

**Session 2019-21
No. 216**



**Tuesday
20 April 2021**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

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

<i>Minister</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
Baroness Evans of Bowes Park	Leader of the House of Lords and Lord Privy Seal
Earl Howe	Deputy Leader of the House of Lords
Lord Agnew of Oulton	Minister of State, Treasury and Cabinet Office
Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon	Minister of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
Lord Ashton of Hyde	Chief Whip
Baroness Barran	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
Baroness Berridge	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education and Department for International Trade
Lord Bethell	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health and Social Care
Baroness Bloomfield of Hinton Waldrist	Whip
Lord Callanan	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Earl of Courtown	Deputy Chief Whip
Lord Frost	Minister of State, Cabinet Office
Lord Gardiner of Kimble	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Baroness Goldie	Minister of State, Ministry of Defence
Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park	Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
Lord Greenhalgh	Minister of State, Home Office and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Lord Grimstone of Boscobel	Minister of State, Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Department for International Trade
Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay	Whip
Baroness Penn	Whip
Baroness Scott of Bybrook	Whip
Baroness Stedman-Scott	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions
Lord Stewart of Dirleton	Advocate-General for Scotland
Lord True	Minister of State, Cabinet Office
Baroness Vere of Norbiton	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Transport
Baroness Williams of Trafford	Minister of State, Home Office
Lord Wolfson of Tredegar	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice
Viscount Younger of Leckie	Whip

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Written Statements

Tuesday, 20 April 2021

Contingency Fund Advance: Covid-19 Support Packages

[HLWS918]

Lord Callanan: My Honourable friend the Minister for London and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Small Business, Consumers and Labour Markets) (Paul Scully) has today made the following statement:

I hereby give notice of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy having drawn an advance from the contingencies fund totalling £1,579,925,000 to enable expenditure on Covid-19 support packages for business to be spent ahead of the passage of the Supply and Appropriation Act in March 2021.

The funding is required for the Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSG) (closed) addendum scheme, which provides grants of up to £3,000 per month to businesses which are legally required to close due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Parliamentary approval for additional resources of £1,579,925,000 will be sought in a Supplementary Estimate for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £1,579,925,000 has been met by repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund.

The cash advance will be repaid upon receiving Royal Assent on the Supply and Appropriation Act.

Contingent Liability Notification: Baglan Operations Limited and Baglan Group Companies

[HLWS919]

Lord Callanan: My Right Honourable friend the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Kwasi Kwarteng has today made the following statement:

I am tabling this statement for the benefit of Honourable and Right Honourable Members to bring their attention to the details of a contingent liability following the provision of an indemnity from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to the Official Receiver acting in the insolvency of Baglan Operations Limited (BOL) and the wider Baglan Group companies.

It is normal practice when a Government Department proposes to undertake a contingent liability of £300,000 and above, for which there is no specific statutory authority, for the Department concerned to present Parliament with a minute, giving details of the liability created and explaining the circumstances.

BOL entered liquidation on 24 March 2021 and owns a site hosting a gas generation plant (now closed) and

operates a private wire which provides electricity to the Baglan Energy Park in Port Talbot. The Energy Park accommodates various businesses (primarily a paper product manufacturer - Intertissue), public sector buildings (Local Authority offices and a NHS medical centre) buildings, and a water pumping station.

The departmental minute I lay today is to notify Parliament retrospectively of the provision of an indemnity to the OR.

Departmental officials and I are aware of the presence of several chemical substances at the site that will require safe disposal. There is also a gas plant and 12km of pipeline that will require decommissioning. BOL supplies the electricity through a private electricity wire, which is exempt from being licensed. As it is licence-exempt, BOL is not capable of being covered by the energy regulator Ofgem's supplier of last resort arrangements or any energy special administration regime.

My Department has been monitoring this fast-moving situation since December 2020, working closely with the Welsh Government, Wales Office, the Insolvency Service, UK Government Investments (UKGI), and HM Treasury.

My Department has provided the OR with an indemnity in respect of:

- carrying out the proper performance of the OR's duties as liquidator of the Baglan Group companies;
- seeking the appointment of, engaging and instructing the Special Managers in respect of the Baglan Group companies; and
- maintaining, securing and funding the ongoing operation of the Baglan Group companies undertakings, and distributing the assets of the companies in the ordinary course of the OR's duties as liquidator of the Baglan Group companies.

HM Treasury has approved the proposal and I will be laying a Departmental Minute today containing a description of the liability undertaken.

Covid-19 Antivirals Taskforce

[HLWS926]

Lord Bethell: My Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care (Matt Hancock) has made the following written statement:

I would like to update the House on the establishment of the Government's new COVID-19 Antivirals Taskforce.

Following the success of the Vaccines and Therapeutics Taskforces, Her Majesty's Government is seeking to remain at the forefront of the battle against COVID-19 and further develop our standing as leaders in the Life Sciences sector. The new team will lead the search for novel oral antiviral treatments to provide additional protection for the UK population, particularly those currently deemed most vulnerable, and relieve pressure on the NHS.

The UK's Vaccine Programme – whilst immensely successful and vital in pandemic recovery – will not protect everyone. Vaccine effectiveness is not established in all groups of the UK population, and there will be some groups for whom vaccines may not be effective protection, so antiviral treatments will provide an alternative form of protection.

The aim of the Antivirals Taskforce is to search for the most promising novel oral antiviral medicines and speed up the process of development, manufacture and deployment, with the goal of having at least two of these drugs ready to deploy by the autumn.

We are still at a relatively early stage of the vaccine deployment programme. Our understanding of the implications that mutations of the virus may have on vaccine efficacy is developing all the time. Antivirals can be used for two key purposes: first, to inhibit the virus at an early stage to stop mild disease becoming serious illness. By inhibiting the virus at this stage, the drugs also prevent replication - both within an individual and from person to person – limiting the impact of and spread of COVID-19, relieving pressure on the NHS and supporting our ongoing return to normal life.

Second, antivirals may also be able to be used as post-exposure prophylactics, to minimise the spread of the disease where there has been contact with known, positive cases.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the UK has proven itself a world-leader in identifying and rolling out effective COVID-19 treatments – including the world's first treatment, dexamethasone, which has saved 22,000 lives in the UK so far and an estimated million worldwide. These treatments help the recovery of patients who have been hospitalised with COVID-19. The aim of an oral antiviral treatment is that it will be readily available for use outside of these settings - for example, in a patient's own home.

Building on the successful work of the Therapeutics and Vaccines Taskforces, the Antivirals Taskforce is bringing together the brightest minds from medicine, industry experts and across government and the life sciences to find a new, innovative treatment for patients to take at home. A short competition will be run to identify a suitable chair for the Taskforce.

We are already engaging with industry to identify antiviral compound candidates which could be ready for deployment in the autumn, and will update the House with the Taskforce's progress in due course.

Machinery of Government Change: GREAT Britain and Northern Ireland Campaign

[HLWS924]

Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: My Rt Hon Friend the Prime Minister has made the following statement:

I am making this statement to bring to the House's attention the following Machinery of Government change.

Policy responsibility for the GREAT Britain and Northern Ireland campaign will transfer from the Department for International Trade to the Cabinet Office. This change will be effective immediately.

Regulation of Football Index

[HLWS922]

Baroness Barran: My Rt Hon Friend the Minister of State for Media and Data (Mr John Whittingdale) has made the following Statement:

I am announcing today that DCMS will appoint an independent expert to conduct a review of the regulation of the Football Index gambling product, up to the point where its operator's licence was suspended in March, and to make recommendations to government and the regulators.

Football Index's operator, BetIndex Limited, was granted a licence to provide online betting by the Gambling Commission in September 2015. The Commission began a formal review of this licence in May 2020 and suspended it in March 2021. The company is currently in administration. At the time of suspension, the product allowed customers (called traders) to place bets (shares) on the future performance of footballers. These bets lasted for three years, with payments called dividends being made according to a player's performance. The product evolved to let customers buy and sell bets with prices fluctuating according to demand.

The government is taking the situation regarding Football Index and the concerns of those affected by it very seriously. It is reported that many thousands of customers are affected by the product's collapse, with some having lost very large sums. This review will aim to establish both how this situation came about and what lessons we can learn from it.

A principal purpose of the review will be to take an objective look at the decisions and actions of the Gambling Commission and any other relevant regulators, to provide a clear account of how the company's activities were regulated and identify if there are potential areas for improvement in how complex products are treated.

Its findings will form part of the evidence informing the Government's Review of the Gambling Act 2005, which was announced in December 2020. The Review is considering whether changes are needed to the regulatory framework around gambling, including the Commission's powers and resources and how it uses them. It is also looking at how novel and complex products should be licensed and regulated.

The Commission's regulatory investigation into BetIndex Ltd is continuing. This independent review is separate to that investigation and will be carried out and report in a way which will not compromise it. It will also be without prejudice to the ongoing administration proceedings, which among other things are looking at assets and liabilities of the company and recompense to customers.

Further details of the independent reviewer and terms of reference will be announced in due course. It is intended that the review will report publicly in the summer and will inform the wider Gambling Act Review. The Government aims to produce a White Paper setting out its findings from the review of the Gambling Act 2005 by the end of the year.

Roads Highways England First Year Progress Report on Smart Motorways Stocktake

[HLWS925]

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

The House will know that this Government takes the safety of our roads very seriously and has invested heavily in improvements to help prevent deaths and injuries. Great Britain has some of the safest roads in the world and, although per hundred million miles driven there are fewer deaths on smart motorways than conventional ones, we are determined to do all we can to help drivers feel safer and be safer on our roads – all our roads.

In March 2020, I published a *Smart Motorway Safety Evidence Stocktake and Action Plan*. The safety improvements in the 2020 Action Plan consisted of a package of 18 actions, costing £500 million, including the rollout of radar-based stopped vehicle detection (SVD) technology across the ALR motorway network and an additional £5 million on national and targeted communications campaigns to ensure drivers receive advice to help them keep safe. Furthermore, we have changed the law to enable automatic detection of vehicles driving in closed lanes, known as Red X violations. Highways England is upgrading all enforcement cameras across the smart motorway network to enable automatic detection of Red X violations which can then be enforced by the police.

One year on from the publications of the 2020 Action Plan, I commissioned a report from Highways England which sets out its progress on these 18 actions along with proposals about how those actions could be accelerated. Today Highways England has published its *Smart Motorways Stocktake First Year Progress Report 2021* which I will place in the libraries of both Houses. The report contains the latest safety data which updates analysis contained in the 2020 Stocktake report.

The report demonstrates significant progress against the 18 actions, which when delivered in full, will raise the bar on motorway safety. Over the past 12 months Highways England has: launched a major road safety campaign to give drivers clear advice about what to do in the event of breaking down; completed work to turn emergency areas orange so they are more visible to drivers and improved the signage letting drivers know how far they are from the next place to stop in an emergency; installed 10 more emergency areas on the M25 around London; held a

public consultation on proposed changes to the Highway Code that will provide more information about motorway driving; continued to upgrade cameras so they can automatically detect Red X violations; and introduced radar-based stopped vehicle detection technology on stretches of the M3 and the M20, with work underway on the M1.

Highways England is now accelerating a number of actions so that the completion dates set out in Highway's England Strategic Business Plan 2020-25 are brought forward.

Most significantly, radar-based stopped vehicle detection technology will now be installed on all operational ALR motorways by September 2022, six months earlier than planned. Highways England has also made a commitment that no all lane running motorways will open without radar technology to spot stopped vehicles, enable lanes to be closed where necessary, and get help to drivers quickly.

The data contained in the Highways England progress report continues to show that fatal casualties are less likely on all lane running motorways than on conventional ones, but we know drivers can feel less safe on roads without hard shoulders, which is why the Progress Report published today intends to accelerate a number of actions to provide reassurance to drivers. My statement of 24 March 2021 confirmed that the Office of Rail and Road is carrying out an independent review of the data to provide further analytical assurance and ensure that the conclusions arrived at are robust.

I would like to pay tribute to all those safety campaigners, in particular those who have lost loved ones, on their efforts to ensure that changes are made. The Government and Highways England will continue to work hard to improve road safety.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Smart Motorways Stocktake First Year Progress Repo [Smart
Motorways Stocktake First Year Progress Report 2021.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2021-04-20/HLWS925/>

Skills Education

[HLWS921]

Baroness Berridge: My Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for Education (Gavin Williamson) has today made the following statement:

As we build back better from the pandemic, we are announcing plans which build on the reforms set out in the *Skills for Jobs White Paper*, putting employers at the heart of plans to make sure people have the skills they need to get good jobs.

Today (20th April 2021) we are launching a consultation on flexi-job apprenticeships which will make it easier for employers from all sectors of the economy to benefit from the impact that apprenticeships can bring to their business. The consultation is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/flexi-job-apprenticeships-reshaping-the-role-of-apprenticeship-training-agencies>.

Since 2015 we have transformed apprenticeships into a prestigious technical education programme that is launching people's careers, upskilling and retraining workers, and helping employers develop the skills they need to thrive. Apprenticeships are at the heart of the Government's plans to drive economic recovery, and we are already making £3,000 available to employers for each new apprentice they recruit until 31 September.

In September 2020 the Prime Minister set out his ambition to make apprenticeships more portable, reflecting the varied and flexible models of employment that we see in dynamic sectors such as the creative industries, digital and construction. The consultation we are launching today sets out our vision for flexi-job apprenticeships as a means to achieve this and to unlock the potential of apprenticeships in these sectors. We want to seek views on this vision, and on how flexi-job apprenticeships can meet the needs of employers and provide a high quality experience for apprentices.

At Budget on 3 March the Chancellor announced a new £7m fund for flexi-job apprenticeship schemes. This consultation is an important step in preparing to launch this fund in July and ensuring that it delivers a vital skills boost to sectors which need it.

Skills Accelerator Launched

As part of the Skills for Jobs White Paper, we have launched the Skills Accelerator. This is central to the White Paper's aim to give employers a central role working with colleges, other providers, and local stakeholders to shape technical skills provision so that it meets labour market needs. It will be piloted in 2021-22 to test how we can enable a shift towards the White Paper's vision of a more collaborative post-16 system with employers at its heart. During the pilot:

- Local plans will be developed by employer representative bodies in collaboration with colleges and other providers and through engagement with key local stakeholders. They will provide a framework to help colleges and other providers reshape their offer to tackle skills mismatches and ensure they are responding effectively to labour market needs. Employer representative bodies are invited to come forward to lead these plans and will have access to funding to help them to do so. Applications to pilot these plans close on 25 May and successful applicants will be announced thereafter.

- £65m will be made available to local areas as a one-year pilot, to facilitate changes to provision that have been endorsed by local employers. Providers and employers will work together to increase the level of skills in the workforce, stimulating demand for better jobs and leading to increased innovation and productivity. The fund will provide capital and revenue for collaborative projects that will build providers' capacity to meet locally agreed skills

priorities. Applications for pilot projects close on May 25, with successful projects announced thereafter.

Supporting the Deployment of 5G and Extending Mobile Coverage

[HLWS923]

Baroness Barran: My Honourable Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Matt Warman MP, has made the following Statement:

Now, more than ever, people need access to dependable and consistent mobile coverage where they live, work and travel.

We have committed to extend mobile geographical coverage across the UK with uninterrupted mobile signal on all major roads, and to be a global leader in 5G. That is why the government has agreed a £1 billion Shared Rural Network deal with the UK's mobile network operators to extend 4G mobile geographical coverage to 95% of the UK by 2025. The Government is also investing £200 million in a programme of 5G testbeds and trials to encourage investment in 5G so that communities and businesses can benefit from this new technology.

It is essential that the planning system can effectively support the delivery of the mobile infrastructure that we need. That is why in 2019 the Department for Digital Culture, Media & Sport and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government published an in-principle consultation on proposed reforms to the permitted development rights governing deployment of mobile network infrastructure. We concluded that the proposed reforms would have a positive impact on the Government's ambitions for the deployment of 5G and extending mobile coverage, particularly in rural areas, where mobile coverage tends to lag behind more urban areas.

In July 2020 we announced that we would take forward the reforms, subject to a technical consultation on the detail of changes and including the appropriate environmental protections and other safeguards.

The Government has now published a [technical consultation](#) seeking views on proposals to:

- Enable the deployment of small radio equipment cabinets without the requirement for prior approval in Article 2(3) land (which include National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Conservation Areas), and allow greater flexibility for installing equipment cabinets in compounds;
- Allow for the strengthening of existing masts by permitting greater increases in the width and height of existing masts outside of Article 2(3) land, and the width of existing masts in Article 2(3) land, without prior approval; and further increases with prior approval;
- Enable building-based masts to be deployed closer to the highway on unprotected land; and, permit smaller

masts and poles to be installed on buildings without prior approval outside of Article 2(3) land; and,

- Enable taller new ground-based masts to be deployed on all land subject to prior approval, with greater permitted heights outside of Article 2(3) land; and, permit the deployment of monopole masts up to a height of 15m without prior approval outside of Article 2(3) land.

The proposed changes will not apply to land on or within sites of special scientific interest, to listed buildings and their curtilage, or sites that are or contain scheduled monuments.

The consultation will run for 8 weeks, closing 14 June 2021.

These changes will support wider and enhanced coverage that will ensure all communities benefit, and will give greater certainty and speed over deployment of infrastructure, increasing investor confidence. They also aim to encourage the use of existing infrastructure and promote site sharing to reduce the impacts of new deployment.

We believe these proposals achieve an appropriate balance between supporting the Government's ambitions for 5G and mobile coverage, and ensuring that the appropriate environmental protections and safeguards are in place, particularly for protected landscapes.

Alongside the technical consultation, we will work with industry representatives, Ofcom, local authorities and rural stakeholders to develop a new Code of Practice on Mobile Network Development in England, to ensure the impact of new and upgraded mobile infrastructure is minimised and that appropriate engagement takes place with local communities.

As planning law is a devolved matter, any future legislative changes will apply to England only, but we will continue to work closely with the Devolved Administrations to ensure that the planning regime continues to support the deployment of mobile infrastructure across the United Kingdom.

Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures

[HLWS920]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: My rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Priti Patel)

has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

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

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

TPIM notices in force (as of 28 February 2021)	3
Number of new TPIM notices served (during this period)	0
TPIM notices in respect of British citizens (as of 28 February 2021)	3
TPIM notices extended (during the reporting period)	1
TPIM notices revoked (during the reporting period)	0
TPIM notices revived (during the reporting period)	0
Variations made to measures specified in TPIM notices (during the reporting period)	2
Applications to vary measures specified in TPIM notices refused (during the reporting period)	0
The number of subjects relocated under TPIM legislation (during this the reporting period)	2

On 22 February 2021 TPIM subject LF was sentenced to 2 years and 4 months having pleaded guilty to six counts of breaching his TPIM notice.

In accordance with the Act, Section 9 reviews of the TPIMs against JM and LF were heard at the High Court between 30 October and 10 November 2020. In a judgment published on 10 February 2021, the court upheld the necessity and proportionality of the TPIM notice and all of the measures specified within it against JM. LF only challenged the necessity and proportionality of two of the measures specified within the notice. In the judgment the court upheld the necessity and proportionality of both measures. This judgment can be found at:

www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2021/266.html

The TPIM Review Group (TRG) keeps every TPIM notice under regular and formal review. First quarter TRG meetings will be held between 16 and 23 March 2021.

Written Answers

Tuesday, 20 April 2021

Coronavirus: Vaccination

Asked by **Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to promote a global vaccine passport scheme. [HL12773]

Lord Bethell: The Government committed to explore whether and how COVID-19 status certification might be used to reopen the economy, reduce restrictions on social contact and improve safety. COVID-19 status certification aims to provide reassurance that an individual is at reduced risk of transmission. This could allow some freedoms to be restored more safely, for example by allowing mass events to admit more participants, increased passenger numbers and reduced border restrictions for travellers and social distancing rules to be relaxed.

The Government believes that COVID-19 status certification could have an important role to play both domestically and internationally, as a temporary measure. Equally, we want to be sure that the benefits of any such approach is rigorously tested, along with analysis of the potential economic impacts that COVID-status certification would have across different settings. We will continue to gather evidence on the extent to which COVID-19 status certification is an effective measure to control the epidemic and reduce hospitalisations and deaths and continue to explore the equity and ethical concerns. The Government will set out its conclusions from the COVID-status certification review in advance of 21 June in order to inform the safe reopening of society and the economy.

Asked by **Lord Hay of Ballyore**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that those designated as clinically extremely vulnerable do not have to travel more than 115 miles to receive their COVID-19 vaccine. [HL14743]

Lord Bethell: In England, more than 98% of the population are currently within 10 miles of a vaccine site. Many of those who are designated as clinically extremely vulnerable are able to receive their vaccines at these sites. This is informed by advice from their general practitioner and community teams and agreement with their family and/or carer to facilitate this process.

In a small number of highly rural areas, vaccines are provided by mobile units and those who are housebound or in a nursing home would receive their vaccines from roving vaccination teams.

Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation

Asked by **Lord Mendelsohn**

To ask Her Majesty's Government which organisation provides the secretariat for the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation; and what processes were undertaken in (1) selecting, and (2) appointing, this organisation. [HL14787]

Asked by **Lord Mendelsohn**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Deputy Chief Medical Officers have any formal role in relation to the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation; and if so, what are the roles. [HL14788]

Asked by **Lord Mendelsohn**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the budget of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation for each of the last three years for which figures are available. [HL14789]

Asked by **Lord Mendelsohn**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation is able to commission specific research to inform its considerations; and if so, what specific research has it commissioned since 1 January 2020 regarding the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines. [HL14790]

Asked by **Lord Mendelsohn**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the expertise of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation in its ability to address issues relating to COVID-19 vaccines and immunosuppressed people. [HL14791]

Asked by **Lord Mendelsohn**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any members of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation have a specialism in haematology. [HL14792]

Lord Bethell: The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) secretariat is provided by Public Health England (PHE), as set out in the JCVI Code of Practice agreed by the Department. In 2013 the Secretariat was transferred to PHE from the Department as part of the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Membership is determined on merit and in accordance with the principles of the Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees and the Code of Practice issued by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. The Chair and members are appointed based on their suitability for the role through fair and open competition and assessed against specified criteria. The Deputy Chief Medical Officer Professor Jonathan Van Tam is a medical adviser to the JCVI but is not a member of the Committee.

The JCVI has no budget. Members are not remunerated. However, they are eligible to claim expenses in accordance with PHE's rules for travel, subsistence and overnight accommodation. The JCVI's members will not gain financial benefit from their membership. The JCVI cannot commission research but does identify gaps where additional research would be helpful in informing their decision making.

The JCVI's members have a wide range of specialisms, including vaccinology, immunology, paediatrics, adult medicine, respiratory medicine, geriatric medicine, infectious diseases, epidemiology, virology, public health, mathematical modelling, health economics, general practice and health care associated infections. The United Kingdom health departments agreed to take advice from the JCVI on vaccinations and immunisations as the expert body. The JCVI does not have a haematologist member.

The JCVI's COVID-19 sub-committee may, in the course of its work, invite experts in certain specialisms not represented in the membership to attend and contribute to meetings, including experts in haematology. The JCVI works closely with the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and the Commission on Human Medicines, who have an expert working group that includes invited experts in haematology.

Pornography: Internet

Asked by Baroness Grender

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Barran on 24 March (HL14223), what assessment they have made of (1) the percentage of commercial pornography sites, and (2) the total number of commercial pornography sites, that will not be in scope of the Online Safety Bill. [HL14737]

Baroness Barran: The government is committed to ensuring children are protected from accessing online pornography through the new online safety framework. Where pornography sites host user-generated content or facilitate online user interaction such as video and image sharing, commenting and live streaming, they will be subject to the new duty of care.

The government expects that the majority of commercial pornography sites, including those that are

most visited, will be captured through the new online safety regime. Only those commercial pornography sites which do not host user-generated content and instead publish their own content will not be in scope. We will continue to review our proposals to ensure we deliver the most comprehensive protections for children online.

Social Services: Reorganisation

Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many local authorities in England have combined their adult social services and children's social services under one director. [HL14857]

Lord Bethell: The information requested is not held centrally.

Trade Promotion

Asked by Lord Balfe

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to appoint trade envoys for (1) Mongolia, (2) Uzbekistan, (3) Kazakhstan, (4) Kyrgyzstan, (5) Tajikistan, and (6) Afghanistan; if so, when those envoys will be appointed; and what is the process by which they (a) select, and (b) appoint, such envoys. [HL14864]

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel: My noble Friend Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne was appointed Trade Envoy in July 2017 to Kazakhstan and in October 2020 the Hon. Member for Shrewsbury and Atcham, Daniel Kawczynski, was appointed Trade Envoy to Mongolia. There are no plans to appoint a Trade Envoy to Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan or Afghanistan.

My Rt Hon. Friend the Prime Minister's Trade Envoys are drawn from both Houses and across the political spectrum. They are chosen based on relevant skills and experience required to undertake the role. This experience can be related to their assigned market or UK industry knowledge, or their Government-to-Government experience, as well as willingness and an ability to undertake some international travel. Trade Envoys are appointed by the Prime Minister, usually following a recommendation by my Rt Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Trade.

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