

**Session 2021-22**  
**No. 56**



**Tuesday**  
**19 October 2021**

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

# **HOUSE OF LORDS**

## **WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS**

**Written Statements .....1**

**Written Answers.....4**

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<b>Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon</b>	Minister of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
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<b>Lord Benyon</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
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<b>Lord Callanan</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
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<b>Baroness Goldie</b>	Minister of State, Ministry of Defence
<b>Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park</b>	Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
<b>Lord Greenhalgh</b>	Minister of State, Home Office and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
<b>Lord Grimstone of Boscobel</b>	Minister of State, Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Department for International Trade
<b>Lord Kamall</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health and Social Care
<b>Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
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<b>Baroness Vere of Norbiton</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Transport
<b>Baroness Williams of Trafford</b>	Minister of State, Home Office
<b>Lord Wolfson of Tredegar</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice
<b>Viscount Younger of Leckie</b>	Whip

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# Written Statements

Tuesday, 19 October 2021

## Armed Forces Pay

[HLWS315]

**Baroness Goldie:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (The Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

I am today announcing the Government's decision on pay for the Armed Forces for 2021-22.

The Government recognises that public sector workers play a vital role in the running of our public services, including in their remarkable commitment to keeping the public safe in the continuing fight against Covid-19.

The Government received the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body (AFPRB) report on 2021 pay for Service Personnel up to and including 1-star rank on 21 July 2021. This has been laid before the House today and published on GOV.UK.

The Government values the independent expertise and insight of AFPRB and takes on board the useful advice and principles set out in response to the Government's recommendations outlined in the report.

As set out at the Spending Review (2020), there will be a pause to headline pay rises for the majority of public sector workforces in 2021-22. This is in order to ensure fairness between public and private sector wage growth, as the private sector was significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic in the form of reduced hours, suppressed earnings growth and increased redundancies, whilst the public sector was largely shielded from these effects. This approach will protect public sector jobs and investment in public services, prioritising the lowest paid, with those earning less than £24,000 (Full Time Equivalent) receiving a minimum £250 increase. The pause ensures we can get the public finances back onto a sustainable path after unprecedented government spending on the response to Covid-19.

The AFPRB have recommended the following:

- a £250 uplift for all members of the Armed Forces earning less than £24,000, where X-Factor is excluded from this salary calculation;
- an increase in accommodation charges of 1.7% in line with the increase in the actual rents for housing component of CPI, not to be backdated; and
- other targeted eligibility changes to some categories of recruitment and retention payment.

The Government accepts the AFPRB's recommendations on accommodation charges and recruitment and retention payments in full.

However, the Government does not accept the AFPRB's recommendation to exclude X-Factor from the low earner salary calculation as X-Factor is a component of the overall military salary. Instead the Government will implement a £250 pay uplift for all regular and reserve

Service Personnel earning less than the equivalent of £24,000 per year inclusive of X-Factor. This rise will be implemented in November 2021 salaries, and be backdated to 1 April 2021. Service Personnel have also continued to have access to annual incremental progression where appropriate.

The Government recognises that there is a further discussion to be had over the use of the X-Factor for pay and salary comparability work. The Armed Forces Reward and Incentivisation Review, recently announced in the Integrated Review's [Defence in a competitive age command paper](#), along with the AFPRB's planned review of X-Factor in the 2023 Pay Round will provide the opportunities to explore this topic in much greater depth.

The year 2021-22 has seen no waning in the important outputs our Armed Forces. From continuing to support the national response to Coronavirus, to the exceptional work of all those involved in the Afghanistan evacuations, all whilst maintaining our critical national Defence outputs. It is for this reason I am pleased that, despite the unprecedented impact the pandemic has had on the nation's finances, the Government has been able to act in the spirit of the AFPRB's recommendations and demonstrate its commitment to looking after those who look after us.

## Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage

[HLWS313]

**Lord Callanan:** My Rt hon Friend the Minister of State for Energy, Clean Growth and Climate Change (Greg Hands) has today made the following Statement:

I am today providing an update on the UK's CCUS Cluster Sequencing Process which was launched in May this year. Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage, or CCUS, will be essential to meeting our Net Zero ambitions and will be an exciting new industry to capture the carbon we continue to emit and revitalise the birthplaces of the first Industrial Revolution.

The Prime Minister's 10 Point Plan established a commitment to deploy CCUS in a minimum of two industrial clusters by the mid-2020s, and four by 2030 at the latest. Our aim is to use CCUS technology to capture and store 20-30 MtCO<sub>2</sub> per year by 2030, forming the foundations for future investment and potential export opportunities. CCUS will be crucial for industrial decarbonisation, low carbon power, engineered greenhouse gas removal technologies and delivering our 5GW by 2030 low carbon hydrogen production ambition.

Our cluster sequencing process, which has, through the CCS Infrastructure Fund, £1 billion to provide industry with the certainty required to deploy CCUS at pace and at scale, has completed the first phase of the evaluation of the five cluster submissions received by my Department.

I am today, confirming that the Hynet and East Coast Clusters have been confirmed as track 1 clusters for the mid-2020s and will be taken forward into Track-1 negotiations. If the clusters represent value for money for the consumer and the taxpayer then subject to final

decisions of Ministers, they will receive support under the government's CCUS Programme. We are also announcing the Scottish Cluster as a reserve cluster if a back-up is needed. A reserve cluster is one which met the eligibility criteria and performed to a good standard against the evaluation criteria. As such, we will continue to engage with the Scottish Cluster throughout Phase-2 of the sequencing process, to ensure it can continue its development and planning. This means that if government chooses to discontinue engagement with a cluster in Track-1, we can engage with this reserve cluster instead.

Deploying CCUS will be a significant undertaking, these are new major infrastructure projects for a new sector of the economy and carry with them significant risks to deliver by the mid-2020s. Government will continue to play a role in providing long-term certainty to these projects to manage these risks and bring forward the UK's first CCUS clusters.

We remain committed to helping all industrial clusters to decarbonise as we work to reach net zero emissions by 2050, and we are clear that CCUS will continue to play a key role in this process. Consequently, the government continues to be committed to Track-2 enabling 10Mtpa capacity operational by 2030. This puts these places - Teesside, the Humber, Merseyside, North Wales and the North East of Scotland - among the potential early SuperPlaces which will be transformed over the next decade.

### Coronavirus Test Device Approval Update

[HLWS319]

**Lord Kamall:** My Honourable friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Vaccines and Public Health) (Maggie Throup) has today made the following statement:

The UK is developing one of the most rigorous regulatory regimes in the world for coronavirus tests. The CTDA regulations have set high bars of specificity and sensitivity to ensure only high quality tests are available on the UK market.

Secretary of State and I have been impressed by the number of applications the regulator has received. This is a testament to the willingness of businesses to rise to the public health challenges set by this pandemic. However, some manufacturers have struggled to provide sufficient evidence in time. As things stand, this would mean they would have to be temporarily removed from the market whilst they complete their validation. This would create

an unexpected contraction in supply at the start of winter. This could be particularly problematic for testing returning travellers.

In order to protect public health by ensuring availability of tests, the Secretary of State has decided to exercise the power under regulation 39A of the Medical Devices Regulations 2002. He will publish a protocol today listing certain tests that have both passed a public sector validation, and have a pending application awaiting validation, to remain on the market up to 28 February 2022 or until their validation application is determined. This protocol is a short term, proportionate and targeted measure to minimise a risk of serious harm to public health by ensuring a supply of tests most likely to be of high quality, having passed validation as part of DHSC procurement or other public sector process, remain on the market on an interim basis.

Copies of the protocol will also be deposited in the libraries of both Houses and it will be published on the GOV.UK website.

### Correction to PQ Answer: Organic Farming

[HLWS312]

**Lord Benyon:** In answer to a PQ on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020, my Noble Friend Lord Gardiner of Kimble used inaccurate wording in reference to the practice of using non-organic seeds in organic farming when there is no organic seed available.

I would like to correct the record as below.

It is possible for non-organic seed (as part of a mix or entirely non-organic) to be used on certified organic farmland, but only under prescribed circumstances, and with prior authorisation in accordance with regulations. In cases where, due to limited availability, a producer cannot source the required seeds in sufficient quantities, the organic regulation allows producers to use non-organic seeds. This is because it is recognised that occasionally, insufficient stocks may be available. Authorisations to use non-organic seed are granted only under specific circumstances, and must be obtained in advance of their use.

We do not have data on the area of land in England for which such authorisations have been granted. We can, however, supply figures for the total number of authorisations and quantities involved for the UK as a whole.

*Non-organic arable seed used by organic farmers: 2017 to 2019*

Crop	2017		2018		2019	
	Authorisations	Tonnes	Authorisations	Tonnes	Authorisations	Tonnes
Winter Wheat	80	126.3	69	142.9	90	107
Spring Wheat	11	32.2	23	98.4	20	59.1
Spring Barley	160	348.3	166	250.3	81	141.1
Winter Barley	39	84.4	26	66.5	34	151

<i>Crop</i>	<i>2017</i>		<i>2018</i>		<i>2019</i>	
	<i>Authorisations</i>	<i>Tonnes</i>	<i>Authorisations</i>	<i>Tonnes</i>	<i>Authorisations</i>	<i>Tonnes</i>
Spring Oats	46	129.7	99	230.7	42	65.7
Winter Oats	29	59.5	18	42.3	17	17.6
Winter Rye	40	44.2	65	119.3	34	72.5
Spring Triticale	67	63.6	47	19.8	56	75.8
Winter Triticale	17	22.9	23	14.7	9	9.6

Due to variations in year to year harvest and market conditions affecting availability there is still variation. The long-term trend, however, is that over recent years the number of authorisations needed has on average decreased, due to increasing availability of organic seeds.

### Correction to PQ Answer: Public Footpaths

[HLWS320]

**Lord Benyon:** In answer to a PQ on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 my Noble Friend Lord Gardiner of Kimble used a figure of 58,500km when the correct figure is in the region of 6,392km of paths and 13,661 ha of open access.

I would like to correct the record as below.

Financial support for the permissive access options within agri-environment schemes was withdrawn as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review in 2010. Existing agreements under the original Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) and Higher-Level Stewardship Scheme (HLS) were allowed to run their course to expiry as intended, with final agreements ending by 2021. Since 2010, agreements providing about 2,080 kilometres of CSS and 4,312 kilometres of HLS permissive linear access paths (footpath, bridleway/cycle routes, reduced mobility access and upgrades to existing paths) have expired, in accordance with the terms of the agreements, along with around 4,000 ha (CSS) and 9,661 ha (HLS) of permissive open access. These 6,392 km of paths and 13,661 ha of open access were present on about 3,000 sites. Agreement holders with permissive access options were initially encouraged to continue offering access, if practicable, without payment, but we do not have any record of the extent to which this occurred. During 2021/22 Natural England, on behalf of Defra, will be conducting research to determine what happened to access provision after the end of Stewardship agreements to help inform future public access provision within schemes.

### Finance Bill 2021-22

[HLWS316]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** My right honourable friend the Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Lucy Frazer) has today made the following Written Ministerial statement:

The Finance Bill will be published on 4 November. Explanatory Notes on the Bill will be available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office and placed in

the Libraries of both Houses on that day. Copies of the Explanatory Notes will also be available on GOV.UK.

As usual, a full copy of the Budget resolutions will be made available after the Chancellor's Budget statement on 27 October. This includes resolutions made under the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act 1968 for those measures that are expected to come into effect ahead of Finance Bill Royal Assent.

In line with the approach to tax policy making set out in the government's documents 'Tax Policy Making: a new approach', published in 2010, and 'The new Budget timetable and the tax policy making process', published in 2017, the Government published draft legislation for Finance Bill 2021-22 on 20 July 2021, which is available on GOV.UK. Further legislation was also published on 20 and 21 September 2021. The Government remains committed to legislating for these measures, subject to confirmation at Budget in the usual way.

### Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse: Investigation Reports

[HLWS318]

**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:

On the 27 July 2021, 2nd September 2021, and today, the 19 October 2021, the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse published three of their investigation reports.

The reports relate to IICSA's investigations into the extent of any institutional failures to protect children in the care of Lambeth Council from sexual abuse and exploitation as well as reporting on their investigation into Child Protection in Religious Organisations and Settings. Today, they have also published a report regarding the institutional responses to allegations involving the late Lord Janner of Braunstone, QC.

I pay tribute to the strength and courage of the victims and survivors who have shared their experiences to ensure the Inquiry can deliver its vital work.

Government will review these reports and consider how to respond to their content in due course. I would like to thank Professor Alexis Jay and her Panel for their continued work to uncover the truth, identify what went wrong in the past and to learn the lessons for the future.

I have today laid these reports before the House and they will also be published on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

## Prison Staff Pay Award

[HLWS317]

**Lord Wolfson of Tredegar:** My right honourable friend the Deputy Prime Minister, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Dominic Raab) has made the following Written Statement:

I am today announcing the Government's decision on pay awards for prison staff.

The Prison Service Pay Review Body (PSPRB) has made its recommendations for the 2021-22 pay award. The Government values the independent expertise and insight of the PSPRB and takes on board the advice. Prison staff make an essential contribution to public service and their ongoing efforts, particularly in the challenging context of the Covid-19 pandemic, have been greatly appreciated.

As such, I am today announcing that we are accepting in full the recommendations made by the review body for implementation in this financial year. For clarity these are recommendations 2, 3 and 4 on which the Government provided evidence to the PSPRB.

Accepting recommendations 2, 3 and 4 will deliver a pay rise for over half of our prison service staff, according to internal estimates. This pay award will be paid this Autumn and will be backdated to 1 April 2021.

This award reflects the Government's original proposals to the PSPRB which were developed in the context of the public sector pay pause for 2021-22, announced at the Spending Review (2020). The pay pause has enabled Government to protect public sector jobs and investment in public services, prioritising the lowest paid. The pay pause aims to assist in getting public finances back onto a sustainable path after unprecedented Government spending on the response to Covid-19.

The PSPRB recommended that those with the lowest pay should be uplifted by £250. This means that all prison staff with a basic salary below £24,000 (on a full-time equivalent basis) should receive a consolidated pay award of £250. The Government has accepted this recommendation, recommendation 2, in full.

The Government has also accepted recommendations 3 and 4, meaning that eligible prison staff who have not reached the top of their pay band will also continue to receive progression pay of up to 5%. Of this group, some of our lowest paid staff are also eligible for the £250 uplift under recommendation 2.

The PSPRB also made a further two recommendations, recommendations 1 and 5, which are not applicable to the current financial year. These recommendations concern matters on which fall outside of the PSPRB's remit for the 2021-22 pay round. In the circumstances, while the Government is grateful for these additional recommendations, there is no obligation on Government to formally respond, but we will consider them further.

The report has been laid before Parliament today, 19<sup>th</sup> October, and a copy is attached. I am grateful to the Chair and members of the Review Body for their report.'

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Prison Service Pay Review Body Report 2021 [PSPRB Report 20-21.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2021-10-19/HLWS317/>

## Soil Health Action Plan for England

[HLWS314]

**Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park:** My Hon Friend Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Domestic Environment) (Rebecca Pow) has made the following Statement:

This statement follows the recent [announcement](#) made by my Noble Friend Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park on 8 September 2021 on the government's commitment to publish a new Soil Health Action Plan for England and to outline further details on this upcoming plan.

Soil is a rich ecosystem and the Soil Health Action Plan will take a natural capital approach to improving its health by considering the numerous biological, chemical and physical attributes of soil. It will support sustainable management of soil by bringing together a range of actions to improve and protect the health of our soil. This will include delivering key ecosystem services and wider benefits and outcomes such as increased biodiversity, carbon storage, food production and flood mitigation. It will also provide certainty to farmers and land managers around the acceptable condition of all soil types.

The Action Plan will ensure England's soil is sustainably managed by 2030 demonstrating leadership in delivering a coherent plan for soil health. It will focus on preventing soil degradation and improving soil health, and look at how land management practices and planning can be adapted to help protect soil from the impact of climate change.

The Sustainable Farming Incentive is a key focus of the Action Plan and will support sustainable approaches to farm husbandry that deliver for the environment and improve soil health. This could include the introduction of herbal leys, and the use of grass-legume mixtures or cover crops. Healthy soil can also support farm productivity.

The Action Plan will include the development of a healthy soil indicator, soil structure monitoring methodology and a soil health monitoring scheme to help land managers and farmers track the health of our soil over time and the impact of their management practices. These actions will create a robust baseline from which we can monitor improvements in soil health, identify trends and support informed policy decisions, including any future environmental targets for soil health. The Action Plan will also outline how soil health improvements will help deliver against our wider environmental targets,

including our historic 2030 target to halt the decline in species abundance.

The Soil Health Action Plan for England will provide a single, strategic approach to achieving these multiple outcomes and driving improved soil health across England, and we currently intend to consult on the framework next Spring.

### **Trade and Co-operation Agreement: Engagement with Civil Society and Business Organisations**

[HLWS311]

**Lord Frost:** As the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) is a broad Agreement that touches on the lives of people across the UK, the Government ran a public consultation on Government engagement with business and civil society groups on implementation of the TCA. The consultation was open for seven weeks from 9 August 2021 to 21 September 2021.

It focused on how to best use the Domestic Advisory Group and Civil Society Forum, the two formal engagement channels provided for in the TCA.

Today, after considering comments received from various stakeholders, including business associations and civil society groups, the Government is publishing its official response to the consultation in Parliament and on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

The Government has also launched an Expression of Interest campaign to determine membership of the Domestic Advisory Group and Civil Society Forum. The Expression of Interest, published today on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk), will run until 9 November.

We are preparing for the Domestic Advisory Group to meet for the first time this year, shortly after the closure of the Expression of Interest campaign. The Government is in discussions with the European Commission to finalise the date for the first Civil Society Forum. We are prepared for the Forum to meet at the end of this year but acknowledge that it can take place in February 2022 if both parties agree.

## Written Answers

Tuesday, 19 October 2021

### Aircraft Carriers: Far East

Asked by **Lord Tunnicliffe**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what impact, if any, rising tensions between China and Taiwan have had on the route for the carrier strike group. [HL3081]

**Baroness Goldie:** The Carrier Strike Group's ships navigated the South China Sea and HMS Richmond navigated the Taiwan Strait as necessary between planned activity in the Indo-Pacific region. The tension between China and Taiwan, although noted, did not change the routing of the Carrier Strike Group.

### Aircraft Carriers: Military Exercises

Asked by **Lord Tunnicliffe**

To ask Her Majesty's Government with what countries to date the carrier strike group has had (1) engagements, or (2) military exercises; and what were these engagements and military exercises. [HL2976]

**Baroness Goldie:** The table below sets out the countries and/or overseas territories that the UK Carrier Strike Group has interacted with during this deployment.

Country / Overseas Territory	Activity
Australia	Passage Exercise, air interaction, Exercise BERSAMA GOLD[1]
Bangladesh	Port visit to Chittogram
British Indian Ocean Territory	Port visit to Diego Garcia
Brunei	Port visit to Bandar Seri Begawan
Cambodia	Virtual defence engagement
Canada	Exercise PACIFIC CROWN (Pacific Ocean) South China Sea navigation in company
Cyprus	Port visit to Limassol and Larnaca
Djibouti	Port visit to Djibouti
Egypt	Port visit to Alexandria
France	Exercises Atlantic Trident (North Atlantic) and Gallic Strike (Mediterranean) Press Release
Georgia	Port visit to Batumi
Gibraltar	Hosted reception at sea
Greece	Port visits to Piraeus and Souda.
Guam	Port visits to Guam
India	Maritime Participation Exercise in the Indian Ocean Press Release
Indonesia	Port visit to Jakarta

Country / Overseas Territory	Activity
Israel	Exercise Falcon Strike and Exercise Tri-Lightning (both in the Mediterranean). Port visit to Haifa
Italy	Exercise Falcon Strike, transit in western Mediterranean, Port visits to Augusta, Messina and Taranto Press Release
Japan	Port visits to Sasebo, Yokosuka, Funakoshi, Exercise PACIFIC CROWN (Pacific Ocean), quad carrier exercise (with two carriers from the USA, one from Japan and HMS Queen Elizabeth), Reception and capability demonstration, South China Sea navigation in company Press Release
Malaysia	Passage Exercise, Exercise BERSAMA GOLD
Montenegro	Port visit to Bar, Reception and Capability Demonstration, Press Release
New Zealand	South China Sea Transit in company, Exercise BERSAMA GOLD
Oman	Port visit to Duqm
Republic of Korea	Search and rescue exercise, at sea reception and capability demonstration Press Release
Saudi Arabia	Port visit to Jeddah. Passage Exercise
Singapore	Passage Exercise including some limited air exercising. Port visit to Sembawang. Reception and capability demonstration, Exercise BERSAMA GOLD Press Release
Spain	Port visits to Alicante and Cartagena
Thailand	Co-ordinated maritime manoeuvres Press Release
Turkey	Port visit Istanbul Press Release
Ukraine	Port visit to Odessa Press Release
United States	Dual, tri and quad carrier exercises. Exercise Atlantic Trident (North Atlantic), Exercise Gallic Strike (Mediterranean), Exercise Falcon Strike, Exercise Tri-Lightning Press Release Press Release
Vietnam	Port visit to Da Nang and Passage Exercise
NATO*	Exercise Steadfast Defender (North Atlantic), Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 - Operation Sea Guardian (Mediterranean), At-sea reception and capability demonstration Press Release Press Release

\*Whilst not a country, assets from the UK Carrier Strike Group also participated in NATO-led military exercises and engagements.

[1] Five Powers Defence Arrangements Exercise hosted by Malaysia with participants from Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and the UK.

### Anaemia: Children

Asked by **Baroness Pinnock**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many instances of nutritional anaemia in children have been



treated in paediatric units in hospitals in England in (1) 2019, and (2) 2020. [HL2863]

**Lord Kamall:** The information is not held in the format requested. Data on admissions do not record the type of ward or unit where a patient was treated and does not represent the number of incidences treated.

*Asked by Baroness Pinnock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to introduce specific policies that will reduce the occurrence of nutritional anaemia in children. [HL2864]

**Lord Kamall:** While we have no specific plans to do so, the Government's advice on a healthy, balanced diet for children is shown in the Eatwell Guide. The Eatwell Guide is a visual representation of the types and proportions of foods needed for a healthy balanced diet, including variety of iron rich foods essential in preventing anaemia.

*Asked by Baroness Pinnock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children with nutritional anaemia were treated in each of the English NHS regions in (1) 2019, and (2) 2020. [HL2865]

**Lord Kamall:** This information is not held centrally.

### Armed Forces: Families

*Asked by Lord Tunnicliffe*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the UK armed forces families' strategy will be published. [HL3080]

**Baroness Goldie:** I refer the noble Lord to the reply given by my hon. Friend, the Minister for Defence People and Veterans (Leo Docherty), in the House of Commons on 6 September 2021 to the hon. Member for Wentworth and Dearne (John Healey) in response to Question number 40594.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Armed Forces: Families [UIN 40594.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-10-13/HL3080>

### Collapse of Football Index Independent Review

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the recommendations of the Independent Review of the Regulation of BetIndex Limited, published on 13 September, what steps they are taking, beyond additional funding, to ensure that the Gambling Commission is better able to monitor and intervene in the case of novel gambling products. [HL2964]

**Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay:** The Gambling Commission has already taken steps to address issues identified in the independent reviewer's report, including updating its frameworks for risk-based regulation so that novel products are placed under greater scrutiny and commencing a review of all remote licensees to check for issues relating to boundary-pushing products. The Commission and the Financial Conduct Authority have also strengthened their Memorandum of Understanding, including new escalation routes so that regulatory impasses are identified and overcome quickly.

As set out in the terms of reference, the independent review into the regulation of BetIndex was intended to inform our ongoing Review of the Gambling Act 2005. This is looking closely at a range of issues, including the Gambling Commission's powers and how it uses them, as well as the potential risks posed to consumers by new and emerging technologies. We are considering its findings and recommendations carefully, and aim to publish a white paper setting out any conclusions in due course.

### Coronavirus

*Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to expanding the guidance on the symptoms of COVID-19, given the results of the ongoing ZOE COVID Study. [HL2995]

**Lord Kamall:** Experts continue to keep the symptoms under review as our understanding of the virus develops. We assess the data from the COVID Symptom Study in addition to other surveillance studies and will update our guidance if necessary.

### Coronavirus: Drugs

*Asked by Baroness Finlay of Llandaff*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the use of Ronapreve has been restricted only to people who are currently hospitalised with COVID-19; what assessment they have made of the numbers of patients expected to be treated with Ronapreve in the next 12 months; and what, if any assessment, they have made of the benefits of providing it as prophylaxis for high-risk patients who are not in hospital. [HL2921]

**Lord Kamall:** The current supply of Ronapreve is limited globally and the clinical policy prioritises the most vulnerable patients for whom this treatment will have the largest beneficial impact. The use of Ronapreve is being monitored and the interim clinical policy will be updated if supported by the latest evidence.

The number of patients treated by Ronapreve will depend on the infection rate over the next year; the degree of vaccine protection; the availability of Ronapreve and other products; and on National Health Service clinical policy. To date, the evidence has most strongly supported

treatment indications, but the evidence on prophylactic use will continue to be actively reviewed.

### Coronavirus: Screening

*Asked by Lord Mawson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the market costs for COVID-19 PCR tests for the general public; and what steps are they taking to lower these costs. [[HL2793](#)]

**Lord Kamall:** We are committed to working with the travel industry and private providers to reduce these costs and since requirements were introduced for international travel testing, the costs have fallen significantly. We have reduced the cost of NHS Test and Trace tests for international arrivals from £88 to £68 for 'green list' arrivals or fully vaccinated 'amber list' arrivals and from £170 to £136 for two tests for 'amber list' arrivals who are not fully vaccinated. By the end of October, fully vaccinated passengers travelling from non-'red list' countries will be able to replace their day two test with a cheaper lateral flow test, reducing the cost of tests on arrival into England.

### Coronavirus: Vaccination

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what conditions qualify someone in England as vulnerable and thus eligible for COVID-19 booster vaccines; and what are the estimated numbers by each condition. [[HL2589](#)]

**Lord Kamall:** The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation advises that individuals who received vaccination in phase one of the COVID-19 vaccination programme should be offered a booster vaccine. This includes those aged 50 years old and over and those aged 16 to 49 years old with underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19. Information regarding the estimated numbers by each underlying health condition is not held centrally in the format requested.

### Cybercrime

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what cyber security precautions organisations are required to take when selling software or providing software as a service to the Government. [[HL2870](#)]

**Lord True:** Each government department is responsible for managing security risk when procuring any service based on their own risk appetite. Cabinet Office and the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) provides guidance on how to do this including through the provision of commercial frameworks which include cyber security clauses. This is made clear in the Minimum Cyber Security Standard for Government which state that "Departments shall understand and manage security

issues that arise because of dependencies on external suppliers or through their supply chain".

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) provides extensive guidance and recommended security frameworks that apply to a wide range of digital services. Buying organisations are encouraged to use these in determining their requirements to ensure that appropriate security controls are specified according to risk.

### Disease Control

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) what advice they have given to the NHS about priorities for preventing disease, and (2) what percentage of total health expenditure is devoted to disease prevention. [[HL2939](#)]

**Lord Kamall:** The 2021-22 Mandate to NHS England and NHS Improvement sets an objective to improve the prevention of ill-health and delivery of public health services. This includes investment in evidence-based programmes on smoking, alcohol and secondary prevention of heart attacks, stroke, diabetes and dementia.

While National Health Service spending on prevention is not collected in the format requested, the Office for National Statistics estimates that prevention forms approximately 5% of all public funding on health in the United Kingdom. We have asked NHS England and NHS Improvement to introduce a yearly prevention spend, outcome and trajectory reporting criteria, including for major preventable diseases.

### Employment: Coronavirus

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to support (1) people living with stage 5 kidney disease, and (2) severely immunosuppressed people in the workplace, given recently published data show these groups are not adequately protected following two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. [[HL2854](#)]

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the risk associated with severely immunosuppressed people, including kidney transplant patients, returning to the workplace; and whether specific advice and workplace support will be provided to this group. [[HL2855](#)]

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information and guidance they will provide to employers on how best to protect people who are severely immunosuppressed and may not mount an adequate immune response to the COVID-19 vaccine. [[HL2856](#)]

**Baroness Stedman-Scott:** I refer the hon. Peer to the answer given to his previous question [HL2092](#).

Throughout the pandemic, HSE has encouraged businesses to manage risks in order to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in workplaces through the provision of detailed guidance. HSE published updated guidance on 19<sup>th</sup> July to reflect changes as a result of the lifting of coronavirus restrictions in England [Keeping workplaces safe as coronavirus \(COVID-19\) restrictions are removed](#) ([hse.gov.uk](https://www.hse.gov.uk)).

HSE does not consider vaccination of employees to be a workplace control. Businesses must control the risks and review and update their risk assessment to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 by providing adequate ventilation, regular cleaning and frequent handwashing. Businesses can also continue to reduce the risk of transmission during the pandemic by taking measures to limit the number of people their workers are in contact with, and UK government guidance on [working safely](#) provides further information and advice on these measures covering a range of different types of work.

Employers' health and safety responsibilities include taking reasonable steps to protect all workers and others from the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in connection with their work activities. As these control measures apply to all workers, regardless of their relative levels of vulnerability or the potential outcome, there are no expectations of additional control measures for Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) workers or the need for individual risk assessments.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) advises employers to have individual discussions with their CEV employees about any workplace concerns and understand what is in place to protect them. There is specific guidance on the HSE website to support employers to do this: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/working-safely/protect-people.htm>

*Asked by **Baroness Masham of Ilton***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance they have issued on whether people should return to work after having had COVID-19 but without having taken a PCR test. [[HL2951](#)]

**Lord Kamall:** We have issued online guidance on 11 October which states that individuals who have COVID-19 symptoms should stay at home and a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. Anyone subsequently notified by NHS Test and Trace or local authority contact tracer that they have tested positive is legally required to self-isolate. Employees should notify their employer in such circumstances.

An individual can return to work, after the end of their self-isolation period if their symptoms have gone or if the only symptoms they have are a cough or anosmia, which can last for several weeks. There is no requirement to return a negative PCR test in order to end self-isolation. Individuals who still have a high temperature or are

otherwise unwell should stay at home and seek medical advice.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Stay at home guidance [[HL2951 Stay at home guidance PDF.pdf](#)]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-10-11/HL2951>

## **Eyesight and Hearing: Research**

*Asked by **Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to establish a national eye health and hearing study for the UK. [[HL2959](#)]

**Lord Kamall:** There are no specific plans to do so. However, the National Institution for Health Research is currently funding a number of related studies, including a £1,586,456 study of neo-vascular age-related macular degeneration and glaucoma and a £656,052 project on risk prediction.

## **Hamas: Flags**

*Asked by **Baroness Eaton***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to ban the flying of the Hamas flag in the UK following its widespread use in demonstrations in 2021. [[HL2833](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The military wing of Hamas remains a proscribed organisation under the Terrorism Act 2000 enabling firm action against those who openly support it, including in displaying logos and flags.

We are committed to ensuring the police have robust powers to respond to activities that spread hate and maintain order. We are strengthening powers to manage disruptive protest through the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill.

## **Hamas: Proscribed Organisations**

*Asked by **Lord Austin of Dudley***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to proscribe Hamas's political wing as a terrorist group following the UK's withdrawal from EU. [[HL2818](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government does not routinely comment on whether groups are, or are not, being considered for proscription. The Government keeps the list of proscribed organisations under review.

## **Hospital Wards: Gender**

*Asked by **Lord Blencathra***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will investigate reports that an NHS trust has been labelling

patients who wish to be placed on single sex wards as 'transphobes', 'offenders' and 'perpetrators'; and whether they will name the trust involved. [[HL2901](#)]

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) what statistics are available on the number of male patients identifying as female who have been placed on female-only NHS hospital wards, including in mental health facilities, and (2) how many assaults on female patients there have been by male patients identifying as female. [[HL2902](#)]

**Lord Kamall:** The information requested is not collected centrally. Any patient, irrespective of their gender, who has a history of violence or sex offences and may pose a risk to others should be risk assessed and any relevant action taken to ensure the safety of others.

NHS England and NHS Improvement have not received any information relating to these reports. All patients should be treated with respect and dignity, in accordance with the values of the National Health Service.

### **Medical Equipment: Innovation**

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will request that the Medical Technologies Directorate publish a definition of "innovative medical devices". [[HL2933](#)]

**Lord Kamall:** We have previously discussed the need for a definition of innovation within medical devices with the industry. As part of our overall strategy, we will engage with the public sector, industry and healthcare provider organisations to develop this definition.

## Index to Statements and Answers

### **Written Statements.....1**

Armed Forces Pay .....	1
Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage.....	1
Coronavirus Test Device Approval Update.....	2
Correction to PQ Answer: Organic Farming .....	2
Correction to PQ Answer: Public Footpaths .....	1
Finance Bill 2021-22 .....	1
Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse: Investigation Reports.....	1
Prison Staff Pay Award .....	2
Soil Health Action Plan for England .....	2
Trade and Co-operation Agreement: Engagement with Civil Society and Business Organisations ....	3

### **Written Answers.....4**

Aircraft Carriers: Far East .....	4
Aircraft Carriers: Military Exercises .....	4
Anaemia: Children.....	4
Armed Forces: Families .....	5
Collapse of Football Index Independent Review .	5
Coronavirus .....	5
Coronavirus: Drugs .....	5
Coronavirus: Screening .....	6
Coronavirus: Vaccination.....	6
Cybercrime .....	6
Disease Control .....	6
Employment: Coronavirus.....	6
Eyesight and Hearing: Research.....	7
Hamas: Flags .....	7
Hamas: Proscribed Organisations.....	7
Hospital Wards: Gender .....	7
Medical Equipment: Innovation .....	8