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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
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HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

<i>Minister</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
Baroness Evans of Bowes Park	Leader of the House of Lords and Lord Privy Seal
Earl Howe	Deputy Leader of the House of Lords
Lord Agnew of Oulton	Minister of State, Treasury and Cabinet Office
Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon	Minister of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
Lord Ashton of Hyde	Chief Whip
Baroness Barran	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education
Lord Benyon	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Baroness Bloomfield of Hinton Waldrist	Whip
Lord Caine	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Northern Ireland Office
Lord Callanan	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen	Whip
Earl of Courtown	Deputy Chief Whip
Lord Frost	Minister of State, Cabinet Office
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 Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
Lord Grimstone of Boscobel	Minister of State, Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Department for International Trade
Lord Kamall	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health and Social Care
Lord Offord of Garvel	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Scotland Office
Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
Baroness Penn	Whip
Baroness Scott of Bybrook	Whip
Lord Sharpe of Epsom	Whip
Baroness Stedman-Scott	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and 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

Thursday, 25 November 2021

Education Entitlements: Hourly Funding Rates

[HLWS407]

Baroness Barran: My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary for Children and Families (Will Quince) has made the following statement:

Today I am confirming the hourly funding rates for the free early education entitlements in 2022-23 for each local authority.

We have spent over £3.5 billion in each of the past three years on those entitlements to support nurseries and childminders in England to deliver high quality care and education.

At the Spending Review on 27 October the Chancellor announced increases in the funding for the early years entitlements worth £160 million in 2022-23, £180 million in 2023-24 and £170 million in 2024-25, compared to 2021-22. This is for local authorities to increase the hourly rates paid to childcare providers for the government's free childcare entitlement offers and reflects cost pressures, as well as anticipated changes in the number of eligible children.

As a result of this additional funding, we will increase the hourly funding rates for all local authorities for the 2-year-old entitlement by 21 pence an hour. Funding for the 3- and 4-year-old entitlements will also increase by 17 pence an hour in the vast majority of areas. We are increasing the minimum funding floor for the 3- and 4-year-old offer to £4.61 per hour.

Ten local authorities have had their 2021-22 hourly funding rates for 3- and 4-year-olds protected by the "loss cap" in the Early Years National Funding Formula, to ensure that they do not face large drops to their funding rate. Funding for Bristol, Camden, Ealing, Halton, Islington, Lambeth, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, and Westminster will be maintained in 2022-23. Funding for Rutland will be increased by 13 pence per hour, in recognition that Rutland's loss cap protection was only worth 4 pence per hour in 2021-22.

I can also confirm today that the supplementary funding hourly rate for Maintained Nursery Schools will increase by 3.5%, equivalent to the increase in the 3- and 4-year-old hourly funding rates.

We are also increasing the early years pupil premium by 7 pence to 60 pence per hour, equivalent to up to £342 per eligible child per year, to support better outcomes for disadvantaged 3- and 4-year-olds. Funding for the Disability Access Fund - an additional payment made to providers to help to make reasonable adjustments within their provision to support eligible 3- and 4-year-old children with a disability, will also increase by £185 to £800 per eligible child per year.

For 2021-22 we put in place a temporary variation to the way we fund local authorities for the early years entitlements, using a termly rather than annual census, in response to coronavirus (COVID-19). I can confirm that, from 2022-23, we will return to the normal process of allocating funding based on the annual January census.

In addition to the increase in funding rates for the early years entitlements, we have also announced £153 million of recovery funding which will be used to strengthen teaching in early years and ensure our youngest children are given the support they need as we emerge from the pandemic. This includes high quality, online training available to all early years practitioners, access to mentor support for those settings that need it most and opportunities to build innovative practice. We will increase supply of qualified graduates in the sector through a substantial expansion in the number of fully funded early year initial teacher training places, and improve the identification and support of SEND children by increasing the numbers of staff with SENCO qualifications. Through home learning programmes, early years practitioners will also be better equipped to support parents with their children's development in their own homes.

Further details and guidance on early years entitlements funding will be published on GOV.UK.

Fan-led Review of Football Governance Final Report

[HLWS404]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: I am repeating the following Written Ministerial Statement made today in the other place by my Right Honourable Friend, the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Nadine Dorries MP:

Football clubs are at the heart of our local communities. They have a unique social value and many possess great history and legacy. Fans are at the centre of our national game, which is why the Government committed to a fan led review of football governance in our manifesto.

In April this year, the Government launched that Review, led by the Chair, the Honourable Member for Chatham and Aylesford.

As the Terms of Reference set out to this House, the Review was a comprehensive examination of the English football system with the aim to explore ways of improving the governance, ownership and financial sustainability of clubs in the football pyramid, building on the strengths and benefits of the game.

Today the Government has published the final Report setting out the recommendations of the Review. This Report is founded on the basis of over 100 hours of engagement with Supporters' Trusts, fan groups, women's football representatives, football authorities, club owners, players representatives, and underrepresented interest groups, alongside over 20,000 fans responding to an online survey. The report is

extensive, so we will now be considering the detailed recommendations ahead of a full Government response.

All football stakeholders have had the chance to contribute to the Review and I am very grateful to all those who have given evidence. Most importantly, fan voices were at the heart of the Review and will remain at the heart of the Government's thinking in responding to the recommendations.

I would like to place on record my thanks and appreciation to the Honourable Member for Chatham and Aylesford for her tireless work and for delivering her recommendations so swiftly. She has done a superb job in bringing together such a range of views from across football with such credibility and consideration.

The final report is a thorough and detailed examination of the challenges faced by English football. It is a demonstration of the financial problems being caused by incentives within the game and reckless decision making by some clubs and owners, both of which are unsustainable and threaten the future of the game. It is clear that current oversight of the game is not up to the challenge of solving the structural challenges and action must be taken.

To address this systemic challenge, the Review presents the following ten Strategic Recommendations, which are accompanied in the Report by detailed sub-recommendations:

To ensure the long-term sustainability of football, the Government should create a new Independent Regulator for English Football.

To ensure financial sustainability of the professional game, the Independent Regulator for English Football should oversee financial regulation in football.

New owners' and directors' tests for clubs should be established by the Independent Regulator for English Football replacing the three existing tests and ensuring that only good custodians and qualified directors can run these vital assets.

Football needs a new approach to corporate governance to support a long-term sustainable future of the game.

Football needs to improve equality, diversity and inclusion in clubs with committed Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plans regularly assessed by the Independent Regulator for English Football.

As a uniquely important stakeholder, supporters should be properly consulted by their clubs in taking key decisions by means of a Shadow Board.

Football clubs are a vital part of their local communities. In recognition of this there should be additional protection for key items of club heritage.

Fair distributions are vital to the long term health of football. The Premier League should guarantee its support to the pyramid and make additional, proportionate contributions to further support football.

Women's football should be treated with parity and given its own dedicated review.

As an urgent matter, the welfare of players exiting the game needs to be better protected - particularly at a young age.

The Government welcomes the work of the Review and will now consider the detailed recommendations ahead of providing a full Government response in Spring 2022.

The Review demonstrates that there are fundamental issues with our national sport, and that this merits radical reform. Fans across the country want and deserve that reform. We have seen in the past how football has been unable to reform itself and to deliver changes that stop the likes of Bury FC or Macclesfield Town FC going out of business, or which stop clubs breaking away to set up the closed shop of a European Super League.

We are at a turning point for football in this country. The Review is a detailed and worthy piece of work that will require a substantive response and plan of action from across Government. But the primary recommendation of the review is clear, and one the Government chooses to endorse in principle today: that football requires a strong, independent regulator to secure the future of our national game. The Government will now work at pace to determine the most effective way to deliver an independent regulator, and any powers that might be needed.

This is an important Review that we hope will lead to change for good in football. The Government will now work at pace on how to make that happen.

I have today deposited a copy of the Report in the Libraries of both Houses.

Liverpool City Council: Commissioners' First Report

[HLWS409]

Lord Greenhalgh: My Rt Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Levelling UP, Housing and Communities (Michael Gove) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

On 10 June 2021 my Rt Hon. Friend, the then Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (Robert Jenrick) updated the House that he had appointed a team of four Commissioners to Liverpool City Council. The Commissioners' responsibilities are set out in Directions[1] made under section 15(5) and (6) of the Local Government Act 1999 and include oversight of the Council's highways, regeneration and property management functions together with the associated audit and governance arrangements. The original Best Value investigation was initiated following a police investigation into allegations of fraud, bribery, corruption and misconduct in public office which involves a significant connection to Liverpool City Council. The wider criminal investigation into corruption is ongoing.

The Commissioners submitted their first report to me on 05 October 2021 and I have discussed it with them. I was pleased to hear about the steps the Council have taken to expose and stop wrong-doing. It is vital for

Liverpool's transformation that a clear line is drawn between the Council of the past and the Council of the future. The Commissioners recognise the hard work, ambition, and determination of the Mayor and her Cabinet, as well as the Corporate leadership team. The Commissioners have met dedicated and talented staff across the Council who are working hard to deliver vital public services.

The Commissioners have outlined to me, as they have stated clearly in their report, that the Council is at the beginning of a long improvement journey and has a great deal to do in the next three years. In addition to the precise functions listed in the Directions, the Commissioners have encouraged the Council to take a whole-council approach to improvement, with an expectation that the plans being developed will reflect this position. The Commissioners are working with the Council to develop their strategic improvement plan so they can focus on setting a sustainable long-term financial plan, improve corporate governance, deliver basic services well and meet the requirements of the statutory directions.

The Commissioners shared with me their concerns about the Council's financial resilience and have outlined these in their report. I welcome the forthcoming review of the Council's financial resilience being conducted by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) at the request of the Commissioners. This review is expected to be completed before Christmas.

Given the circumstances of the intervention, and legacy of the previous administration, it is not surprising that Commissioners have found that the Council's approach to regeneration and property management lacks rigour and commercial awareness. I welcome Commissioners working with these teams to embed strong commercial principles in these functions. Commissioners are also working with the Planning team to address the lack of strategic policy frameworks and the significant backlog of planning applications which are constraining development in the city. It is likely to take another 12 to 18 months to fully stabilise the highways and transport functions in order to provide a firmer foundation for onward improvement.

Electoral reform in Liverpool is an important part of the intervention. On 22 September, in line with the terms set out in the statutory direction, a submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) was approved by Full Council. In this the Council proposed a reduction in the number of councillors from 90 to 85; and on 1 October, the LGBCE announced it was 'minded to' accept the proposal. The Council is due to submit its ward pattern proposal in December 2021. In addition, the intervention package includes the use of powers in the Local Government Act 2000 to provide for full council elections for the City of Liverpool from 2023. An Order which delivers these electoral changes was laid before Parliament on 27 September and came into force on 29 October 2021. It provides for all Liverpool City Council councillors, and the directly elected executive

Mayor of the City of Liverpool, to be elected and retire together every four years, starting in 2023.

I am mindful of the recent terrorist incident which took place in Liverpool on 14 November and commend the Council for their response efforts. No one can doubt the professionalism and public service shown in the response by local government, the NHS and emergency services. I know that going forward, the Council will draw on the expertise of the Commissioner team as needed as the community pulls together from this event over the coming weeks and months. I am however clear that the parameters of the intervention have not changed, and I expect the Council to continue to prioritise the intervention and transformation work.

The Council has a significant challenge ahead of them to provide the services that the residents of Liverpool City Council deserve. My department stands ready to support Commissioners in any way needed to secure this transformation and enable the Council to contribute to our Levelling Up Agenda.

The Commissioners have agreed to provide their next report to me in April 2022 and I will update the House on further progress with the intervention at that time.

A copy of the Commissioners' first report will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

[1]

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/liverpool-city-council-directions-made-under-the-local-government-act-1999>

News UK: Release of 2019 Undertakings

[HLWS405]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: I am repeating the following Written Ministerial Statement made today in the other place by my Right Honourable Friend, the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Nadine Dorries MP:

On 1 February 2021 News UK submitted an application requesting the Secretary of State to release in full the Undertakings accepted in 2019. The 2019 Undertakings were accepted in lieu of the Conditions put in place when the newspapers were acquired by News International in 1981.

The Conditions included provisions relating to the continued publication of The Times and The Sunday Times as separate newspapers, to the number and power of the independent national directors of Times Newspapers Holdings Limited, and to editorial control over the journalists working for, and political comment and opinion published in, each of newspapers.

The Undertakings accepted in 2019 made changes to the Conditions, to allow for sharing of journalistic resources between the two publications and to strengthen the arrangements relating to the independent national directors. News UK now seeks the release of the Undertakings in their entirety.

On 24 June DCMS issued a public ‘invitation to comment’, which included a redacted copy of the application, and the written views received from the Editors and Independent National Directors. On 30 July, DCMS requested Ofcom and the Competition and Markets Authority to advise by 24 September on the public interest considerations and changes to market circumstances relevant to the case, respectively.

I have now taken into account the reports and all relevant information submitted to the Department. Acting in a quasi-judicial capacity, I am minded to grant the request by News UK and release the Undertakings. I am satisfied that there has been a material change of circumstances since the acceptance of the Undertakings in 2019 and that, having considered the public interest considerations applying to newspapers, the Undertakings are no longer appropriate or necessary for the purpose they were intended to achieve (and so should be released).

In accordance with the Enterprise Act 2002, I will now consult on this minded-to decision and publish the reports commissioned from Ofcom and the CMA. Respondents will have 15 working days to provide representations, after which I will come to a final decision.

Statutory Review of Benefit and Pension Rates: 2022-23

[HLWS408]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: My Right Honourable Friend, The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Dr Thérèse Coffey MP) has made the following Written Statement:

I have concluded my statutory annual review of benefit and State Pension rates. The new rates will apply in the tax year 2022/23 and come into effect on 11 April 2022.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the relevant reference period (the year to September 2021) was 3.1%, and I can confirm that benefits will increase in line with that. This is consistent with the use of this index since 2011. The weekly earnings limit in Carer’s Allowance will also be increased by 3.1%.

In line with the Social Security (Up-rating of Benefits) Act 2021, State Pension rates will rise in line with CPI of 3.1%.

I also confirm that the local housing allowance rates for 2022/23 will be maintained at the elevated cash rates agreed for 2020/21. The Office for Budget Responsibility made this assumption too in its expenditure forecast.

All of these matters are transferred in Northern Ireland, and corresponding provision will be made there.

Some benefits are devolved to the Scottish Parliament, but there are benefits that are still temporarily being delivered by DWP on behalf of the Scottish Ministers under Agency Agreements; these will rise with CPI of 3.1%. The Scottish Government will need to bring forward corresponding up-rating legislation in the Scottish Parliament.

I will place the full list of proposed benefit and pension rates for 2022/23 in the Libraries of both Houses.

Tax Credits, Child Benefit and Guardian’s Allowance Update

[HLWS406]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: My right honourable friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Simon Clarke) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The government will bring forward regulations that will increase most tax credits rates, and thresholds, and will increase the Child Benefit and Guardian’s Allowance rates in line with the general rise in prices as measured by the September 2021 Consumer Price Index (CPI). CPI has been the default inflation measure for the government’s statutory annual review of benefits since 2011.

The annual uprating of benefits will take place for tax credits from the start of the new tax year and for Child Benefit and Guardian’s Allowance in the first full week of the 2021-22 tax year. In 2022, this will be 6 April for tax credits and 11 April for Child Benefit and Guardian’s Allowance.

The annual up-rating process includes the following measures:

- The majority of elements and thresholds in Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit will be increased by September’s CPI figure (3.1%) from April 2022. In line with established practice and the Office for Budget Responsibility’s expectations in their welfare forecast, the maximum rate of the childcare element, the family element, the withdrawal rate and the income disregards will remain unchanged.
- The 3.1% increase will be applied to the rate of the Working Tax Credit basic element announced by Written Ministerial Statement on 4 November 2020 (£2,005).
- Child Benefit will be increased in line with September CPI (3.1%) from April 2021.
- As set out in section 49(3) of the Tax Credits Act 2002 (TCA), Guardian’s Allowance will be uprated in line with prices, measured by September CPI (3.1%).

The full list of proposed benefit and credit rates will be placed in the Libraries of the House in due course.

Written Answers

Thursday, 25 November 2021

Air Pollution and Carbon Emissions

Asked by *Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the additional powers local authorities may require to meet (1) the net zero target by 2050, and (2) World Health Organisation guidelines on safe levels of air pollution. [[HL3949](#)]

Lord Callanan: Local authorities have a combination of powers in housing, planning, transport, and environmental permitting which allow them to take action to achieve net zero and to improve air quality.

Through the Net Zero Strategy, published on 19 October, the Government set out its commitments to enable local areas to make progress towards net zero. The strategy includes the creation of a new Local Net Zero Forum to improve collaboration net zero policies by convening national and local government senior officials.

The Government is committed to improving air quality, including through reducing a diversity of pollutants that harm both human health and the environment. The Environment Act made improvements on the Local Air Quality Management framework to enable local authorities to take more effective, co-ordinated actions to improve air quality. It will also deliver improvements to public health by ensuring local authorities have more effective powers to tackle emissions from domestic burning.

Armenia: Azerbaijan

Asked by *The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Azerbaijan regarding that government's reported occupation of Armenian territory. [[HL4242](#)]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The UK Government is closely monitoring the situation on the Armenia-Azerbaijan border following an increase in tensions on the border and exchange of fire on 16 November. Through the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and bilateral engagement in Baku and Yerevan, UK officials continue to urge the Armenian and Azerbaijani authorities to settle all outstanding matters including the peaceful negotiation of their borders, in line with the Minsk Group Principles. The Minister for Europe and Americas has met both the Armenian and Azerbaijani Ambassadors to London in recent weeks to reinforce these messages.

Asked by *The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of

Azerbaijan regarding that government's alleged mistreatment and torture of Armenian prisoners of war. [[HL4243](#)]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: During her most recent conversations with the Foreign Ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia, on 14 June and 6 September respectively, the Minister for Europe and Americas urged both parties to work with the International Committee of the Red Cross to expedite the return of all prisoners of war. The Minister reiterated this message in her recent meetings with the Armenian and Azerbaijani Ambassadors on 4 and 17 November respectively. In addition to the issue of prisoners of war, the Minister highlighted the UK's concerns over reports of war crimes and urged both Governments to take steps to de-escalate border tensions, undertake independent investigations into all allegations arising from last year's conflict and settle all outstanding matters solely through peaceful negotiation.

Asylum: Economic Situation

Asked by *Baroness Stroud*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the net contribution to the economy generated by those granted asylum in the UK over the financial year 2019–20. [[HL4210](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office has not made an assessment of the net contribution to the economy generated by those granted asylum in the UK over the financial year 2019–20.

Bahamas and Pacific Ocean Islands: Climate Change

Asked by *Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assistance they are providing to (1) Tuvalu, (2) Vanuatu, and (3) the Bahamas, to combat the effects of climate change. [[HL4227](#)]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The UK is committed to building global consensus to support Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including Tuvalu, Vanuatu and the Bahamas, to address their unique vulnerabilities to climate change and build resilient green economies of the future. The UK led a High-Level Roundtable on SIDS Access to Finance and a call to action for global reform which brought together SIDS, development partners (donors) and international organisations. The Minister for Europe and the Americas set out the UK's belief that the current development finance system is not working for SIDS.

At COP26 the UK amplified the voice of small islands and highlighted the need for drastic action to keep global temperature rises below 1.5°C. The UK Presidency prioritised pushing developed countries to address SIDS' concerns about climate finance: scale of finance, finance for adaptation, access to finance and action to avert,

minimise and address loss and damage as a result of climate change. The UK also announced a new £40m ‘Small Island Developing State Capacity and Resilience’ (SIDAR) programme, which will support capacity-building for small island states to better access funding and to build state resilience. This is in addition to a further £7m to support resilient infrastructure for SIDS.

Highway Code

Asked by *Lord Shinkwin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the outcome of the consultation on the Review of The Highway Code to improve road safety for cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders, when they plan to introduce legislation to confirm the changes to the Highway Code; and whether rules for e-scooters will be included in the upcoming changes to the Highway Code. [HL4302]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The consultation on the proposed changes to The Highway Code closed in October 2020, with nearly 21,000 replies received, and the Government response to the consultation was published in July 2021. Given the feedback received, we will be seeking to introduce all the proposed changes and will lay the revised version of The Highway Code in Parliament shortly.

E-scooters were not part of the consultation on the proposed changes. E-scooter trials are live in 31 areas. 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. Until we have that evidence we cannot commit to a legislative timetable.

Horticulture

Asked by *Baroness Buscombe*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Ornamental Horticulture Roundtable Group report *Growing a Green Economy: The importance of ornamental horticulture and landscaping to the UK*, published in August, and accompanying plan *Unlocking green growth: A plan from the ornamental horticulture & landscaping industry*. [HL3930]

Lord Benyon: Defra recognises the crucial role that the domestic ornamental horticulture industry plays both in promoting people's well-being and to the economy. The Ornamental Horticulture Roundtable Group (OHRG) report and associated action plan identifies how barriers to the sector's growth can be unlocked through a collaborative approach between Government and industry.

Whilst no specific assessment of this has been made, Defra has been working closely with the OHRG and the sector to build on good work already happening within the

industry, and will ensure that where Government can help, it will support the opportunities outlined in the report and its associated action plan.

Interpol: Taiwan

Asked by *Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to call for Taiwan to be given observer status at Interpol. [HL3920]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Taiwan has a valuable contribution to make on issues of global concern, including efforts to combat international organised crime. We therefore support Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organisations, where there is no pre-requisite of statehood for participation. This includes observer status at INTERPOL. Taiwan's participation in this organisation would, in our view, reduce co-operation black spots, which pose a risk to the UK and our international partners.

Low Emission Zones: Climate Change

Asked by *Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment has been made of the impact of Ultra Low Emissions Zones towards meeting climate change targets; and whether any such assessments have been broken down into individual zones. [HL4061]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Local Authorities have the powers to implement charging zones in order to achieve environmental objectives, but the Government has not carried out an assessment of the impacts of implementing such zones to meet climate change targets.

The Government is working with a number of local authorities to bring local roads to within legal limits for NO₂ pollution. A number of these local authorities are implementing Clean Air Zones to achieve this aim, but the primary objective of these zones is to reduce localised NO₂ concentrations rather than specifically targeting greenhouse gas emissions reductions. The Government's assessment of the impact of Clean Air Zones in 2017 estimated a reduction in CO₂ emissions of 0.2 MtCO₂ over the life of the programme. Where Local Authorities are implementing a Clean Air Zone they are carrying out their own assessment.

The Low Emission Zones and Ultra Low Emission Zones in London were implemented by the Mayor of London, who is therefore responsible for estimating and assessing its impacts.

Pre-school Education: Finance

Asked by *Lord Farmer*

To ask Her Majesty's Government to which named funds the £500 million of families and early years funding will be directed. [HL4080]

Baroness Barran: Supporting families and children across the country to get the best start in life is a crucial part of the government's ambition to level up. The £500 million announced at the Autumn 2021 Budget includes:

- £300 million to transform 'Start for Life' services and create a network of family hubs in half of the council areas across England. This package of support will provide funding for the creation of a network of family hubs (£82 million), infant and perinatal mental health support (£100 million), breastfeeding support (£50 million), and parenting programmes (£50 million) in 75 areas. It will also provide the 75 local authorities with funding to co-design their Start for Life offer with parents and carers and publish it in an accessible format (£10 million). Trials of innovative workforce models for health visitors will also be funded in a smaller number of council areas to test approaches to improve the support available to new parents.
- a £200 million uplift to the existing Supporting Families Programme to enable local authorities and their partners to provide help earlier and secure better outcomes for up to an additional 300,000 families across all aspects of their lives.

Roads: Accidents

Asked by Lord Shinkwin

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the STATS19 data published on 19 October on road casualties; and particularly any casualties involving e-scooters. [HL4307]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The STATS19 data on road casualties published on 19 October is summarised in the Department's Reported Road Casualties Statistics Great Britain 2020 annual report published on 30 September 2021.

E-scooter casualties during 2020 based on data reported to the police are summarised in a separate factsheet published alongside the annual report, which shows that in 2020 there were 460 reported accidents involving e-scooters resulting in 484 casualties, of which 384 were e-scooters users. The majority of casualties involved minor injuries.

Solomon Islands: Sea Level

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Exeter

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of rising sea levels on the Solomon Islands. [HL4218]

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Exeter

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much financial support they provided to the Solomon Islands in (1) 2016, (2) 2017, (3) 2018, (4) 2019, and (5) 2020. [HL4219]

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Exeter

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they have offered to the Solomon Islands to mitigate risks from rising sea levels. [HL4220]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: Pacific Island Countries such as the Solomon Islands are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The UK provides a range of support across the Pacific to finance adaptation in order to increase resilience to climate change. Overall funding to the Pacific, including to the Solomon Islands, has grown. The UK supported the Solomon Islands with bilateral ODA of £112,000 in 2016; £251,000 in 2017; £896,000 in 2018; £796,000 in 2019 and £896,000 in 2020.

The consequences of the impact of sea level rise on maritime boundaries is of significant interest to the United Kingdom. We recognise the particular concerns of the Pacific Island Countries with respect to the stability of their maritime boundaries. As such, we are considering the Pacific Islands Forum's Declaration on this issue carefully and engaging with a range of international partners on this topic. The UK Government has signed an agreement with the Pacific Community (SPC) for £263,000 (US\$359,000) that will help the Solomon Islands and other Pacific nations secure the rights and responsibilities over their respective ocean spaces by providing technical assistance to establish the outer limits of their extended continental shelves.

Terrorism: Northern Ireland

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of On The Run letters of assurance; and what plans they have, if any, (1) to withdraw such letters, and (2) to declare them ineffective. [HL4188]

Lord Caine: In July 2014, Lady Justice Hallett published a report following her review of the "on the run" administrative scheme. The review found that while the scheme contained a number of flaws, it was not unlawful.

In September 2014, the Government set out fully its position in relation to the scheme in statements to the House of Commons. In doing so, the then Secretary of State for Northern Ireland made clear that the scheme was at an end and that there was no basis, legal or otherwise, for any reliance on letters received by so-called "on the runs" under the scheme.

Visas: British Nationals Abroad

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of the effect of new visa requirements on outbound tourism from the UK into Europe. [HL3960]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The EU has legislated such that British citizens do not need a visa when travelling to and within the Schengen Area for short stays of up to 90 days in any 180-day period. This applies to all British citizens travelling to and within the Schengen Area for activities including attending cultural or sports events and tourism.

In addition to this, a separate short stay of 90 days in any 180-day period can be spent in each of the following EU Member States that are outside the Schengen Area: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus and Romania.

Visas: Tourism

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking, if any, to mitigate visa requirements for UK residents seeking employment in UK companies operating in the UK to the EU tourism industry. [[HL3959](#)]

Lord Greenhalgh: Our new relationship with the EU means that there are new rules in place for UK nationals travelling to the EU. For short-stays of up to 90 days in

any 180-day period, UK nationals will not need a visa when travelling to and within the Schengen Area, where they are undertaking a limited range of activities such as attending meetings, tourism, cultural or sporting events. Under the Trade and Cooperation Agreement with the EU, business travellers do not require a work permit to carry out certain short-term business travel activities, such as attending meetings and conferences, providing after sale-services, or translation and market research services, unless otherwise stated in the agreement. For those undertaking longer-term stays or providing a service under a contract, a visa and/or work permit may be required.

We have published guidance on GOV.UK for businesses to support our new trading relationship with the EU. This includes enhanced guidance on EU Member State's immigration systems which provides UK business travellers with a better understanding of the visa and work permit routes available. We are continuing to engage regularly with our embassies to better understand the requirements in Member States, and to support UK nationals and businesses when they travel abroad.

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