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

# **HOUSE OF LORDS**

## **WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS**

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<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

Friday, 19 November 2021

## International Travel Update

[HLWS393]

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

### *Red List Review*

The Government has conducted a further review of the red list under our new and simplified system of international travel.

Following this review, it continues to be the case that no countries and territories are on the red list. We will keep the red list in place as a precautionary measure to protect public health, and we are prepared to add countries and territories if needed as the UK's first line of defence if the situation changes.

### *Expansion of the Inbound Vaccination*

Policy From 4am on Monday 22 November, the Government will recognise vaccines on the World Health Organization's Emergency Use Listing (WHO EUL) at the border. As a result, Sinovac, Sinopharm Beijing and Covaxin will be added to our existing list of approved vaccines for inbound travel, benefitting more fully vaccinated passengers. The WHO Emergency Use Listing process includes a review of quality, safety and efficacy data performed by WHO experts, and many countries such as the United States, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Iceland are already recognising the WHO Emergency Use Listings vaccines.

Alongside expanding the list of approved vaccines for inbound travel, we will also expand our inbound vaccination policy to include proof of vaccine certification from the following 15 countries and territories:

• Belarus	• Bolivia	• Democratic Republic of the Congo	• Dominican Republic	• Ecuador	• Faroe Islands	• Laos	• Libya	• Malawi	• Mozambique	• Samoa	• Senegal	• Vanuatu	• Zambia	• Zimbabwe
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Our inbound vaccination policy now covers over 150 countries and territories.

From 4am on Monday 22 November, the Government will also be simplifying travel rules for all under-18s coming to England from a non-red list country or territory, who will be treated as fully vaccinated at the border, regardless of their individual vaccination status. This means they will be exempt from self-isolation requirements on arrival and will only be required to take a lateral flow test post-arrival, with a free confirmatory PCR test if they test positive.

### *Inbound Vaccination Policy: US Residency Requirements and State Certification Solutions*

From 4am on Monday 22 November, the Government will remove the requirement for people to provide proof

of US residency when proving their fully vaccinated status with a US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) card. We will accept the US CDC card or one of the below US state-issued certification solutions as proof of full vaccination:

- California Digital COVID-19 Vaccine Record
- New York State Excelsior Pass Plus
- Washington State WA Verify

We will consider additional US state led certification solutions in the future.

### *Booster Vaccinations in the NHS COVID Pass*

Finally, travellers who have had a booster or a third dose will be able to demonstrate their vaccine status through the NHS COVID Pass from today. This addition will enable those who have had their booster or third dose to travel to countries such as Israel, Croatia and Austria who have already introduced a time limit for the COVID-19 vaccine to be valid for quarantine free travel.

Whilst public health is a devolved matter, the Government works closely with the devolved administrations on any changes to international travel and aims to ensure a whole UK approach.

## Lords Correction: Gambling Machines

[HLWS392]

**Baroness Goldie:** On the second day of Committee of the Armed Forces Bill on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November, I stated:

The noble Lord, Lord Foster, asked a specific question about gambling machines on bases. I asked the officials if there was any more information on that. I am informed that direction has been given by the Army for them to be removed from bases but this process is not yet complete.

And in a written question from The Rt Rev. The Lord Bishop of St Albans (HL3314) that I answered on 4<sup>th</sup> of November I stated:

As indicated at the committee on the Armed Forces Bill on 2 November 2021, direction has been given by the Army for any gambling/gaming machines on their bases to be removed.

This information was incorrect, and the actual position is:

Queens Regulations for each Service state that all forms of gambling and bookmaking (or acting as an agent for a bookmaker) are forbidden in units, however exemptions to this can be agreed by the Commanding Officer of a unit.

## School Uniform Costs

[HLWS391]

**Baroness Barran:** My right honourable friend The Secretary of State for Education (Nadhim Zahawi) has made the following statement:

The Department for Education will today publish statutory guidance on the Cost of School Uniforms. This guidance is issued under the Education (Guidance about

Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021. This Act requires the appropriate authorities of relevant schools to have regard to this guidance when developing and implementing their school's uniform policy.

Through creating a common identity amongst all pupils, regardless of background, a school uniform can act as a social leveller, but to do so it must be affordable. No school uniform should be so expensive as to leave pupils or their families feeling unable to apply to, or attend, a school of their choice.

This guidance will provide a framework to schools to help them keep the costs of uniform affordable for parents. The guidance sets out the key principles which schools should consider when setting their uniform policy and is based on views from members of both Houses, feedback from stakeholders and our own research.

Throughout the guidance we encourage schools to take a holistic approach to the cost of school uniform, therefore, the guidance covers a range of issues such as branded items, supply arrangements and second-hand uniform.

Schools will not be expected to make sudden, drastic, changes to their uniform policy. We want schools to implement changes in a timely and considered manner to ensure it works effectively but in doing so we would want to ensure that parents don't incur additional costs from sudden uniform changes. However, we would like parents to see the benefits of the guidance as soon as possible. The guidance provides more information to schools on how they can be compliant with the guidance and when any changes need to be made by.

I will place a copy of the Cost of School Uniform guidance in the Libraries of both Houses.

# Written Answers

Friday, 19 November 2021

## Alternative Education

Asked by **Lord Storey**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children and young people are currently in (1) registered alternative schools, and (2) unregistered alternative schools. [HL3969]

**Baroness Barran:** Local authority-maintained establishments providing alternative provision are often referred to as pupil referral units. There are also an increasing number of alternative provision academies and free schools. In January 2021, there were 12,800 pupils with their sole or main registration in these settings in England. A further 9,200 pupils have a dual subsidiary registration in these settings, meaning that they also have their main registration at another school.

The department also collects data on placements in local authority funded alternative provision. There were 32,700 placements in local authority funded alternative provision. This includes 26,400 placements with a registered provider, 700 in non-maintained further education, 2,300 in one-to-one tuition, 200 in work based placement and 3,100 with an 'other unregistered provider'. Placements with a registered provider are all settings with a unique reference number or UK Provider Reference Number, i.e. registered on Get Information About Schools (<https://get-information-schools.service.gov.uk>) or the UK Register of Learning Providers (<https://www.ukrlp.co.uk>) and include 19,200 placements in independent and non-maintained special schools.

## Electric Scooters and Cycling

Asked by **Lord Mawson**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to bring forward legislation for cycling offences; and whether these will include offences related to the use of electric scooters. [HL3890]

Asked by **Lord Mawson**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to bring forward legislation to make the use of headphones while (1) cycling, or (2) operating electric scooters, an offence. [HL3891]

Asked by **Lord Mawson**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether electric scooters are legally required to have lights. [HL3892]

**Baroness Vere of Norbiton:** The Government held a consultation in 2018 to consider cycling offences causing serious injury or death as well as reviewing existing cycling offences.

The Government believes that there should be a separate framework of cycling offences, as compared with motoring offences, because it may not be proportionate to apply offences and their corresponding penalties intended for drivers of motor vehicles, to cyclists. The response to the consultation will be published before the end of this year but early next year at the latest.

On e-scooters, privately-owned e-scooters are illegal to use on the road, cycle lanes or pavements, and they can only be ridden on private land with the permission of the landowner. The law is very clear and there are existing penalties for improper use.

Although it is not a specific offence to cycle and use headphones, cyclists could be prosecuted by the police for careless or dangerous cycling. Cyclists and users of trial e-scooters have a duty to behave in a safe and responsible manner and need to concentrate like all other road users and should not do anything that would affect their concentration and put themselves and other road users in danger.

For those who do not adopt a responsible attitude, or if their use of the highway creates an unsafe environment or causes nuisance, there are laws in place that can make them liable for prosecution.

In the UK, e-scooters are treated like any other motor vehicle under the Road Traffic Act. The Government is running trials of rental e-scooters to assess their safety and wider impacts. We require trial e-scooters to meet minimum standards on the e-scooter design, including what lighting is required through administrative vehicle orders issued by the Secretary of State under s.44 and s.63 of the Road Traffic Act. The evidence gathered during the trials will inform whether e-scooters should be legalised in the future, and how we can ensure their use is as safe as possible.

## NSO Group

Asked by **The Marquess of Lothian**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had, if any, with the NSO Group to request they recode their Pegasus software; and what plans they have to restrict trade with the NSO Group. [HL3732]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** It is vital that all cyber actors use capabilities in a way that is legal, responsible and proportionate to ensure cyberspace remains a safe and prosperous place for everyone. The UK works closely with allies around the world to tackle cyber threats and improve our overall global resilience to attacks. The National Cyber Security Strategy, supported by £1.9 billion funding, has transformed the UK's fight against the cyber threat since 2016. The UK does not operate a US style "entity list" for commerce blacklisting. We operate a policy of sanctions against organisations and individuals who are a threat to UK national security, including in Cyber.

## Pangolins: Conservation

Asked by *The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking with international partners (1) to protect the pangolin population globally, and (2) to prevent the criminal export and trafficking of pangolin products to East Asia from (a) Nigeria, and (b) other parts of Africa; and what representations they have made to the government of Nigeria regarding such issues. [HL4013]

**Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park:** The UK Government is at the forefront of international efforts to protect endangered animals, including pangolins, from poaching and illegal trade. We are investing over £46 million between 2014 and 2022 on work to directly counter the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) in animals and plants, including counter-poaching initiatives and efforts to reduce demand for pangolin and pangolin products, to benefit wildlife and communities. The UK is also making a significant contribution to halting biodiversity loss and tackling IWT through funding the Global Environment Facility, totalling £250 million (2018-2022).

UK Border Force and National Crime Agency officers based in Nigeria are working closely with Nigerian law enforcement agencies at Lagos' port to tackle IWT. This has resulted in three major seizures totalling over 18 tonnes of pangolin scales in 2021 alone. The British Deputy High Commission in Lagos has also established a "Friends of Nigeria Wildlife" group and is supporting a number of grass-roots initiatives to protect the pangolin, from opening a rehabilitation centre for pangolins freed from the illegal wildlife trade, to supporting a conservation Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) that teaches school children about Nigeria's diverse wildlife. The British High Commissioner and her team raise IWT with the Nigerian Government regularly, including in quarterly meetings (alongside US and German counterparts) with the Comptroller-General of Nigerian Customs, the key Nigerian Government agency responsible for this issue.

More broadly, through our £4 million contribution to of the International Consortium for Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) strategic programme, we are building capability in law enforcement and customs officials to tackle the illegal wildlife trade in key countries, including countries across Africa and Asia.

## Pupil Exclusions

Asked by *Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) primary, and (2) secondary, school students have been

permanently excluded from school for each of the last five years. [HL3968]

**Baroness Barran:** The requested information is shown in the below table.

Number of permanent exclusions in state-funded primary and state-funded secondary in England between 2015/16 and 2019/20:

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
State-funded primary	1,147	1,253	1,210	1,067	739
State-funded secondary	5,446	6,384	6,612	6,753	4,269

Source: School Census.

This data is also available in the national statistics publication, 'Permanent exclusions and suspensions in England', which is available at: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/permanent-and-fixed-period-exclusions-in-england>. The permanent exclusions section contains a chart and table giving the number of permanent exclusions in state-funded primary and state-funded secondary schools for the academic years 2015/16 to 2019/20.

## Refugees: Afghanistan

Asked by *Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to provide councils with £28 per person per day to support Afghan refugee families. [HL3702]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** There is a package of support for local authorities to assist the resettlement of families through either the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) or the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) in addition to the additional funding for wraparound support.

We are currently working with HM Treasury and other government departments to finalise the arrangements for providing the funding for both the ARAP and ACRS schemes and the bridging hotel funding. We recently shared the final drafts of the Funding Instructions for local authorities providing hotel wraparound support and the ARAP/ACRS post 1 September 2021 schemes, with strategic migration partners for comment.

We hope to issue these instructions as soon as possible. Once these are published, we will also write to each local authority and invite them to submit their claims for processing.

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