance

Asked by Lord Empey

The Senior Deputy Speaker when the members’ attendance feature will be restored to the parliamentary intranet site. [HL625]

Lord McFall of Alcluith: The Parliamentary Digital Service has completed work to build a new Lords Attendance Page which will allow Members of the House to access their attendance data while connected on the Estate. The Page is currently being tested by a small group of members and if the test proves successful the Digital Service will roll out the facility to all members of the House in due course.

Plastics: Waste

Asked by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what steps they are taking to prevent the export of plastic waste. [HL601]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The Government is deeply concerned about the illegal trade in waste, including reports of illegal plastic waste exported from the UK.

Recognising the difficulties experienced by some countries in managing imports of plastic waste the Queen’s Speech on the 19 December included a commitment to ban the export of polluting plastic wastes to countries that are not members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The Environment Bill includes a power which will enable us to deliver on this commitment and we will consult this year on the date by which this should be achieved. The Bill also includes a power to introduce electronic tracking of waste to help tackle waste crime here in the UK and prevent illegal waste from being shipped abroad.

Compliance with the legislation on waste shipments is monitored by the UK’s four environmental regulators[1]. In England in 2018/19 the Environment Agency (EA) inspected almost 1,000 shipping containers at ports and returned over 200 of those to sites. During this period, the EA also prevented 12,000 tonnes of waste from reaching ports which may have otherwise been exported illegally.

Any operators found to be illegally exporting waste can face severe sanctions – from financial penalties to imprisonment for a period of up to two years.

[1] The Environment Agency in England, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales

Police and Crime Commissioners: Elections

Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what evidence they will require of disability of persons standing as Police and Crime Commissioners who have disability-related expenses which are not to be included under rules governing candidate spending limits in their proposed secondary legislation. [HL623]

Earl Howe: A candidate does not have to report evidence of their disability in order to use the exemption brought forward by The Police and Crime Commissioner Elections (Amendment) Order 2020. This upholds the
confidentiality of the candidate and is consistent with disability exemptions in place for elections across the UK, including UK Parliamentary general elections.

A candidate will need to make an assessment as to whether their disability meets the definition of disability provided in the 2020 Order. This uses the definition of disability contained within the 2010 Equality Act. There is also statutory guidance available on the meaning of disability under the Equality Act which should help candidates undertake this assessment.

Police Custody: Greater London

*Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what estimate they have made of the number of custody suites that were available in each borough in London for use by the Metropolitan Police in each year since 2010. [HL622]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office does not hold information centrally on the number of custody suites across England and Wales.

Decisions on the use of resources, including custody suites, are a matter for Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables as they best understand the needs of the communities they serve.

Prisoners’ Transfers: Northern Ireland

*Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government how many offenders were transferred from prisons in England and Wales to prisons in Northern Ireland in each of the last two years. [HL614]

Lord Keen of Elie: Seven offenders were transferred from prisons in England and Wales to prisons in Northern Ireland in 2018 and eight where transferred in 2019.

Religious Hatred

*Asked by Lord Vinson*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what plans they have, if any, to review the definition used by the Crown Prosecution Service and the National Police Chiefs’ Council to identify religiously motivated incidents or crimes, in particular regard to the relevance of section 29J of the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006. [HL728]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: It is for the police, prosecutors and the courts to determine how to apply the legal provisions relevant to religiously motivated hate crimes.

The Law Commission has been commissioned by the Government to undertake a review of the legislation related to hate crime. The Law Commission are scheduled to conduct a public consultation this spring as part of this, and to report to Ministers in early 2021.

Schools: Admissions

*Asked by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what steps they are taking to promote (1) racial, and (2) religious, integration in schools. [HL603]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: Education plays a vital role in promoting integration and preparing our children and young people for life in a modern and diverse Britain.

All schools must promote community cohesion and are required to actively promote our shared values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs. Promotion of these values is part of Ofsted’s inspection framework and the department has published guidance to schools on promoting these important values as part of pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Schools are also required to comply with the relevant provisions of the Equality Act 2010.

In 2016, the department also launched the Educate Against Hate website, through which we continue to provide free resources for teachers and school leaders to support their promotion of these values. This includes the department’s Respectful School Communities toolkit; a self-review and signposting tool to support schools to develop a whole-school approach which promotes respect and discipline, helping to combat bullying, harassment and prejudice of any kind.

The department also funds a number of specific initiatives to support schools in addressing these issues. This includes the provision of over £2.8 million of funding between September 2016 and March 2020 to four anti-bullying organisations, to support schools to tackle bullying – including projects focused on targeted bullying of particular groups, such as those who are victims of hate-related bullying, and projects which encourage children and young people to think about the importance of tackling prejudice and discrimination.

As part of our commitments in the Government’s Integrated Communities Action Plan, the department is also funding an expanded national school linking programme, which seeks to encourage meaningful social mixing between different types of schools and foster understanding of those with different backgrounds, faiths and beliefs. In the last year, the Linking Network has worked with over 540 schools, leading to over 22,500 pupils taking part in activities supporting integration.

As part of this same package, the department has also strengthened expectations for all new free schools on the promotion of community cohesion and integration, to make sure they are doing all that they can to ensure children and young people are able to participate fully in life in modern Britain.

The department is also introducing health education for pupils receiving state-funded primary and secondary education, alongside relationships education in all primary schools, and relationships and sex education (RSE) in all secondary schools. Mental wellbeing is a
core component of the new health education curriculum, as well as being embedded in (RSE). Schools will be required to teach about a range of issues which will be relevant to wellbeing, including bullying, respectful relationships and online relationships.

**Sexual Offences**

*Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether they have commissioned any report considering the characteristics of people who commit group based sexual offences; whether they will publish any such report; and if so, when. [HL678]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Officials have been pursuing work on several fronts to improve our understanding of the characteristics of group-based child sexual exploitation, as well as the implications for the investigation and prevention of these crimes.

This internal work is being carried out as part of routine policy development. As such, it has not been undertaken with the intention of publication.

Much of the insight gained through our work with law enforcement partners contains operationally and personally sensitive information and will need to remain confidential.

In early 2020 the Government will publish a national strategy, the first of its kind, to tackle all forms of child sexual abuse.

Our new strategy will set out our whole system response to tackling child sexual abuse, including group-based sexual offending, drawing on this internal work. It will set out how we will work across government, law enforcement, safeguarding partners and industry to root out offending, protect victims and help victims and survivors rebuild their lives. We will work tirelessly to tackle all forms of sexual abuse; there will be no no-go areas.

**Sexual Offences Act 2003**

*Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what plans they have to review the Sexual Offences Act 2003, and in particular any provisions relating to the change of name by sexual offenders. [HL621]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The UK has some of the toughest powers in the world to deal with sex offenders and we are committed to ensuring that the system is as robust as it can be.

Registered sex offenders are managed by the police, who assess the risk each individual poses to the public and monitor changes to offenders’ circumstances.

Offenders must tell the police any names that they have used, including ones used online, and must notify the police within 3 days of any name change. This includes notifying the police of any changes to the offender’s passport or other identity documents. A failure to inform the police of a change in name constitutes a breach of notification requirements which is a criminal offence carrying up to 5 years’ imprisonment.

We will continue to work with the police to ensure they have all the necessary tools to manage sex offenders effectively.

**Shipping: Exhaust Emissions**

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Chesterton*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what is their target for reducing carbon emissions from shipping in UK waters; and what actions, if any, they plan to take to reduce carbon emissions from shipping globally. [HL632]

**Baroness Vere of Norbiton:** Government is committed to meeting net zero emissions by 2050, and this includes emissions from domestic shipping. The Clean Maritime Plan, published in July 2019, is one of the first national action plans on shipping decarbonisation globally. The Plan sets out the ambition that by 2025 all new vessels ordered for the UK are designed with zero emission capability. By 2035 we expect the UK has built a number of clean maritime clusters that focus on zero emission innovation and infrastructure.

Internationally, the UK is fully committed to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Initial Strategy on the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Ships. This Strategy contains the ambition to peak GHG emissions from international shipping as soon as possible and to reduce the total annual GHG emissions by at least 50% by 2050 compared to 2008 whilst pursuing efforts towards phasing them out. The UK is a leading voice at the IMO and this year will be calling for measures to be adopted through the IMO as soon as possible to ensure the targets of the Strategy are delivered.

**Special Educational Needs: Finance**

*Asked by Lord Blunkett*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what progress, if any, they have made on establishing the membership, methodology and timescale of the review into the funding of special needs education for children in England. [HL598]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** In September 2019 the government announced a review of the support system for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

The SEND review is internal to the government. The review considers how the system can work best for all families whilst ensuring quality provision is more consistently available and improve child outcomes whilst improving value for money. The government recently called for evidence on the effectiveness of current arrangements to fund schools to support SEND pupils,
and officials will consider this evidence alongside the review.

Our officials are working closely with stakeholders. There are 3 independent advisers on the cross-government steering group: Tony McArdle, Lead Commissioner in Northamptonshire County Council, former Education Endowment Fund Chair Sir Kevan Collins and Anne Heavey, National Director of Whole School SEND. We will provide an update on progress with the review and our plans for further engagement shortly.

Srebrenica: Genocide

*Asked by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what plans the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has, alongside the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to mark the 25th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide. [HL604]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Through our Embassy in Sarajevo, the British Government is in close touch with the different organisations and levels of government involved in commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide. Their plans are not confirmed at this stage, but we will ensure an active and prominent role for the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom remains committed to helping the region overcome the legacy of past conflict and build a more peaceful, prosperous and stable future for all.

In the United Kingdom, we are working closely with the group Remembering Srebrenica to commemorate and raise awareness of the Srebrenica genocide.

Sudan: Religious Freedom

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what assessment they have made of reports of the burning down of three churches in Bout, in Sudan’s Blue Nile State; and what representations they have made to the government of Sudan about upholding and safeguarding the rights of minorities to follow their chosen beliefs, as enshrined in Article 18 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. [HL534]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Despite some signs of progress under the civilian-led government in Sudan, including institutions observing Christian holidays and allowing Christians to attend church services on Sundays, we remain concerned by ongoing infringements of Freedom of Religion or Belief in Sudan. The burning down of three churches in Sudan’s Blue Nile State is disturbing and the Sudanese authorities must investigate. That these churches were attacked having been rebuilt by members of the local community after previous arson attacks is tragic, and those who seek to sow division must not succeed. Promoting Freedom of Religion or Belief as a means of enhancing tolerance and inclusion remains a key part of our ongoing engagement with Sudan. I personally raised this case, along with wider human rights issues, with the Sudanese ambassador and I urge the Sudanese authorities to prevent such attacks and investigate.

Our Embassy in Khartoum’s human rights programming aims to address bureaucratic obstacles and legal restrictions that disproportionately affect religious minorities, which has included the denial of permits for Church buildings and cases of church demolition. Sudan is a priority country in the UK’s Annual Human Rights Report and we will continue to urge respect for human rights, including the rights of minorities to follow their chosen beliefs, in our engagement with the Sudanese authorities.

Syria: Armed Conflict

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what assessment they have made of (1) reports by Doctors Under Fire that more than 100 women and children have been killed in Russian and Syrian airstrikes in Idlib since 18 January; and (2) Doctors Under Fire’s call for the imposition of a no-fly zone to deter helicopters using barrel bombs. [HL776]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We are deeply concerned about the killing of civilians, including women and children, in Idlib, north-west Syria, during the ongoing offensive by the Syrian regime and Russia. We are using our position in the UN Security Council to call on Russia and the regime to respect previously agreed ceasefires in Idlib and their obligations under international humanitarian law. We are also continuing assistance to the White Helmets. We do not consider imposing a no fly-zone over Idlib to be a realistic option.

Trade Agreements: South America

*Asked by Baroness Coussins*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether they have negotiated a continuity agreement for the UK with Peru, Colombia and Ecuador, which takes forward the current UK interests in the EU Free Trade Agreement with those countries; and if so, whether such a continuity agreement includes the trade and sustainable development provisions of Title IX of that agreement. [HL790]

**The Earl of Courtown:** The UK and three Andean countries signed the UK-Andean Countries Trade Agreement on 15 May 2019, in Quito, Ecuador, ensuring continuity for UK-Andean trade. The agreement carries forward the trade and sustainable development provisions from the EU-Andean agreement. More information about the continuity agreement can be found on the GOV.UK website: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-andean-countries-trade-agreement.
Trade: Northern Ireland

**Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick**

To ask Her Majesty’s Government when they intend to bring forward the statutory regulations to address unrestricted access for business from Northern Ireland exporting goods to elsewhere in the UK. [HL712]

**Lord Duncan of Springbank:** As set out in the ‘New Decade, New Approach’ deal to restore the Northern Ireland Executive, the Government committed to legislate to guarantee unfettered access for Northern Ireland’s businesses to the whole of the UK’s market, and ensure that this legislation is in force for 1 January 2021.

The Government recognises that there are still questions about the detail and how the deal will be operationalised. That is why this commitment is so important.

It is of course vital that Northern Ireland businesses are closely involved in the next stage of this work and we will establish robust channels with both Ministers and officials to ensure this over the coming months. We will also engage in detail with the Executive on measures to protect businesses from Northern Ireland exporting goods to elsewhere in the UK.

**Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick**

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what parliamentary procedure will apply to the forthcoming statutory regulations relating to unrestricted access for businesses from Northern Ireland exporting goods to elsewhere in the UK. [HL713]

**Lord Duncan of Springbank:** The power in Section 8C of the EU (Withdrawal) Act 2018 also provides for regulations to be made to facilitate the access to the market within Great Britain of qualifying Northern Ireland goods.

Overall this regulation making power is restricted in its scope insofar as it can only be used to implement the Protocol and, where appropriate, to implement the Government’s policy on unfettered access.

Any use of the power which seeks to amend primary legislation, including the devolution statutes, or retained direct principal EU legislation would be subject to the affirmative procedure to provide appropriate scrutiny of the proposed legislation. In addition, where any regulations made under this power seek to, for example, establish a public authority or create or widen the scope of a relevant criminal offence, creates or amends a power to legislate or, as has been asked, facilitates the access to the market within GB of NI qualifying goods, they would also be subject to the affirmative procedure.

Any other regulations under this power will be subject to the negative procedure.

Trawsfynydd Power Station

**Asked by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth**

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what discussions, if any, they have had with the Welsh Government about the future of nuclear power at Trawsfynydd. [HL902]

**Lord Duncan of Springbank:** We have spoken with the Welsh Government about their idea for potential re-use of the Trawsfynydd site for energy generation and production of medical isotopes.

Type 45 Destroyers

**Asked by Earl Attlee**

To ask Her Majesty’s Government how many Type 45 destroyers are (1) at sea, and (2) technically fit to go to sea with 24 hours notice. [HL597]

**Baroness Goldie:** We do not disclose the readiness state of individual ships for operational security reasons, as this would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the Armed Forces.

**HMS DEFENDER** is currently deployed on operations in the Gulf. All Royal Navy ships rotate through planned operating cycles involving routine maintenance, repair, training, deployment, leave, essential modification and upgrades and will, therefore, be at varying levels of readiness in accordance with Defence requirements.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

**Asked by Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer**

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what plans they have, if any, to introduce a requirement for those purchasing drones to be informed of the risk drones pose to nesting birds and their feeding grounds. [HL705]

**Baroness Vere of Norbiton:** While there are no current plans to require those purchasing drones to be informed specifically of the risk drones pose to nesting birds and their feeding grounds, the Government has been working closely with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and other agencies to encourage the responsible use of drones. For example, the CAA launched a website, www.dronesafe.co.uk, which serves to raise awareness of the current rules of the air and the “drone and model aircraft code” sets these out in a clear and simple way.

The CAA has also developed a competency test, which is compulsory for remote pilots flying unmanned aircraft, including drones, from 250g up to 20kg. It covers subjects such as flight restriction zones, height restrictions, registration and how close to people and buildings a drone can legally fly, as well as reminding those flying drones to be aware and considerate of their surroundings wherever they are being flown.
Urinary Tract Infections

*Asked by Baroness Masham of Ilton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the prevalence of antimicrobial resistance to urinary tract infections. [HL940]

**Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford:** As part of the English surveillance programme for antimicrobial utilisation and resistance, Public Health England collects surveillance data on antibiotic resistance in bacteria isolated from urine.

Among all bacterial isolates from urinary tract infection samples, decreases in the proportion resistant were observed for trimethoprim (34.9% to 31.0%), fosfomycin (11.6% to 7.9%), and pivmecillinam (12.1% to 9.9%) between 2015 and 2018.

USA: Foreign Relations

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Leeds*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether they have been invited to attend the United States National Prayer Breakfast at the White House on 6 Feb. [HL746]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Both I and the Prime Minister’s Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief plan to attend the US National Prayer Breakfast on 6 February in, Washington DC.

World Economic Forum

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government how many Ministers or officials will be attending the 2020 World Economic Forum in Davos. [HL640]

**The Earl of Courtown:** The 2020 Annual Meetings of the World Economic Forum took place from 21-24 January in Davos.

The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer, was the only Minister to attend this year. The Chancellor was accompanied by two Special Advisers and two officials.

Yemen: Females

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what representations they have made to the government of Yemen regarding gender inequality in that country. [HL644]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We remain deeply concerned about the human rights situation in Yemen and continue to raise the importance of respect for human rights with all parties to the conflict.

We also acknowledge that the conflict has had a disproportionate impact on women and girls. The incidence of gender based violence has risen by 60% since the start of the conflict. Women and girls bear the disproportionate brunt of obstacles caused by protracted displacement, including lack of access to services and civil documentation.

In the 2018 Foreign and Commonwealth Office human rights report, we highlighted our concerns over women's rights including girls' education, and attacks on freedom of religion or belief and on freedom of speech and association. The UK is a global leader on the Women Peace and Security (WPS) agenda and penholder at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). We are prioritising strengthening the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on WPS by increasing women's meaningful participation in peace processes. Through the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF), we support UN Women initiatives, such as the Yemeni Women Pact. We also support the work of UN Special Envoy Martin Griffiths, who is actively engaging women in the peace process. We recognise there is more to do to support the Special Envoy and are funding advisers on gender and inclusion within his office.
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