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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

Written	Statements	•••••	••••••	1
Written	Answers			4

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Minister	Responsibilities
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

Wednesday, 21 April 2021

Consumer Connected Product Cybersecurity

[HLWS928]

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:

This government has ambitious plans to ensure that the increasingly diverse range of consumer products that can connect to the internet are more secure by having cyber security designed into them by default.

Since 2018, the UK has been recognised by industry and the security research community as defining a world leading approach of strong cyber security measures for connected products. My department published a Code of Practice for Consumer Internet of Things (IoT) Security on 14 October 2018. Developed in collaboration with industry and cyber security experts, this set out thirteen outcome-led guidelines that manufacturers would need to implement in order to improve the cyber security of their consumer IoT products. The UK Government has also contributed significantly to the first globally-applicable industry standard on consumer IoT Security - ETSI EN 303 645.

Our work has since been endorsed and supported by the 'Five Eyes' (a collective statement of intent was published in 2019) as well as the Australian government (their 2020 Code of Practice consists of the same thirteen principles as those we published in 2018), the governments of Singapore and Finland (whose national IoT labelling schemes reflects our work), and the government of India (who published a draft Code of Practice advocating the same thirteen guidelines of our 2018 Code of Practice).

The Government initially encouraged industry to resolve the issue of insecure consumer connected products voluntarily. However, despite the publication of the Code of Practice and the development of industry standards, in many cases, poor security practices remain commonplace.

In May 2019, DCMS launched a consultation on regulatory proposals advocating a minimum baseline cyber security requirement. There was widespread support for the UK Government seeking to regulate the security of consumer connected products. From July to September 2020, the Government ran a call for views on detailed proposals to regulate the cyber security of these products, to ensure they are more secure for people to use.

I am pleased to inform the House that today we are publishing a government response to this call for views. We summarise the feedback received in response to the call for views as well as set out the Government's response to that feedback, and provide an overview of our updated policy intentions for regulation in this space.

In line with the intentions detailed in the document published today, we will introduce legislation as parliamentary time allows to protect consumers from insecure connected products. This regulation will apply to all consumer connected products such as smart speakers, smart televisions, connected doorbells, connected toys and smartphones, with some specific exemptions due to the specific circumstances of how certain devices are constructed, secured, and regulated, or the impact that regulating these products would have. The security requirements that will be mandated will align with the UK Code of Practice, and international standards, so are familiar to all manufacturers and other relevant parties across industry. The legislation will also provide powers to investigate allegations of non-compliance and to take steps to ensure compliance.

As a reserved matter, these proposed amendments will apply across the UK. The security of consumer smart products is a priority across the whole of the UK, and my officials will continue to work closely with the Devolved Administrations on this policy.

UK Official Development Assistance: Departmental Allocations 2021-22

[HLWS929]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: My Right Honourable Friend, the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs (Dominic Raab), has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The FCDO has responsibility for delivering £8,115m of Official Development Assistance (ODA) spend this year, approximately 80% of total UK ODA. I have recently concluded the FCDO's internal business planning process to allocate this budget for 2021/22 in accordance with UK strategic priorities against a challenging financial climate as a result of COVID. This statement updates the House on the conclusions of that process.

Throughout the business planning process, we strived to ensure that every penny of the FCDO's ODA spend brings maximum strategic coherence, impact and value for taxpayers' money.

The resulting portfolio marks a strategic shift, putting our aid budget to work alongside our diplomatic network, our science and technology expertise and our economic partnerships in tackling global challenges. We will focus on core HMG priorities for poverty reduction, including getting more girls into school, providing urgent humanitarian support to those who need it most, and tackling global threats like climate change, COVID recovery and other international health priorities. Based on OECD data for 2020, the UK will be the third largest donor within the G7 as a percentage of GNI.

The Integrated Review has helped guide the process, by setting out how an independent and sovereign global Britain will act as a force for good and use its influence to

shape the future international order. To deliver that vision I have allocated resources to the seven priorities I set out to Parliament on 26 November:

- Climate and biodiversity. FCDO will maintain a strong climate and biodiversity portfolio of £534m as we host COP26. In total, the FCDO will deliver more than £941m of activities this year, across all themes, that count towards the UK's flagship £11.6bn International Climate Finance target.
- Global health security. FCDO will spend £1,305m on global health. We will focus on the UK's position at the forefront of the international response to Covid-19, through our commitments to COVAX, GAVI and WHO, and through bilateral spend where the need is greatest in Africa.
- Girls' education. FCDO will spend £400m on girls' education. We will invest directly in over 25 countries, helping to achieve the global target to get 40 million girls into education and demonstrating our commitment at this year's Global Partnership for Education summit.
- Humanitarian preparedness and response. FCDO will spend £906m to maintain the UK's role as a force for good at times of crisis, focusing our work on those countries most affected by risk of famine, including Yemen, Syria, Somalia, and South Sudan. A £30m crisis reserve will enable us to respond rapidly to new crises.
- Science & Technology. FCDO will make £251m of R&D investments across all seven themes of this strategy, with £38m targeted directly at science and technology including new innovations to tackle development challenges, including innovations in satellite imagery and AI to support humanitarian responses.
- Open societies and conflict resolution. FCDO will spend £419m to harness the UK's unique strengths in conflict management and resolution, and to project our support for democratic values and institutions, human rights, and freedom of religious belief. We will further drive impact and support democratic values and institutions through our diplomacy, including our new sanctions policy, which will shortly be extended to cover corruption. We have also protected Civil Society programmes, particularly Comic Relief, Commonwealth Veterans, Jo Cox Memorial grants within UK Aid Direct, UK Aid Match and VSO.
- Economic development and trade. FCDO will spend £491m to support new trade relationships with developing country partners, complementing our wider multilateral and capital investments to build the trade and investment partners of the future. We will use CDC and multilateral partners to drive mutually beneficial growth with strategic partners in circumstances where private sector investment is not practicable.

A further £3,159m will meet the government's crosscutting contributions to multilateral partners and global funds, including our pledge to remain the largest donor to IDA19, the African Development Fund, and other multilateral development banks; support Arms-Length Bodies such as the British Council; and cover FCDO operating costs. This is complemented by the ODA spent by other government departments, which I set out in a Written Ministerial Statement on 26 January 2021.

Within this framework, I have also ensured that the UK is able to exert maximum influence as a force for good in Africa and strategically tilt towards the Indo-Pacific. FCDO will spend around half its bilateral ODA budget in Africa, where human suffering remains most acute, including a major shift to East Africa to reflect the UK's unique role and clear national strategic interest. One third of FCDO bilateral ODA will be spent in the Indo-Pacific and South Asia, in support of our deeper engagement in that region, promoting open societies, reinforcing trade links and promoting climate change collaboration.

In China, I have reduced FCDO's ODA for programme delivery by 95% to £0.9m (with additional ODA in this year only to meet the contractual exit costs of former programmes). The remaining £900,000 will fund programmes on open societies and human rights.

The UK remains a world leader in international development, not only through the impact of these financial allocations but also through the creation of the FCDO, integrating diplomacy and development to deliver greater impact. We will return to our commitment to spend 0.7% of gross national income on ODA when the fiscal situation allows.

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Thematic allocation	
Thematic area	FCDO ODA allocation
	2021/22, £m
Climate change and biodiversity	534
COVID and global health	1,305
Girls' education	400
Humanitarian preparedness and response	906
Open societies and conflict	419
Science, research and technology	38 (plus thematic R&D)
Trade and economic development	491
Financial transactions	863
Programmes with cross cutting themes	1,940
ALBs, International Subscriptions and other	1,219
fixed costs	
Total	8,115

State Pension Underpayments

[HLWS927]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: My honourable Friend, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Pensions & Financial Inclusion (Guy Opperman MP) has made the following Written Statement:

I wish to update the House on the State Pension correction activity that is addressing historical errors, that were unaddressed by successive Governments, following on from my statement on 4 March.

We are fully committed to ensuring that any historical errors are addressed as quickly as possible to ensure that individuals receive the State Pension they are rightfully due in law. While I am pleased to report that good progress has been made in the examination of cases, this is a complex and resource intensive process requiring the clerical examination of many thousands of State Pension records.

The Department already has a dedicated team of over 150 people working on the correction activity. Throughout 2021/22 we intend to increase significantly the capacity of the team with the recruitment of an additional 360 staff. We expect this additional resource will speed up the correction activity, with the aim to complete the exercise by the end of 2023.

However, it is important to note that estimates on the numbers affected, and costs, are currently based on highly complex scans of the computer system, analysis of DWP administrative data and very small samples of cases randomly selected and reviewed. They are highly uncertain and will be further refined by our analysts as the correction activity progresses and we are able to base estimates on management Information gathered from cases actually reviewed and corrected.

Individuals who are in the affected groups do not need to contact the Department. We are in the process of issuing letters to all those found to be underpaid in accordance with the law, explaining how much they will be receiving in arrears and the reasons for the change to their State Pension rate.

The Department will publish further information on the progress of the State Pension correction activity around the time of the next fiscal event.

Written Answers

Wednesday, 21 April 2021

Buses: Exhaust Emissions

Asked by **Lord Bradshaw**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the cost of delivering the 4,000 new zero emission buses they committed to in the National Bus Strategy. [HL14957]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The cost of individual vehicles, and accompanying infrastructure, will depend on a number of case by case factors including the types of vehicles chosen, the scale of individual projects and the associated infrastructure requirements. On 30 March 2021 the Government launched the Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas scheme. Under this scheme local transport authorities will be able to bid for up to £120 million to introduce zero emission buses and associated infrastructure. The funding from this scheme could assist with the introduction of up to 500 zero emission buses and associated infrastructure.

In addition, £50 million has been provided in through the All-Electric Bus Town or City scheme. This funding could assist with the introduction of up to 300 zero emission buses and associated infrastructure. Together, Government funding currently could support the purchase of 800 zero emission buses and the infrastructure needed to support them.

The Department is continuing to review how to support the introduction of zero emission buses and associated infrastructure in future years.

Driving Licences

Asked by Lord Lipsey

To ask Her Majesty's Government why those who receive a new driving licence from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) are required to cut in half and return their previous driving licence to the DVLA; and what estimate they have made of the annual cost to their customers of this requirement. [HL14778]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: It is a long-standing requirement to return the previous driving licence to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) when a new licence has been issued. This helps to reduce the number of previous driving licences in circulation and to ensure that drivers only have one licence at any time. This requirement is currently under consideration.

No specific estimate has been made of the annual cost to customers to return their previous driving licence.

Driving: Safety

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the distraction of drivers using invehicle infotainment systems. [HL14693]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: We have not undertaken an assessment of the distraction of drivers using invehicle infotainment systems.

Electric Scooters

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to remove privately owned e-scooters from the highway when the scheme to permit only e-scooters which have been licensed for hire comes into effect. [HL14908]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: We are running 32 trials where approved rental e-scooter vehicles can be legally ridden by users that meet a set of requirements, potential users include anyone with a full or provisional licence. Privately owned e-scooters being ridden on public roads are being done so illegally and a range of motoring offences apply and can be enforced by the police.

Electric Vehicles

Asked by Lord Porter of Spalding

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the electrification of vehicles on (1) lowering the cost of motoring, and consequentially, (2) the mode shift to public transport and active travel. [HL14813]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: While electric vehicles (EVs) currently cost more to purchase than their petrol and diesel alternatives, EV motorists benefit from their comparatively cheaper running costs. It costs from 1p/mile to run a new electric vehicle, compared to around 10p per mile for new diesel/petrol vehicles. Additionally, we have put in place a tax regime that benefits motorists who choose cleaner vehicles. We expect the upfront cost and total cost of ownership of EVs to come down and demand to grow even further as they become more commonplace.

Our ambitions for zero emission driving will be supported by an accompanying package of £2.8 billion, with up to £1 billion to support the electrification of UK vehicles and their supply chains, £1.3 billion to accelerate the roll out of charging infrastructure and £582 million for plug in vehicle grants. Accelerating modal shift to public and active transport is one of the strategic priorities for our forthcoming Transport Decarbonisation Plan and forms a key part of both last year's cycling and walking plan "Gear Change" and the recent National Bus Strategy.

Festival UK* 2022

Asked by Lord Taylor of Holbeach

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to encourage smaller communities and towns to participate in Festival UK* 2022. [HL14947]

Baroness Barran: We have recently announced the 10 teams that will deliver world class creative projects in urban, rural and coastal communities across the UK in 2022. In partnership with the Festival Company, these teams are now starting pre-production to develop the content of their projects and determine the final locations.

Together, the 10 projects are designed to reach populations throughout the UK. As well as public events there will be learning and participation programmes aimed at engaging local communities and encouraging them, and the rest of the country, to take part. The Festival programme will be announced later this year.

Football Index

Asked by Lord Foster of Bath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the responsibilities of the (1) Financial Conduct Authority, and (2) Gambling Commission, in regulating Football Index. [HL14728]

Asked by Lord Foster of Bath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with (1) the owners and management of Football Index, and (2) individuals affected by the collapse of Football Index. [HL14729]

Baroness Barran: The government is taking the collapse of BetIndex Ltd (the operators of Football Index) and the concerns of those affected by this very seriously. We have heard from hundreds of individuals affected by these events in recent weeks, and on 20 April we announced an independent review of the regulation of the Football Index product. This review is intended 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, identify if there are potential areas for improvement and inform our Review of the Gambling Act 2005.

The Gambling Commission licensed BetIndex Ltd in 2015 and is responsible for ensuring that gambling operators comply with the gambling legislation and the conditions and codes of practice attached to their operating licences. The activities regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority are primarily set out in the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Regulated Activities) Order (the RAO). The RAO contains the financial services activities, known as 'regulated activities', that require FCA authorisation before firms or individuals can carry them out. BetIndex was not authorised by the FCA.

The Commission is continuing its regulatory investigation into BetIndex Ltd and administration proceedings are ongoing. Our independent review is separate to those processes, and will be carried out and report in a way which will not compromise them. The government has not had discussions with BetIndex's owners and management.

A Written Ministerial Statement on Regulation of Football Index was published on Tuesday 20 April 2021. It is publicly available here: https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2021-04-20/hcws929

Islam

Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 22 March (HL14054) which states "Islamist extremism is not true Islam", what assessment have they made of (1) any verses in the Koran which appear to support violence, and (2) the use of these verses by Islamist extremists to sanction violence. [HL14809]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: We look at and assess all material that may be used by extremists to support or justify violence and will not tolerate those who spread divisive and harmful narratives.

We remain of the view that the propaganda used by Islamist extremists is a distortion of true Islam.

Level Crossings: Closures

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applications under the Transport and Works Act 1992 order process to modify or close level crossings have been (1) received, (2) approved, and (3) rejected, per region in each of the last five years; and how many are completed within each yearly timeframe. [HL14695]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Since 2016, seven applications have been received under the Transport and Works Act 1992 for powers relating to the very purpose of modifying or closing level crossings. The table below provides details on each of these applications including the year they were received, the region they are in and whether they were approved or rejected.

The implementation of modifications or closures to level crossings, approved by a Transport and Works Act Order, is a matter for the applicant, which in the case of all those listed in the table below is Network Rail.

Year application received	Name of Application	Region	Application approved or rejected
2016	The Network Rail (Northumberland Park Level Crossing and Coppermill Lane Level Crossing Closure) Order	London	Approved

Application approved or rejected	Region	Name of Application	Year application received
Approved	East	Network Rail (Felixstowe Branch Line Improvement -Level crossing closure) Order	2017
Approved	East	Network Rail (Abbots Ripton Level crossing) Order	2017
Approved	East Midlands	Network Rail (Kingsmill No.1 Level Crossing (Land Acquisition and Closure) Order	2017
Partially Approved	East	Network Rail (Suffolk Level Crossing Reduction) Order	2017
Partially Approved	East	Network Rail (Cambridgeshire Level Crossing Reduction) Order	2017
This application is to be decided	East	Network Rail (Essex Level Crossing Reduction) Order	2017

Level Crossings: Safety

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of any increased risk to the safety of (1) pedestrians, and (2) other road users, due to delays in the completion of the Transport and Works Act 1992 order process to modify or close level crossings. [HL14696]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Department does not carry out any assessment of risks associated with level crossings that are applied for either modification or closure under the Transport and Works Act 1992. It is for Network Rail to manage the risk at crossings owned by them, in its capacity as the duty holder. This risk must be managed and mitigated regardless of the length of time it takes for an application under the Transport and Works Act to complete and for the level crossing to be modified or closed.

Passengers: Swinderby Railway Station

Asked by Lord Bradshaw

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the expected increase in passenger numbers at Swinderby train station resulting from the forthcoming additional train services; and what evidence this estimate is based on. [HL14705]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The additional train service formed part of the wider passenger service enhancements for the East Midlands outlined when the East Midlands Franchise started in August 2019, and

consideration focused on the route benefits rather than at a specific station.

Railways: Bridges

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to review existing plans by Highways England to demolish historic rail bridges and tunnels; and whether they have plans to instruct Highways England to prioritise measures that encourage walking and cycling. [HL14979]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Highways England manages the Historical Railways Estate on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport and has been in touch with all the local authorities affected, to advise them of its plans, and to see if they have any use for the structures. Highways England is pausing works where local authorities have raised queries about the works, and where there is credible interest for possible re-purposing and transfer of ownership of the assets.

The Department has also asked Highways England to consult with the relevant local authorities concerning the retention, where practicable, of access for pedestrians and cyclists. Highways England continues to work with local authorities and other groups to protect routes for active travel or future rail use. Indeed, several structures are being transferred this year to assist with this.

Refugees: Community Relations

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment have they made of the benefits of the government of Germany's policies for integrating approximately two million refugees since 2015; and what conclusions have they drawn from any such assessment in adapting their policies for refugee integration. [HL14757]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office regularly engage with our international counterparts and seek to incorporate their findings into our evidence base, and this has informed our work to date.

We have already committed £14 million for a cross-government Refugee Transitions Outcomes Fund to offer greater support to refugees with a focus on employment, housing and wider integration.

Building on this programme and other schemes available, we will develop a package of tailored support such as language training, skills development and work placements – to help refugees build their lives in the UK.

UK City of Culture: Coventry

Asked by Lord Taylor of Holbeach

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with Coventry City Council about Coventry's designation as the 2021 UK City of Culture; and what support they have (1) provided, and (2) plan

to provide, to that Council for the duration of Coventry being the City of Culture. [HL14945]

Baroness Barran: DCMS liaise regularly with Coventry City Council and The Coventry Trust as they are preparing for their tenure as UK City of Culture 2021. This government has already committed over £18.5 million to support Coventry, which includes the recent

announcement of £3.5m additional funding which will be used to prepare enhanced covid-19 safety and hygiene methods and provide reassurance to audiences. This government remains committed to working with Coventry City Council and The Coventry Trust to provide continued support throughout 2021 and 2022.

Index to Statements and Answers

Written	Statements	1
Consi	umer Connected Product Cyber-security	1
	Official Development Assistance: rtmental Allocations 2021-22	1
State	Pension Underpayments	2
Written	Answers	4
Buses	s: Exhaust Emissions	4
Drivi	ng Licences	4
Drivi	ng: Safety	4
Electi	ric Scooters	4
Electi	ric Vehicles	4
Festiv	val UK* 2022	5
Footb	pall Index	5
Islam		5
Level	Crossings: Closures	5
Level	Crossings: Safety	6
Passe	ngers: Swinderby Railway Station	6
Railw	/ays: Bridges	6
Refug	gees: Community Relations	6
UK C	City of Culture: Coventry	6