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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

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Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon	Minister of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
Lord Ashton of Hyde	Chief Whip
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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
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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
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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

Monday, 29 November 2021

Contingent Liability: Bulb Energy

[HLWS417]

Lord Callanan: My Right Honourable friend the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (Kwasi Kwarteng) made the following statement on Friday 26th November:

Contingent Liability (Indemnity)

Today I will lay before Parliament a Departmental Minute describing a contingent liability arising from an indemnity for the Energy Administrators acting in the Special Administration Regime for Bulb Energy Limited ('Bulb').

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

I regret that I have not been able to follow the usual notification timelines to allow consideration of these issues in advance of issuing the indemnity, but the fast moving nature of Bulb's situation has required a rapid response to protect consumers.

Bulb entered the Energy Supply Company Special Administration Regime on 24 November 2021. Energy Administrators were appointed by court to achieve the statutory objective of continuing energy supplies at the lowest reasonable practicable cost until such time as it becomes unnecessary for the special administration to remain in force for that purpose.

My Department has agreed to provide an indemnity to the Energy Administrators in respect of personal liabilities they might incur in the exercise and performance of their powers and duties as administrator. I will update the House if the indemnity is called upon.

The legal basis for an indemnity covering the Energy Administrators' personal liability is section 166 Energy Act 2004, as applied by section 96 Energy Act 2011.

HM Treasury has approved the arrangements in principle.

Contingent Liability (Letter of Credit)

Today I will lay before Parliament a Departmental Minute describing a contingent liability arising from the issuance of a letter of credit for the Energy Administrators acting in the Special Administration Regime for Bulb Energy Limited ('Bulb').

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

I regret that I have not been able to follow the usual notification timelines to allow consideration of these issues in advance of issuing the letter of credit, but the fast-moving nature of Bulb's situation has required a rapid response to protect consumers.

Bulb entered the Energy Supply Company Special Administration Regime on 24 November 2021. Energy Administrators were appointed by court to achieve the statutory objective of continuing energy supplies at the lowest reasonable practicable cost until such time as it becomes unnecessary for the special administration to remain in force for that purpose.

My Department has agreed to provide a facility to the Energy Administrators, with a letter of credit issued, with my approval, to guarantee such contract, code, licence, or other document obligations of the company consistent with the special administration's statutory objective. I will update the House if any letters of credit are drawn against.

The legal basis for a letter of credit is section 165 Energy Act 2004, as applied and modified by section 96 Energy Act 2011.

HM Treasury has approved the arrangements in principle.

Biometrics Commissioner: Annual Report

[HLWS415]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: I am pleased to announce that my Rt Hon Friend the Home Secretary is today publishing the Annual Report of the Biometrics Commissioner, together with the Government's response.

The Biometrics Commissioner is an independent office holder, who is appointed by the Home Secretary under section 21 of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012. This is the first report submitted by the Commissioner, Professor Fraser Sampson, who was appointed earlier this year.

The Report covers the exercise of the Biometrics Commissioner's statutory functions over the reporting year, a large proportion of which fell to his predecessor.

I am grateful to Professor Sampson for this report, which we have published in full.

Copies of the report will be available from the Vote Office. The Government's response will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Covid-19: Travel Restrictions

[HLWS412]

Lord Kamall: My Right Honourable friend the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has today made the following statement:

The government is taking decisive precautionary action against a new COVID-19 variant by introducing travel restrictions on arrivals from South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Eswatini, Zimbabwe, Namibia from midday Friday 26 November. This precautionary move comes as Variant B.1.1.529 is declared a Variant under

Investigation (VuI) by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA). The variant includes a large number of spike protein mutations as well as mutations in other parts of the viral genome. These are potentially biologically significant mutations which may change the behaviour of the virus with regards to vaccines, treatments and transmissibility. More investigation is required.

From midday on Friday 26 November, non-UK and Irish residents who have been in these countries in the previous 10 days will be refused entry into England. This does not apply to those who have stayed airside and only transited through any of these countries while changing flights.

UK and Irish residents arriving between midday Friday 26 November and 4am Sunday 28 November from these six countries will be required to self-isolate at home for 10 days. They must take PCR tests on Day 2 and Day 8 post-arrival. These can be NHS PCR tests and passengers should take them even if they have already booked or taken their lateral flow test.

UK and Irish residents arriving from 4am Sunday must isolate in a government-approved facility for 10 days. During their stay, they will be required to take a coronavirus test on day 2 and day 8.

A temporary ban on commercial and private planes travelling from the six countries will also come into force at midday on Friday until 4am Sunday to reduce the risk of importing this new variant under investigation while hotel quarantine is stood up. This excludes cargo and freight without passengers.

The UK government thanks the government of South Africa for its surveillance of this variant and its transparency. Meanwhile the UK Health and Security Agency continues to monitor the situation closely, in partnership with scientific and public health organisations across the world, and we will offer to work collaboratively with the six countries that have been currently placed on the UK red list to understand the virus and possible mitigations.

Departmental Contingent Liability Notification: Recovery Loan Scheme)

[HLWS410]

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

I am tabling this statement for the benefit of Honourable and Right Honourable Members to bring to their attention the details of the extension to the Recovery Loan Scheme (RLS) announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 27 October 2021.

RLS is facilitated by the Government-owned British Business Bank and delivered through its delivery partners. Under the extension, lenders will offer facilities of up to £2 million to support businesses that are affected by the

coronavirus outbreak. There will be no limit on the number and aggregate value of loans that can be made under the scheme.

The extension covers the period 1 January 2022 to 30 June 22. Under the extension, the following changes will come into force:

- The percentage of the remaining balance of each loan that is guaranteed by the Government will be 70 per cent (changed from 80 per cent).
- The maximum facility size will be £2 million per business (changed from £10 million).
- The scheme will only be open to small and medium sized enterprises (annual turnover less than £45 million).

Otherwise, scheme parameters are unchanged. As previously:

- The minimum facility size will be £25,001 for loans and overdrafts and £1,000 for asset and invoice finance.
- Businesses will be required to meet the costs of interest payments and any fees from the outset.
- Businesses who have made use of the previous Coronavirus loan schemes will be able to access the scheme.
- The lender must establish that the borrower has a viable business proposition assessed according to its normal commercial lending criteria. This may, but is not required to, be determined without regard to any concerns over the borrower's short-to-medium term business performance due to the uncertainty and impact of Coronavirus.

Our central estimate for lending for the initial scheme period (6 April – 31 December 2021) has been updated to £1.6bn, meaning a maximum contingent liability of £1.28bn.

The maximum contingent liability for assumed additional lending under the extension of £850 million (our central estimate) is £595 million.

I will be laying a Departmental Minute today containing a description of the liability undertaken.

Events Research Programme

[HLWS414]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: I am repeating the following Written Ministerial Statement made on 26 November 2021 in the other place by my Right Honourable Friend, the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Nadine Dorries MP:

The Government has published today the final reports from the science-led Events Research Programme.

The Events Research Programme has gathered evidence on the risks associated with events-related transmission routes of the COVID-19 virus, characteristics of events and surrounding activities, and the extent to which mitigation measures could be effectively implemented and address these risks.

The Events Research Programme was commissioned by the Prime Minister in February 2021 as part of the Government's roadmap out of lockdown. The programme consisted of three phases. Between April and July a total of 31 pilot events were conducted in England across a range of settings and sectors, with over two million participants involved in the programme. The programme used an innovative and collaborative approach involving leading university research teams, independent scientific and ethics advisers working in partnership with multiple government departments and agencies, national and local public health leads, events industry stakeholders and 27 local authorities.

The findings of the Events Research Programme have already been instrumental to inform both Government and industry on how to conduct events safely, and this publication further strengthens the evidence base already generated by the Events Research Programme.

Full copies of these findings can be found on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk), and copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Financial Conduct Authority Mortgage Review

[HLWS416]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: My honourable friend the Economic Secretary to the Treasury (John Glen) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The issue of mortgage prisoners is one of my key priorities. I recognise the difficult position these borrowers are in and understand the stress that many experience as a result. I remain committed to examining what further can be done to assist borrowers and this is why I asked the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) to conduct a review on mortgage prisoners to provide the further detail necessary to continue this important work. The *Mortgage Prisoners Review* [CP 576] has today been laid in Parliament.

The review identifies that there are now around 47,000 mortgage prisoners – these are borrowers who are up to date with payments, who are unable to switch, and who could potentially benefit from switching if they were eligible for a new deal. Most mortgage prisoner loans originate from prior to the financial crisis, when lending standards were looser, and this means that many affected borrowers struggle to switch as a result of not meeting post-financial crisis risk appetite.

The report is clear that the underlying reasons mortgage prisoners are unable to switch are complex, and it is therefore crucial to understand the facts and data around this issue in order to consider our approach. The FCA's review provides important insight into the mortgage prisoner population which the Treasury will now examine to determine if any further practical and proportionate solutions can be found for affected borrowers who struggle to obtain a new mortgage deal.

More widely the review shows that the number of borrowers with inactive firms has materially decreased

since the FCA last collected data in this area in 2019. This partly reflects the ability of many borrowers in closed books to switch to an active lender if they so choose. I would encourage all mortgage borrowers to examine their switching options to ensure they are on as competitive a rate as possible for their circumstances.

I am also encouraged to see that the interest rates paid by almost all borrowers in closed books are less than the rates they signed-up to when they took out their mortgage, with a third paying at least 3.5 percentage points less.

However, it is clear that challenges remain in addressing this issue. While there is evidence that some mortgage prisoners have switched as a result of significant regulatory interventions made to date, it is also clear that the number of borrowers who have benefited is small. This new report also makes clear that the reasons borrowers struggle to switch are complex and varied, and that there are no simple solutions to increase the number of borrowers who are able to switch to better rates with active lenders.

Nevertheless, I remain committed to this issue, and am grateful for the work undertaken by the FCA on this review which provides the crucial insight necessary to consider any further action. I am also grateful to the industry partners who have committed to continue to work together on this issue and look forward to further engagement with them.

With the data from this review, the Treasury will now target our work to determine if there are any further practical and proportionate solutions for affected borrowers, including consideration of means through which we can help borrowers better position themselves to meet lender risk appetite. While I am approaching this further piece of work with appropriate ambition and optimism, I am also keen to manage borrower expectations by emphasising that any solutions tabled must avoid the potential for significant risk of moral hazard to consumers in the wider mortgage market or those who aspire to obtain a mortgage and must be value for money for the taxpayer. Any announcements on this will be made when the Treasury has had sufficient time to examine the review's findings and consider any options available to address this complex issue.

Copies are available in the Vote Office and on <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mortgage-prisoner-review>.

Horizon Europe

[HLWS418]

Lord Callanan: My Honourable friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Science, Research and Innovation) (George Freeman) has today made the following statement:

The Government is announcing today a guarantee to provide a financial safety net for successful UK applicants to Horizon Europe, whilst we push to formalise our association as soon as possible.

We agreed terms for association under the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA). When the TCA was agreed in December 2020, the UK and EU signed a *Joint Declaration on Participation in Union Programmes and Access to Programme Services*. This sets out the parties' shared commitment for the UK to associate to Horizon Europe alongside Euratom R&T, Fusion for Energy and Copernicus at the earliest opportunity. The Government remains committed to securing this outcome so that research collaboration can continue, and we stand ready to formalise our association, but disappointingly there have been persistent delays from the EU, which has led to uncertainty for the UK sector and their European partners.

UK and EU researchers and businesses have a long history of successful collaboration. As Europe's leading R&D and science centre with world class universities, scientists and innovators, the UK will bring a significant amount to the Programme. Further delays will benefit neither the EU nor the UK.

The Government's priority remains association to Horizon Europe. UK researchers, businesses and innovators have been able to apply to calls as 'Associated Candidates' since early 2021. So to provide reassurance to UK-based applicants, the Government has decided to guarantee funding for the first wave of eligible, successful applicants to Horizon Europe who have been unable to sign grant agreements with the EU.

The guarantee is a short-term measure intended to address the continued delays from the EU to formalise the UK's association to Horizon Europe. The funding will be delivered through UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) who will publish details on how the guarantee will work including eligibility, scope and how to apply in the coming weeks.

The Government has always been clear that our priority is to support the UK's research and development sector and we will continue to do this in all future scenarios. As announced in the 2021 Spending Review, in the event that the UK is unable to associate to Horizon Europe, the funding allocated to Horizon association will go to UK government R&D programmes, including those to support international partnerships.

The Government looked at the practicalities of handling such a situation in 2020 and developed a detailed set of alternatives plans, which included continued support for international research, innovation collaboration and domestic research support. This work is being refreshed and we remain ready to implement these plans should they become necessary. I have written an open letter to the sector to set out my early thinking on the policy priorities should we be unable to associate, and will be inviting their views over the coming weeks.

Standard for Algorithmic Transparency

[HLWS413]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The Cabinet Office's Central Digital and Data Office (CDDO) has today published a

cross-government standard for algorithmic transparency. This move makes the UK one of the first countries in the world to make progress on developing a national algorithmic transparency standard. The CDDO was established in January 2021 as the new strategic centre for Digital, Data and Technology for the government.

Several leading organisations in the field, such as the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation (CDEI), Ada Lovelace Institute and Alan Turing Institute, as well as renowned academic and international institutions, including the Oxford Internet Institute, AI Now Institute and OECD, have called for greater transparency to help manage the risks associated with algorithmic decision-making, bring scrutiny to the role of algorithms in decision-making processes and help build public trust.

In the [National Data Strategy](#), the government committed to working with leading organisations in the field to explore what an effective mechanism to deliver greater algorithmic transparency would look like. It reiterated this commitment in the [response](#) to the [National Data Strategy](#) consultation, and announced that it was developing a public sector algorithmic transparency standard in the [National AI Strategy](#).

While designing the first version of the standard, CDDO has worked closely with the CDEI. It has convened stakeholders from across government, civil society and academia, and conducted a deliberative public engagement exercise with the CDEI and BritainThinks, to ensure that a diverse range of views have been taken into account.

Proactive transparency in this field is a natural extension of the UK's long-standing leadership in data ethics and open data. Several public sector organisations will trial the standard in the coming months, and provide user feedback to CDDO. CDDO is also seeking further feedback from stakeholders outside of government. Following the pilot, CDDO will iterate the standard based on feedback gathered and seek formal approval from the Data Standards Authority in 2022.

This development comes after the government has consulted on a proposal to introduce transparency reporting on the use of algorithms in decision-making for public authorities, government departments and government contractors, as part of the [wide-ranging consultation](#) on the future of the UK's data protection regime. It sought views on the role that such reporting would play in building public trust, as well as what the key contents of mandatory transparency reporting should be and whether any exemptions should apply.

I have deposited a copy of the standard and accompanying guidance in the libraries of both Houses, and published both on GOV.UK.

Transport Update

[HLWS411]

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

In October 2020, the Prime Minister asked Sir Peter Hendy to undertake a detailed review of how the quality and availability of transport infrastructure across the UK can support economic growth and quality of life.

Since then, Sir Peter and his panel have engaged with a multitude of industries, individuals, and institutions across the UK, and have drawn on their evidence, experiences, and views to develop a set of recommendations. Today, the recommendations are being published.

The UK Government is extremely grateful to Sir Peter for his leadership of the review and to all the members of his advisory panel for their expert input. It is a thorough analysis of the current state of transport infrastructure in the UK and presents ambitious solutions to improving connectivity. The report published today includes recommendations that the Government should:

- design and implement a strategic transport network for the whole of the UK, with funding commitments targeted at parts of the network that require it the most;
- upgrade the West Coast Main Line north of Crewe to improve journey times and capacity and to enable HS2 to better serve connectivity between Scotland and England;
- seek to work with the Scottish Government to conduct an assessment of the East Coast rail and road corridor to determine appropriate investments for better connectivity between Scotland and England;
- offer funding to upgrade the key A75 link to improve freight and passenger connectivity between Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
- seek to work with the Welsh Government to develop improvements to connectivity between North Wales and North West England on the A55, M53 and M56 roads and on the North Wales Coast Main Line, utilising HS2 and electrification to better serve North Wales, and for connectivity with Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland;
- relieve congestion on the M4 South Wales and England corridor by upgrading and building new rail stations, supporting the Welsh Governments package of public transport improvements and easing capacity restrictions at the junction of the M4/ M5;
- develop a package of measures to improve rail journey times and capacity between Cardiff and Birmingham and beyond;
- improve connectivity to and from Northern Ireland through the development of a long term pipeline of

infrastructure investment, better rail connections to airports and by supporting the Northern Ireland Executive in their participation in the All-Island Strategic Rail Review;

- take measures to improve domestic aviation connectivity through revising subsidy rules, reducing tax and by intervening in the assignment of slots at London airports, and;
- secure better rail connectivity for freight across the UK with ports, and freeports as they are established.

Sir Peter was also asked to assess the technical engineering feasibility of constructing a fixed transport link between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The UK Government would like to thank Professor Douglas Oakervee CBE and Professor Gordon Masterton OBE for their leadership of this work. Sir Peter's work found that a bridge or a tunnel between Northern Ireland and Great Britain is feasible. But with today's technology and existing infrastructure, Sir Peter has concluded that the benefits would outweigh the costs. He is therefore recommending that further work on the fixed transport link should not progress beyond this feasibility study. We accept this recommendation - it is a visionary project whose time might come in future decades, but not now.

The Government's levelling up vision can only be achieved if the transport system across the UK on which we all rely supports and drives economic growth, job creation and social cohesion.

The UK Government wholly welcomes Sir Peter's report and invites the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Northern Ireland Executive to work closely with us, in a spirit of collaboration and co-operation, to consider the review's recommendations and to agree how a new strategic transport network for the whole United Kingdom and the vital upgrades highlighted by Sir Peter can be taken forward to strengthen transport connectivity for the benefit of all parts of the UK.

As we build back better, the Government is determined to do so in a way that levels up across the UK, bringing communities across the country even closer together. Wherever you live in the UK, a connected local and national transport network will bring you closer to all the social and economic opportunities available.

Sir Peter's review is a landmark study along that path to a better-connected future. The UK Government thanks him, and his team for their excellent work. We will reflect on his conclusions, discuss them with our colleagues across the UK, and aim to publish a full response to the review in early 2022.

Written Answers

Monday, 29 November 2021

100,000 Genomes Project

Asked by **Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the 100,000 Genomes Project. [HL4029]

Lord Kamall: The 100,000 Genomes Project was subject to a final review in July 2019 by the Infrastructure and Projects Authority (IPA). The IPA rated the 100,000 Genomes Project Gateway 5 as Green and found that the Project has “successfully delivered against its key aims and to the revised time scale, cost and quality”.

Afghanistan: Humanitarian Situation

Asked by **The Marquess of Lothian**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to avert a humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan this winter; and what plans they have to send urgent assistance to the civilian population in that country. [HL4018]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK will spend £286 million on humanitarian and development needs in Afghanistan this year. On 31 October the Prime Minister announced that £50 million would be allocated to provide over 2.5 million Afghans with life-saving food, emergency health services, shelter and warm clothing to prepare for winter.

Ambulance Services: Staff

Asked by **Lord Taylor of Warwick**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that staff working in ambulances who are not paramedics have to be (1) registered, or (2) regulated. [HL4052]

Lord Kamall: The Government is clear that the statutory regulation of healthcare professionals should only be used where the risks to public and patient protection cannot be addressed in other ways, such as through employer oversight or accredited voluntary registration. We have no plans to extend statutory regulation to ambulance staff other than paramedics.

Ambulance Services: Standards

Asked by **The Marquess of Lothian**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the current average ambulance waiting time across all NHS ambulance trusts in England; which NHS ambulance trusts in England have the longest waiting times; how this compares to ambulance waiting times in 2019; and how many safety incidents there have been in NHS

ambulance trusts in England in 2021 as a result of waiting times. [HL4017]

Lord Kamall: The following table shows the mean average waiting times in hours, minutes and seconds in each category for ambulance trusts in England in October 2021 and compared to October 2019.

	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4
October 2019	00:07:23	00:23:47	01:14:48	01:28:57
October 2021	00:09:20	00:53:54	03:09:58	03:37:00
Change	+00:01:57	+00:30:07	+01:55:10	+02:08:03

Source: NHS England

South Western Ambulance Service (SWAS) has the longest mean waiting times across England for Categories 1 and 2. West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) has the longest mean waiting times across England for Categories 3 and 4. The following table shows the mean average waiting times in hours, minutes and seconds for SWAS in Categories 1 and 2 and WMAS for Categories 3 and 4 in October 2021 and compared to October 2019.

	SWAS			WMAS
	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4
October 2019	00:07:02	00:28:19	00:54:03	01:15:37
October 2021	00:11:48	01:24:25	03:59:45	04:47:07
Change	+00:04:46	+00:56:06	+03:05:42	+03:31:30

Source: NHS England

The information requested on the number of safety incidents in National Health Service ambulance trusts as a result of waiting times is not held centrally.

Asked by **Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the statement by the College of Paramedics to the BBC on 11 November about waiting times for ambulances. [HL4030]

Lord Kamall: No assessment has been made. National Health Service ambulance trusts are being supported by NHS England and NHS Improvement to reduce ambulance waiting times. This includes continuous monitoring through the National Ambulance Coordination Centre and the investment of an additional £55 million to increase staff numbers ahead of the winter to recruit more 999 call handlers and clinicians to work in control rooms and supporting frontline staffing capacity.

Armenia: Azerbaijan

Asked by **Baroness Cox**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park on 3 November (HL3348), what further steps they have taken to "coordinate with international partners on

efforts to reduce tensions and support regional stability” in Armenia. [HL4070]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: UK diplomats continue to engage with partners. This includes in Baku, Yerevan and at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna where the UK continues to reinforce our support for the Minsk Group Co-Chairs and their work to facilitate negotiations over all outstanding matters relating to the conflict. The UK Government continues to urge Armenia and Azerbaijan to engage in substantive discussions under the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group. The Minister for Europe and Americas reinforced these messages in her recent meetings with the Armenian Ambassador on 4 November and the Azerbaijani Ambassador on 17 November.

Army: Reserve Forces

Asked by Lord De Mauley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Goldie on 14 October (HL2832), whether they can confirm that, of the posts listed, only the Director Reserves, Army Headquarters and Deputy Commander Field Army posts are (1) held by officers with previous reserve experience, and (2) within the army chain of command. [HL4269]

Baroness Goldie: I can confirm that of the posts listed, only the Director Reserves, Army Headquarters and Deputy Commander Field Army posts are held by officers with previous reserve experience, and within the Army Chain of Command. Major Generals Brooks-Ward, Ashmore and Herbert are all officers with previous reserve experience; however, their current posts are not within the Army Chain of Command.

Asylum: France

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to work with the government of France to provide safe access to asylum procedures on both sides of the English Channel. [HL4054]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The UK and France have fully functioning asylum systems which can be safely accessed on the respective territories. Individuals in need of international protection can claim asylum in the first safe country they reach, this is the fastest route to safety.

Bats: Conservation

Asked by Lord Macpherson of Earl's Court

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have carried out a cost-benefit analysis of bat surveys in planning applications; and, if so, what value they placed on the life of a bat, disaggregated by indigenous species. [HL4020]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: This government has committed to leave the environment in a better state than we inherited it, underpinned by our target to halt the decline in species abundance by 2030. Protecting and conserving bat populations, including species like the serotine bat, is an important part of this.

Natural England (NE) has not carried out a cost-benefit analysis of bat surveys in planning applications. However, NE is in the process of evaluating the benefit to bat conservation from actions taken as a result of regulatory work. It is expected that the initial findings will be published in early 2022/23.

NE is currently testing a new approach to bat licensing through the Bat Earned Recognition Pilot. The pilot aims to streamline the licensing process through accrediting ecologists, enabling them to have greater discretion to progress low risk cases, estimated to be up to 90% of all applications. This will reduce costs and delays for customers whilst providing better outcomes for bats. The pilot is well advanced and is currently in the process of accrediting ecologists, with a view to being operational from early in 2022.

Bridges: Barcombe

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Vere of Norbiton on 1 November (HL3360), how long the pause referred to is intended to be; what the financial penalties will be if a decision is taken to not proceed with the infilling of Barcombe Bridge; and why the price for the infilling was accepted after the decision was taken to pause the programme. [HL4388]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: No decision has yet been taken as to when the pause to infilling work on the Historical Railways Estate might end. As advised previously, National Highways is reviewing its programme of works and seeking additional input through its 'Stakeholder Advisory Forum' which comprises key stakeholders, with an interest in historical railways and active travel. This body will review all future National Highways major works proposals, ensuring future schemes take account of stakeholder feedback and opportunities to repurpose and re-use structures.

No financial penalties will be incurred by National Highways if the infilling of Barcombe Bridge does not proceed.

The procurement activity for works to Barcombe Bridge commenced on 5 May 2021, before the pause was in place. National Highways took the decision to continue with the process as it was already underway and this would be more cost effective, and represent better value for money, than having to repeat the process at a later date, if required. National Highways have stated to the contractor that no work should be taken forward until further instructions are issued.

Cameroon: Hospitals

Asked by *Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports of the Cameroon military occupying a hospital in Shisong; and what discussions they have had with the government of that country in relation to this incident. [HL4060]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The UK Government is deeply concerned about recent reports of the Cameroon military storming a hospital in Shisong, in the North-West region of Cameroon. Reports of human rights abuses and violations by both armed separatists and the security forces in the North-West and South-West (Anglophone) regions of Cameroon are disturbing. We regularly raise these incidents and the crisis with the Government of Cameroon, including through our High Commission in Yaounde. On 15 November, alongside the Heads of Missions of Canada, Switzerland, and the United States, we publicly condemned attacks against civilians and urged for dialogue. We reiterate the need for continued and broadened dialogue to bring stakeholders together and address the root causes of the crisis. We have since reiterated these calls in our engagements with the Government of Cameroon.

Catheters

Asked by *Baroness Masham of Ilton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to improve the management of urinary catheters in (1) NHS hospitals, and (2) community care facilities. [HL3587]

Lord Kamall: In 2019, the National Health Service developed urinary catheter tools for hospitals, integrated care systems and community settings as part of the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) programme to ensure the effective and safe management of urinary catheters.

In addition, the AMR programme for 2021/2022 includes work to support integrated care systems to use RightCare data packs to plan and implement appropriate interventions. Developed in collaboration with the AMR programme, Public Health England and the NHS Business Services Authority, RightCare urinary tract infection data packs are personalised for each clinical commissioning group. The packs provide an opportunity for integrated care systems and trusts to assess and benchmark current systems to find opportunities to improve the management of urinary catheters in the relevant settings.

Children in Care: Mental Capacity

Asked by *Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Deprivation of Liberty orders were issued each month since July to individuals in care who were under 16 years old. [HL4043]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: The Ministry of Justice does not collect data on the number of deprivation of liberty orders in relation to individuals in care who were under 16 years old.

Applications for deprivation of liberty orders can be made by local authorities when they need to accommodate a child in a non-secure placement. Cafcass – the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service – collect the data on these applications from local authorities and 164 deprivation of liberty applications were made in the period 1 July – 31 October 2021.

China: Olympic Games

Asked by *Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reported remarks by the Foreign Secretary relating to genocide in Xinjiang, what plans they have, if any, for boycotting the 2022 Winter Olympics in China. [HL4056]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: As the Government has previously made clear, no decisions have yet been made about Government attendance at the Beijing Olympics in 2022.

Coal: Mining

Asked by *Lord Wigley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to Written Answer by Baroness Bloomfield of Hinton Waldrist on 16 November (HL3703), how much expenditure was projected in the 2021 Spending Review for the maintenance of coal tips in England; and what was the Barnett consequential allocated to Wales corresponding to this expenditure. [HL4175]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy will confirm the Coal Authority's funding for the 2021 Spending Review (SR21) period in due course.

However, as set out in the Statement of Funding Policy, the Barnett formula is applied to changes in UK Government departments' funding, not to total spending on individual programmes. Barnett consequentials therefore just represent the changes in the Welsh Government's block grant funding, rather than being the total funding provided.

As a result of changes in UK Government departments' funding, the UK Government is providing an additional £2.5 billion per year on average over the SR21 period to the Welsh Government through the Barnett formula, on top their £15.9 billion annual baseline. As noted in response to a previous question on this matter (HL3703) the Welsh Government is therefore more than fairly funded to deal with all devolved responsibilities, including coal tips. It is however for the Welsh Government to allocate this funding as they see fit across their devolved responsibilities.

Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centre: HIV Infection

Asked by *Lord Smith of Finsbury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why a detainee at Colnbrook Immigration Centre was denied HIV medication. [HL4049]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: All immigration removal centres (IRCs) have dedicated health facilities run by doctors and nurses, which are managed by the NHS or appropriate providers, and delivered in line with the national service specifications for healthcare services in IRCs. There is also full access to the 24-hour on-site healthcare team and where appropriate, medication.

We take the health and welfare of those detained in our care very seriously. All detained individuals entering an IRC receive a healthcare screening within two hours of their arrival, which identifies any immediate or long-term healthcare risks. Unless they decline, individuals in IRCs are given an appointment with a doctor within 24 hours. Clinical pathways into other healthcare services are initiated at this point depending on the outcomes of the reception screening, including into sexual health services and specialist HIV prescribers. Those carrying prescribed medication will have their medication checked and re-issued by healthcare teams at the earliest possible opportunity. Individuals continue to have access to medical assistance, including medication, throughout their time in an IRC.

We are working closely with NHS England to ensure that HIV positive detained individuals, who refuse or frustrate access to their existing held medications, can be seen promptly by qualified HIV doctors who are able to access and prescribe without delay.

Combined Heat and Power

Asked by *The Earl of Shrewsbury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why they removed combined heat and power from the second phase of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. [HL4047]

Lord Callanan: The Government is committed to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. On the path to net zero, the Net Zero Strategy and the Heat and Buildings Strategy committed to an aim of reducing emissions from public sector buildings by 75% by 2037. We are clear that the continued use of fossil fuels for heating is not compatible with that ambition.

In order to help meet this ambitious emissions reduction target, the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme has a strong focus on reducing on-site emissions in public sector buildings. It is a scheme requirement that all funded projects remove a fossil fuel heating system and replace this with a low carbon heating system. This means that grant funding cannot be used to purchase any heating technology that runs on fossil fuels, including gas and oil Combined Heat and Power units.

Asked by *The Earl of Shrewsbury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to fund combined heat and power projects for public bodies, such as the NHS; and whether any such funds would be made available via government agencies, such as Salix Finance. [HL4048]

Lord Callanan: The Government is committed to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. On the path to net zero, the Net Zero Strategy and the Heat and Buildings Strategy committed to an aim of reducing emissions from public sector buildings by 75% by 2037. We are clear that the continued use of fossil fuels for energy is not compatible with that ambition.

Combined heat and power installations can encompass a range of different generation technologies and are fuelled by fossil fuels or renewable sources such as biomass. Whilst those that operate using fossil fuels are not supported under the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, there are a number of existing support mechanisms in place for CHP that meets defined efficiency thresholds, including environmental tax exemptions such as the Climate Change Levy. The Government continues to look to develop policies to support the decarbonisation of combined heat and power in the future and there is currently a live Call for Evidence on the pathway to decarbonisation for CHP that runs to 20 December 2021.

Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme

Asked by *Lord Allen of Kensington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applications for the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme have been (1) received, and (2) approved, since they were introduced. [HL3977]

Lord Callanan: The Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) was introduced by the Government in March 2020 to provide financial support to smaller businesses across the UK that were losing revenue as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

As of 31 May 2021, 251,342 applications had been submitted to approved CBILS lenders, of which 109,877 were successfully approved. Decision-making on whether a business was eligible for CBILS was fully delegated to the accredited lenders.

CBILS closed for new applications on 31 March 2021.

Asked by *Lord Allen of Kensington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many companies have defaulted on the instalment repayments Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) so far; what is the value of loan repayments remaining overdue; and how many small and medium sized businesses are currently overdue on CBILS repayments. [HL3978]

Lord Callanan: Many borrowers have begun to repay their Covid-19 Government facilities. Many have also taken advantage of the Government's amendments to loan scheme rules which have provided businesses greater flexibility and space to start repayments.

For those who borrowed under the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS), the Government has taken action to allow lenders to extend the term of CBILS loans up to a maximum of ten years where they assess that borrowers are in difficulty and will benefit from the extension.

Information related to loan repayments for the Government's Covid-19 loan schemes will be included in the Department's 2020-21 Annual Report and Accounts, to be published in due course.

Coronavirus: Immunosuppression

Asked by **Lord Mendelsohn**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people who are immunocompromised or immunosuppressed have died due to COVID-19 in England since 2 September. [HL4024]

Lord True: The information requested falls under the remit of the UK Statistics Authority. I have, therefore, asked the Authority to respond.

Professor Sir Ian Diamond | National Statistician

The Lord Mendelsohn

House of Lords

London

SW1A 0PW

22 November 2021

Dear Lord Mendelsohn,

As National Statistician and Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority, I am responding to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people who are immunocompromised or immunosuppressed have died due to COVID-19 in England since 2 September (HL4024).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes statistics on deaths registered in England and Wales. Mortality statistics are compiled from information supplied when deaths are certified and registered as part of civil registration. National Records for Scotland (1) and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (2) are responsible for publishing statistics on deaths registered in Scotland and Northern Ireland respectively.

The mortality statistics published by the ONS are based on the causes of death provided by the certifying doctor (or in some cases coroner). The death certificate lists only those health conditions or circumstances which led directly to the death or otherwise contributed to it but does not include any other health conditions the deceased suffered from if the certifier did not consider them relevant to the death. Immunosuppression can arise directly from a diagnosed health condition or from the

side-effects of treatment, and there is no definitive list of causes of death linked to immunosuppression. Therefore, we are able to provide the number of deaths due to COVID-19 where certain health conditions commonly associated with immunosuppression were also mentioned on the death certificate, but this does not provide a comprehensive count of all deaths due to COVID-19 where immunosuppression might have been involved.

Table 1 shows the number of deaths registered due to COVID-19, where diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism were mentioned on the death certificate, in England and Wales between 2 September to 5 November 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Sir Ian Diamond

Table 1: Number (3) of deaths (4) registered (5) due to COVID-19 where diseases (6) of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism (7) were mentioned on the death certificate, England and Wales, 2 September to 5 November 2021 (8).

Due to COVID-19	Of which, diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism mentioned
6,686	114

Source: Office for National Statistics

(1) <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/>

(2) <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/>

(3) Figures are provisional.

(4) Deaths for England and Wales exclude non-residents.

(5) Based on date a death was registered rather than occurred.

(6) The International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Edition (ICD-10) definitions are as follows: coronavirus (COVID-19) (U.071, U.072, U.099, U.109) and Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism (D50 to D89).

(7) Deaths where diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism were mentioned includes deaths that have these causes mentioned on the death certificate but not as the underlying cause of death.

(8) These figures are calculated using the most up-to-date data we have available to get the most accurate estimates.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Letter Response to PQHL4024 [Letter Response to PQHL4024.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-11-15/HL4024>

Coronavirus: Ivermectin

Asked by Viscount Stansgate

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the potential use of ivermectin to treat COVID-19 patients; and what bodies were involved in any such assessment. [HL4051]

Lord Kamall: The Therapeutics Taskforce is monitoring data from clinical trials taking place worldwide to assess whether ivermectin is a safe and effective treatment for COVID-19. Ivermectin is not currently a licensed treatment for COVID-19 and evidence from clinical trials as a treatment for COVID-19 is inconclusive. This assessment is based on the views of the Therapeutics Taskforce, the UK COVID-19 Therapeutics Advisory Panel and the Research to access pathway for investigational drugs for COVID-19. This assessment is also consistent with the views of the World Health Organization, the Food and Drug Administration and the European Medicines Agency. We will continue to keep this assessment under review as more data becomes available from clinical trials, including the Government-funded PRINCIPLE clinical trial.

Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to sign the Intergovernmental Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action by Unicef; and if not, for what reasons. [HL4249]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The UK has long recognised the unequivocal threat that climate change and environmental degradation pose to the lives and wellbeing of individuals and communities across the world, including the most marginalised and vulnerable.

The UK has been committed to amplifying the voices of young people from across the world through our COP26 presidency and domestic frameworks.

In the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' 25 Year Environment Plan, the Government sets out a plan for how the natural environment will be protected and enhanced for our, and future, generations. One of the actions it commits to is to help children and young people from all backgrounds engage with nature and improve the environment.

We support many of the principles in the declaration on children, youth and climate action and will carefully consider how to engage with it.

Developing Countries: Renewable Energy

Asked by Lord Lamont of Lerwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the statement by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office quoted in the Financial Times on 4

November that clean energy equities in emerging and developing markets "consistently outperform the MSCI Emerging Markets Index" were cleared with (1) the Financial Conduct Authority, and (2) ministers. [HL3888]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: At a Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) event in the margins of COP26, officials presented on mobilisation as a policy agenda and quoted a reputable research document authored by the International Energy Agency in collaboration with the World Bank and the World Economic Forum. Their report highlighted that investments in clean energy transition in emerging markets have outperformed comparable benchmarks for emerging market assets. Referencing these research findings does not constitute investment advice by FCDO.

Driving Offences: Fines

Asked by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking, if any, to create a single appeals process for motorists if they are unfairly fined. [HL3981]

Lord Greenhalgh: In its response to the Code Enforcement Framework consultation in March 2021, the Government announced a series of fairer parking measures, including the creation of a single independent appeals service for motorists to turn to if they receive a private parking charge. Before finalising a delivery model for the appeals service, the Government has committed to carry out a product Discovery to better research the needs of the users of the service. This will ensure a high-quality service in which motorists and the industry can have full confidence.

Electric Vehicles: Charging Points

Asked by Lord Mawson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the number of electric car charging points in each local authority, and (2) any geographical differences in levels of installation. [HL4278]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The number of public electric vehicle charging devices available at 1 October 2021 in each local authority of the UK, was as follows

<i>Local Authority / Region</i>	<i>Total devices</i>	<i>per 100,000 population</i>
UNITED KINGDOM	25,927	38.7
GREAT BRITAIN	25,595	39.3
ENGLAND	21,925	38.8
NORTH EAST	916	34.2
County Durham	124	23.3
Darlington	31	28.9
Hartlepool	11	11.7
Middlesbrough	30	21.2

Northumberland	186	57.4
Redcar and Cleveland	34	24.8
Stockton-on-Tees	85	43.1
Tyne and Wear (Met County)	415	36.2
Gateshead	66	32.7
Newcastle upon Tyne	124	40.4
North Tyneside	47	22.5
South Tyneside	30	19.9
Sunderland	148	53.3
NORTH WEST	1,725	23.4
Blackburn with Darwen	31	20.7
Blackpool	24	17.3
Cheshire East	112	29
Cheshire West and Chester	99	28.8
Halton	17	13.1
Warrington	89	42.5
Cumbria	237	47.4
Allerdale	19	19.4
Barrow-in-Furness	9	13.5
Carlisle	49	45.2
Copeland	28	41.2
Eden	45	83.7
South Lakeland	87	82.9
Greater Manchester (Met County)	447	15.7
Bolton	24	8.3
Bury	22	11.5
Manchester	112	20.2
Oldham	33	13.9
Rochdale	27	12.1
Salford	76	28.9
Stockport	36	12.2
Tameside	25	11
Trafford	52	21.9
Wigan	40	12.1
Lancashire	409	33.3
Burnley	24	26.9
Chorley	46	38.7
Fylde	16	19.7
Hyndburn	21	25.9
Lancaster	74	50
Pendle	15	16.3
Preston	53	36.8
Ribble Valley	28	45.1
Rossendale	15	21
South Ribble	50	45
West Lancashire	48	41.9
Wyre	19	16.8
Merseyside (Met County)	260	18.1
Knowsley	20	13.1
Liverpool	168	33.6
Sefton	26	9.4
St. Helens	22	12.1
Wirral	24	7.4
YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER	1,327	24
East Riding of Yorkshire	62	18.1
Kingston upon Hull, City of	41	15.8
North East Lincolnshire	24	15.1
North Lincolnshire	25	14.5
York	86	40.8
North Yorkshire	216	34.8
Craven	28	48.8
Hambleton	36	39.2
Harrogate	53	32.8
Richmondshire	19	35.4
Ryedale	50	89.9
Scarborough	19	17.5
Selby	11	12
South Yorkshire (Met County)	301	21.3
Barnsley	45	18.1
Doncaster	57	18.2
Rotherham	69	26
Sheffield	130	22.1
West Yorkshire (Met County)	572	24.4
Bradford	108	19.9
Calderdale	47	22.2
Kirklees	63	14.3
Leeds	289	36.2
Wakefield	65	18.5
EAST MIDLANDS	1,413	29
Derby	65	25.3
Leicester	79	22.3
North Northamptonshire	92	26.3
Nottingham	151	44.8
Rutland	19	46.9
West Northamptonshire	82	20.2
Derbyshire	218	27
Amber Valley	15	11.6
Bolsover	39	48
Chesterfield	55	52.4
Derbyshire Dales	36	49.7
Erewash	21	18.2
High Peak	25	27
North East Derbyshire	10	9.8
South Derbyshire	17	15.5
Leicestershire	224	31.4
Blaby	48	47.1
Charnwood	39	20.7
Harborough	37	38.7
Hinckley and Bosworth	42	37
Melton	8	15.6

North West Leicestershire	25	23.9
Oadby and Wigston	25	43.6
Lincolnshire	249	32.5
Boston	45	63.5
East Lindsey	52	36.6
Lincoln	64	64
North Kesteven	16	13.5
South Holland	12	12.5
South Kesteven	43	30
West Lindsey	17	17.7
Nottinghamshire	234	28.1
Ashfield	23	17.9
Bassetlaw	38	32.1
Broxtowe	34	29.7
Gedling	33	27.9
Mansfield	27	24.7
Newark and Sherwood	36	29.2
Rushcliffe	43	35.4
WEST MIDLANDS	1,723	28.9
Herefordshire, County of	67	34.6
Shropshire	70	21.5
Stoke-on-Trent	37	14.4
Telford and Wrekin	30	16.5
Staffordshire	212	24
Cannock Chase	24	23.6
East Staffordshire	20	16.5
Lichfield	17	16.1
Newcastle-under-Lyme	41	31.6
South Staffordshire	48	42.7
Stafford	42	30.5
Staffordshire Moorlands	9	9.1
Tamworth	11	14.3
Warwickshire	252	43.2
North Warwickshire	33	50.4
Nuneaton and Bedworth	21	16.1
Rugby	53	47.9
Stratford-on-Avon	77	58.2
Warwick	68	46.9
West Midlands (Met County)	904	30.7
Birmingham	154	13.5
Coventry	481	126.8
Dudley	38	11.8
Sandwell	37	11.2
Solihull	119	54.7
Walsall	24	8.4
Wolverhampton	51	19.3
Worcestershire	151	25.2
Bromsgrove	42	41.8
Malvern Hills	10	12.6
Redditch	12	14
Worcester	29	28.9
Wychavon	43	32.8
Wyre Forest	15	14.8
EAST OF ENGLAND	1,667	26.6
Bedford	102	58.4
Central Bedfordshire	46	15.6
Luton	52	24.4
Peterborough	66	32.6
Southend-on-Sea	16	8.8
Thurrock	19	10.8
Cambridgeshire	172	26.2
Cambridge	56	44.8
East Cambridgeshire	20	22.2
Fenland	5	4.9
Huntingdonshire	46	25.7
South Cambridgeshire	45	28
Essex	330	22
Basildon	58	30.9
Braintree	71	46.4
Brentwood	7	9.1
Castle Point	3	3.3
Chelmsford	37	20.6
Colchester	45	22.8
Epping Forest	35	26.5
Harlow	12	13.7
Maldon	9	13.8
Rochford	15	17.1
Tendring	16	10.9
Uttlesford	22	23.7
Hertfordshire	323	27
Broxbourne	18	18.4
Dacorum	23	14.8
East Hertfordshire	17	11.2
Hertsmere	28	26.5
North Hertfordshire	29	21.7
St Albans	40	26.8
Stevenage	9	10.2
Three Rivers	59	62.8
Watford	47	48.6
Welwyn Hatfield	53	42.8
Norfolk	298	32.6
Breckland	41	29
Broadland	20	15.2
Great Yarmouth	32	32.3
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	53	35
North Norfolk	66	62.8
Norwich	52	36.6
South Norfolk	34	23.8
Suffolk	243	31.9
Babergh	23	24.8
East Suffolk	62	24.8
Ipswich	55	40.4

Mid Suffolk	18	17.2
West Suffolk	85	47.9
LONDON	7,865	87.4
Inner London	4,943	135
Camden	373	133.4
City of London	36	329.1
Hackney	139	49.5
Hammersmith and Fulham	580	316
Haringey	92	34.5
Islington	286	115.3
Kensington and Chelsea	547	348.7
Lambeth	307	95.4
Lewisham	132	43.2
Newham	153	43.1
Southwark	390	121.9
Tower Hamlets	190	57.2
Wandsworth	623	188.9
Westminster	1095	405.8
Outer London	2,922	54.7
Barking and Dagenham	64	29.9
Barnet	210	52.6
Bexley	45	18.1
Brent	237	72.3
Bromley	86	25.8
Croydon	100	25.7
Ealing	280	82.3
Enfield	125	37.5
Greenwich	257	88.9
Harrow	49	19.4
Havering	31	11.9
Hillingdon	198	64.1
Hounslow	282	103.8
Kingston upon Thames	96	53.6
Merton	199	96.4
Redbridge	75	24.5
Richmond upon Thames	354	178.7
Sutton	51	24.6
Waltham Forest	183	66.1
SOUTH EAST	3,416	37.1
Bracknell Forest	36	29
Brighton and Hove	345	118.3
Isle of Wight	51	35.8
Medway	17	6.1
Milton Keynes	372	137.7
Portsmouth	72	33.5
Reading	62	38.7
Slough	68	45.5
Southampton	87	34.4
West Berkshire	108	68.2
Windsor and Maidenhead	40	26.4
Wokingham	70	40.2
Buckinghamshire	165	30.2
East Sussex	115	20.6
Eastbourne	36	34.8
Hastings	15	16.2
Lewes	24	23.2
Rother	13	13.4
Wealden	27	16.6
Hampshire	523	37.6
Basingstoke and Deane	83	46.7
East Hampshire	37	29.9
Eastleigh	58	42.8
Fareham	12	10.3
Gosport	11	13
Hart	47	48.2
Havant	27	21.4
New Forest	80	44.5
Rushmoor	35	37.1
Test Valley	42	33
Winchester	91	72.3
Kent	425	26.7
Ashford	32	24.4
Canterbury	65	39
Dartford	35	30.7
Dover	31	26.2
Folkestone and Hythe	31	27.4
Gravesham	10	9.4
Maidstone	64	37
Sevenoaks	29	23.9
Swale	37	24.5
Thanet	26	18.4
Tonbridge and Malling	20	15.1
Tunbridge Wells	45	37.8
Oxfordshire	310	44.5
Cherwell	97	63.9
Oxford	105	69.3
South Oxfordshire	45	31.3
Vale of White Horse	43	31.2
West Oxfordshire	20	17.9
Surrey	339	28.3
Elmbridge	38	27.7
Epsom and Ewell	17	21
Guildford	58	38.6
Mole Valley	21	24
Reigate and Banstead	29	19.4
Runnymede	36	39.9
Spelthorne	46	46.1
Surrey Heath	26	29.1
Tandridge	15	16.9
Waverley	34	26.9
Woking	19	19
West Sussex	211	24.3

Adur	10	15.6
Arun	27	16.8
Chichester	55	45.3
Crawley	41	36.5
Horsham	29	19.9
Mid Sussex	36	23.7
Worthing	13	11.7
SOUTH WEST	1,873	33.1
Bath and North East Somerset	68	34.6
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	82	20.7
Bristol, City of	123	26.4
Cornwall	276	48.1
Dorset	123	32.4
Isles of Scilly	0	0
North Somerset	90	41.7
Plymouth	74	28.2
South Gloucestershire	119	41.3
Swindon	47	21.1
Torbay	26	19.1
Wiltshire	167	33.1
Devon	301	37.1
East Devon	64	43.2
Exeter	49	36.8
Mid Devon	27	32.4
North Devon	51	52
South Hams	33	37.5
Teignbridge	25	18.5
Torridge	24	34.9
West Devon	28	49.9
Gloucestershire	210	32.8
Cheltenham	34	29.3
Cotswold	59	65.4
Forest of Dean	15	17.2
Gloucester	38	29.3
Stroud	43	35.6
Tewkesbury	21	21.7
Somerset	167	29.6
Mendip	38	32.7
Sedgemoor	33	26.7
Somerset West and Taunton	47	30.2
South Somerset	49	29
WALES	994	31.4
Isle of Anglesey	55	78.1
Gwynedd	81	64.7
Conwy	45	38.1
Denbighshire	19	19.7
Flintshire	34	21.7
Wrexham	35	25.7
Powys	89	66.9
Ceredigion	42	57.6
Pembrokeshire	108	85.2
Carmarthenshire	74	38.9
Swansea	57	23.1
Neath Port Talbot	12	8.3
Bridgend	27	18.3
The Vale of Glamorgan	26	19.2
Cardiff	75	20.3
Rhondda Cynon Taf	18	7.4
Merthyr Tydfil	7	11.6
Caerphilly	39	21.5
Blaenau Gwent	18	25.7
Torfaen	28	29.5
Monmouthshire	53	55.7
Newport	52	33.2
SCOTLAND	2,676	49
Aberdeen City	99	43.2
Aberdeenshire	106	40.6
Angus	75	64.8
Argyll & Bute	86	100.7
City of Edinburgh	146	27.7
Clackmannanshire	23	44.8
Dumfries & Galloway	102	68.8
Dundee City	127	85.3
East Ayrshire	67	55.1
East Dunbartonshire	25	23
East Lothian	123	114
East Renfrewshire	24	25
Falkirk	53	33
Fife	114	30.5
Glasgow City	203	31.9
Highland	224	95.1
Inverclyde	34	44.1
Midlothian	60	64.4
Moray	46	48.1
Na h-Eileanan Siar	28	105.7
North Ayrshire	50	37.2
North Lanarkshire	165	48.4
Orkney Islands	40	178.6
Perth & Kinross	121	79.7
Renfrewshire	71	39.6
Scottish Borders	51	44.3
Shetland Islands	21	91.8
South Ayrshire	57	50.8
South Lanarkshire	148	46.1
Stirling	115	122.2
West Dunbartonshire	26	29.4
West Lothian	46	25
NORTHERN IRELAND	332	17.5
Antrim and Newtownabbey	37	25.7
Ards and North Down	19	11.7
Armagh City, Banbridge and	31	14.3

Craigavon		
Belfast	53	15.5
Causeway Coast and Glens	31	21.4
Derry City and Strabane	27	17.9
Fermanagh and Omagh	38	32.4
Lisburn and Castlereagh	17	11.6
Mid and East Antrim	24	17.2
Mid Ulster	24	16.1
Newry, Mourne and Down	31	17.1

The Government is supporting all local authorities in the UK to provide public chargepoints for their residents without access to private parking through the On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme. This year, £20 million is available under the scheme to ensure more local authorities and residents can benefit.

In addition to grant funding, Government's forthcoming EV Infrastructure Strategy will define our vision for the continued roll-out of a world-leading charging infrastructure network across the UK. The strategy will focus on how we will unlock the chargepoint rollout needed to enable the transition from early adoption to mass market uptake of EVs across all areas of the UK.

Asked by Lord Mawson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of practical challenges of increasing the number of electric car charging points. [HL4279]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The UK has been a global front-runner in supporting provision of charging infrastructure along with private sector investment. Our vision is to have one of the best infrastructure networks in the world for electric vehicles (EVs), and we want chargepoints to be accessible, affordable and secure.

Government's forthcoming EV Infrastructure Strategy will define our vision for the continued roll-out of a world-leading charging infrastructure network across the UK. The strategy will focus on how we will unlock the chargepoint rollout needed to enable the transition from early adoption to mass market uptake of EVs. We will set out our next steps to address barriers to private investment, level up charge point provision, and regulate to protect consumers. The strategy will clearly establish government's expectations for the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders in the planning and deployment of charging infrastructure.

Building on the £1.9 billion from Spending Review 2020, the Government has committed an additional £620 million to support the transition to electric vehicles. The additional funding will support the rollout of charging infrastructure, with a particular focus on local on street residential charging which has already seen £20 million committed this financial year, and targeted plug-in vehicle grants. The total funding committed by this government to vehicle grants and infrastructure is £2.5 billion.

Asked by Lord Mawson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what their target is for the number of electric car charging points to be installed; and by when. [HL4280]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: We have targets for en-route charging on the Strategic Road Network, to ensure there are enough chargepoints to enable long distance journeys:

- By 2023, we aim to have at least 6 high powered, open access chargepoints (150 - 350 kilowatt capable) at each motorway service areas in England.
- By 2030, we are planning for there to be around 2,500 high powered chargepoints across England's motorways and major A roads.
- By 2035, we expect the number to increase to around 6,000 high powered chargers across the network.

We have not set targets for the total number of public chargepoints and we expect local authorities to work with the private sector to meet the charging needs of residents, businesses and visitors. Electric vehicle drivers will require rapid chargepoints to enable long distance journeys, but for many drivers, home charging on driveways and garages is expected to be the most convenient option for shorter journeys. Further, the Government has announced it will require new homes and homes undergoing major renovation with associated parking to have a chargepoint installed.

The Government's forthcoming EV Infrastructure Strategy will define our vision for the continued roll-out of a world-leading charging infrastructure network across the UK. The strategy will focus on how we will unlock the chargepoint rollout needed to enable the transition from early adoption to mass market uptake of EVs. We will set out our next steps to address barriers to private investment, level up charge point provision, and regulate to protect consumers. The strategy will clearly establish the Government's expectations for the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders in the planning and deployment of charging infrastructure.

Electronic Surveillance

Asked by Baroness Janke

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to follow the lead of the government of the USA by blacklisting Pegasus spyware. [HL3811]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK does not operate a US style "entity list" for commerce blacklisting. 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. We operate a policy of sanctions against organisations and individuals who are a threat to UK national security, including in Cyber.

Employee Ownership: Sharing Economy

Asked by Lord Sharkey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration, if any, they have given to creating a new category of tax advantaged share scheme, analogous to the existing employee share ownership schemes, for which people in the gig economy would be eligible. [HL4045]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The government is not considering creating a new tax-advantaged share scheme for self-employed contractors.

The purpose of all the existing schemes is to encourage employee share ownership and support employers' efforts to foster a more enterprising and productive relationship with their employees.

Where companies employ staff directly, they may offer tax-advantaged options to their employees through one of the existing schemes.

Ethiopia: Aid Workers

Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that UN workers providing humanitarian aid are being detained by the Ethiopian authorities. [HL4040]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: We are concerned by recent reports of the detention of several UN staff in Ethiopia. Expulsions and detention of key UN personnel will have a direct impact on the ability of the international community to deliver vital humanitarian assistance. On 30 September the Minister for Africa called on the Government of Ethiopia to reverse the decision to expel UN officials from the country. Our concerns were reiterated at the 48th session of the UN Human Rights Council on 4 October where a joint statement was issued by the UK Ambassador to the UN on behalf of over 40 countries, and we also raised this at the UN Security Council (UNSC) briefing on Ethiopia on 6 October. The British Ambassador to Ethiopia raised our concerns about ongoing detentions with President Sahle-Work on 12 November.

Ethiopia: Peace Negotiations

Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to promote a peaceful solution to the ongoing conflict in Ethiopia. [HL4038]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: We are extremely concerned by the ongoing conflict in Ethiopia. The Minister for Africa spoke at a Westminster Hall Debate on 3 November. She stated that there is no military solution and the UK has been clear on this from the start. We have consistently called on all warring parties to end hostilities and seek a political dialogue and peaceful solution. The Foreign Secretary spoke to Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen on 5 November, where she also made clear there is no military solution and that negotiations are needed to avoid bloodshed and deliver lasting peace. We have made these points repeatedly to the Ethiopian Government and the Tigrayan authorities. We are fully supportive of the African Union (AU)'s mediation efforts, and the Minister for Africa spoke with AU Special Envoy Obasanjo on 4 November, and with AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security Bankole on 8 November.

Ethiopia: Unmanned Air Vehicles

Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the use of drones in the ongoing conflict in Ethiopia. [HL4039]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: We are aware of reporting that drones are being used in the ongoing conflict in Ethiopia. We call for a ceasefire by all sides, including the Ethiopian Government, to end airstrikes. The indiscriminate targeting of civilians, no matter the weapon used, is against international law, and is entirely unacceptable.

A joint investigation by the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, published on 3 November found reasonable grounds to believe that all parties to the conflict in Tigray have, to varying degrees, committed violations of international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law. The UK will continue to support the UN in the need for independent, transparent and impartial investigations and will work to ensure that those responsible for these atrocities are held to account.

Fishing Catches: EU Countries

Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering

To ask Her Majesty's Government what data they have on the catch taken by the EU Fisheries fleet in UK waters this year. [HL4089]

Lord Benyon: The UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement requires both Parties to share information on records of catches from each other's waters. The UK receives information on records of catches of quota and non-quota species from the UK Exclusive Economic Zone by EU vessels on a monthly basis.

Foreign Relations: Russia

Asked by *The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the Prime Minister last spoke to the President of Russia. [HL4233]

Lord True: The Prime Minister last spoke to President Putin of Russia on Monday 25 October.

Details of their call were published on GOV.UK (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-call-with-president-putin-of-russia-25-october-2021>) and stated that:

“The Prime Minister spoke to Russian President Putin this afternoon ahead of the COP26 Summit.

He welcomed the steps Russia has taken in recent days to commit net zero by 2060. The Prime Minister expressed his hope that Russia will raise that target to achieving net zero by 2050 as well as making further progress on ending deforestation and an ambitious Nationally Determined Contribution.

President Putin expressed his regret that he would not be able to attend the COP26 Summit in person in the light of the coronavirus situation in Russia.

The Prime Minister was clear that the UK's current relationship with Russia is not the one we want. He said significant bilateral difficulties remain, including the poisonings in Salisbury in 2018. The Prime Minister also underscored the importance of Ukrainian sovereignty.

The Prime Minister said that as fellow permanent members of the UN Security Council and major world economies with a long, shared history, the UK and Russia have a responsibility to work together to tackle shared challenges like climate change and safeguard international agreements like the Iran Nuclear Deal.

The leaders also discussed the current situation in Afghanistan. The Prime Minister stressed the importance of any recognition of the Taliban being conditional on their behaviour, including respect for human rights.”

Heat Pumps: Costs

Asked by *Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the feasibility of their target set out in the Heat and Buildings Strategy for heat pumps to cost the same (1) to buy, and (2) to run, as fossil fuel boilers in 2030. [HL4034]

Lord Callanan: Alongside leading figures in industry and many suppliers, we are confident that the costs of heat pumps can reduce by 25-50% by 2025 and have set an ambition to work with industry to achieve further reductions towards overall cost parity with gas boilers by 2030 at the latest. The policies we are introducing, including a new £450m Boiler Upgrade Scheme, the Future Homes Standard, and a new market mechanism in the heating appliance market, will rapidly scale up the market to help deliver cost reductions.

We remain committed to working with industry to keep costs down and making sure energy prices are fair and affordable and incentivise consumers to make sustainable choices. We will launch a Fairness and Affordability Call for Evidence on options to help rebalance electricity and gas prices with a view to taking decisions in 2022.

Heating: Hydrogen

Asked by *Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to bring forward their decision on the role of hydrogen in heating buildings from the current date of 2026. [HL4031]

Asked by *Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of how long industry would need to adjust to a requirement to use hydrogen in the heating of buildings. [HL4032]

Lord Callanan: The Government plans to take decisions in 2026 on the role of hydrogen in heating buildings. In order to inform these decisions, the Government is working with industry and others on a range of projects that will help to assess the feasibility and impacts of using hydrogen in place of natural gas and the timescales required for industry to adjust.

High Speed 2 Railway Line

Asked by *Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Phase One HS2 enabling works covering (1) gas, (2) water, (3) telecommunications, and (4) electricity, have been (a) approved in principle, (b) approved in full, and (c) completed. [HL4181]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: HS2 Ltd has advised that out of 912 overall diversions on Phase One, 526 are (a) agreed in principle, 221 (b) approved in full, and 128 (c) complete. These figures can be broken down into (1) gas, (2) water, (3) telecommunications, and (4) electricity as per the below.

Agreements in Principle

- i) Gas 47
- ii) Water 190
- iii) Telecommunications 166
- iv) Electricity 123

Total 526

Approved in full

- i) Gas 34
- ii) Water 80
- iii) Telecommunications 33
- iv) Electricity 74

Total 221

Works complete

i) Gas 31

ii) Water 29

iii) Telecommunications 19

iv) Electricity 49

Total 128

Homelessness: EU Nationals

Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of EU nationals living in England who have become homeless since the UK formally withdrew from the EU. [HL4041]

Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to alleviate homelessness among EU nationals living in England. [HL4042]

Lord Greenhalgh: Local housing authorities report their homelessness activities under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 to the Department by completing the quarterly Homelessness Case Level Collection (H-CLIC) statistical return. H-CLIC is an upload of all cases about statutory homelessness and the authority's activities within the legislative framework.

Figures from the latest H-CLIC data show that in England between March 2020 and April 2021, 15,140 EEA nationals were owed a homelessness prevention or relief duty. This is an 11% decrease from 2019/20.

Household Support Fund

Asked by Lord Farmer

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the £500 million Household Support Fund will be made available; and what amount has been allocated for each of the financial years for which the Fund will be available. [HL3995]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The £421m Household Support Fund has been available to Local Authorities in England since 6 October 2021 and runs until 31 March 2022. The Barnett Formula will apply in the usual way, with the devolved administrations receiving almost £80 million (£41m for the Scottish Government, £25m for the Welsh Government and £14m for the NI Executive), for a total of £500 million. The devolved administrations are responsible for making their own plans to spend their funding.

Housing: Energy

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to reduce VAT on (1) home renovation, and (2) retrofit work, in order to support households to invest in energy efficiency measures. [HL4106]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: A reduced rate of VAT at five per cent is maintained for some residential renovations, including those that increase the number of dwellings or renovating properties that have been empty for two years or more, subject to certain conditions.

Expanding the reliefs that are already available would come at a cost to the exchequer. For example, expanding the reduced rate already available to include all renovations and repairs is estimated to cost the Exchequer at least £3.75 billion a year.

While all taxes are kept under review, the Government has no plans to review the VAT treatment of home renovations.

Housing: Standards

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the finding by the Building Research Establishment report *The Cost of Poor Housing in England*, published 11 November, that "it is costing the NHS some £1.4 billion per year to treat those people who are affected by poor housing". [HL4108]

Lord Greenhalgh: The Government is committed to ensuring that everyone has a safe home and welcomes this updated research from the Building Research Establishment into the fiscal cost of poor-quality housing. As part of its ongoing work to ensure the quality of housing, the Government is currently reviewing the Decent Homes Standard and Housing Health and Safety Rating System.

Humanities: Degrees

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Higher Education Policy Institute report *The Humanities in Modern Britain: Challenges and Opportunities*, published on 23 September; and what plans they have to ensure that humanities degrees teach professionally valuable skills to boost (1) enrolments, and (2) the employment, prospects of humanities graduates. [HL4112]

Baroness Barran: We want every university student, regardless of background, to benefit from a high quality education and go on to pursue successful careers with the skills and knowledge they have studied for.

The government is taking forward a manifesto commitment to tackle low quality higher education and drive up standards for all students, no matter what subject they study. Our landmark Skills and Post-16 Education Bill makes clear the power of the Office for Students to take much needed action in this area, including its ability to enforce minimum standards for universities on course completion rates and graduate outcomes.

Hydroelectric Power: Licensing

Asked by *Lord Cameron of Dillington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why they have increased hydropower licence fees for run-of-river schemes by 895 per cent since 2016; and how this aligns with their ambition to generate more renewable energy. [HL3986]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The Environment Agency (EA) is responsible for managing water resources in England to ensure there is a sustainable supply of water for the public, businesses and the environment. This work is funded by licence fees charged to businesses which abstract or impound water, including hydroelectric power (HEP) operators.

The EA is proposing to reform its water resourcing charging scheme from April 2022 so that the scheme is fairer and recovers the full costs from customers for the services they require. The EA will continue to invest in the key foundations that deliver water resource management as well as in maintaining and operating infrastructure, modernising the licensing system and protecting water stressed catchments, particularly chalk.

On average it costs the EA nearly £13,000 to assess a HEP permit application due to the significant, wide-ranging, and complex risks these schemes can pose to the environment. The EA currently charges £1,500 for HEP permit applications, which means HEP applications are currently subsidised by fees paid by other businesses. To fully recover the costs of the services HEP operators require, the EA is proposing to change HEP permit application fees, depending on the volume of water required. Unlike most other abstractors, HEP operators generating less than 5 megawatts will continue to be exempt from annual subsistence fees. The charges for HEP permit applications were last increased in 2014.

The EA ran a public consultation on the proposed charges between 18 August and 10 November 2021. It is now analysing all consultation responses to consider whether any changes to the proposals are necessary. It will publish a response document within 12 weeks of the consultation closing.

The Government acknowledges the valuable contribution of hydropower to the UK energy mix over many decades, and it is important that it operates in a way that safeguards the environment.

Hydrogen

Asked by *Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when in 2022 they expect to publish their hydrogen production strategy. [HL4033]

Lord Callanan: As set out in the UK Hydrogen Strategy, the Government intends to provide further detail on its hydrogen production strategy in early 2022.

Iran: Detainees

Asked by *The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of British Iranian dual nationals detained by the government of Iran; and what support they are providing (1) the detainees, and (2) their families. [HL3987]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The welfare of detained dual British nationals remains a top priority. We lobby on health concerns and mistreatment allegations. We call on the Iranian government immediately to allow health professionals into Evin prison to assess the situation of dual British nationals there. We do not provide information about numbers of British nationals detained in a country when the low numbers involved may lead to individuals being identifiable.

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office provides consular support to the families of dual British nationals detained in Iran whenever they want our support. We continue to raise their cases at the most senior levels, and discuss them at every opportunity with our Iranian counterparts. Our Ambassador in Tehran regularly raises our dual national detainees with the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Israel: West Bank

Asked by *Baroness Janke*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel following reports of overnight raids on homes in the West Bank village of Fahma by Israeli forces. [HL4011]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: While we recognise Israel's legitimate need to deploy security measures, we encourage them to deploy these in a way which minimises tension. We repeatedly call on Israel to abide by its obligations under international law and have a regular dialogue with Israel on legal issues relating to the occupation, including the treatment of Palestinian children. We continue to stress the importance of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population.

Legislation

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will publish the review into the language used in drafting legislation. [HL4002]

Lord True: A response on this issue is in the process of being finalised. I hope to respond to Noble Lords before the House rises for the Christmas recess.

Ministerial and Other Maternity Allowances Act 2021

Asked by **Baroness Noakes**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to remarks by Lord True on 25 February (HL Deb, col. 961) that they would review their approach to drafting legislation following concerns expressed during the passage of the Ministerial and Other Maternity Allowances Act 2021, when they expect (1) to complete, and (2) to publish, their review. [HL4205]

Lord True: A response on this issue is in the process of being finalised. I hope to respond to Noble Lords before the House rises for the Christmas recess.

<i>Disposal Receipts</i>				<i>Additional Receipts</i>			
<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Gross</i>	<i>No of Sites</i>	<i>Built Estate Ha</i>	<i>Training Estate Ha</i>	<i>Area Ha</i>	<i>Gross</i>	<i>Gross</i>
2020-21	£104,401,667	24	120	16.24	136.24	£1,476,791	£105,878,458
2019-20	£80,423,946	39	355.64	15.59	371.23	£1,908,810	£82,332,756
2018-19	£79,354,540	46	52.69	40.45	93.14	£3,020,293	£82,374,833
2017-18	£173,449,606	29	547.28	0	547.28	£3,207,499	£176,657,105
2016-17	£83,641,505	28	521.496	5.13	526.626	£7,022,085	£90,663,590
Total	£521,271,264	166	1597.11	77.41	1674.516	£16,635,478	£537,906,742

A table detailing the value of each site has been placed in the library of the House.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL4187 - MOD Land Disposal [20211119-Disposals 5 years FY16_17 to FY20_21.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-11-18/HL4187>

Mohammed Daadas

Asked by **Baroness Janke**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they will make to the government of Israel about the killing of Mohammed Daadas. [HL4009]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: On 6 November Minister Cleverly publicly expressed condolences to the family of 13 year old Mohammed Daadas, who was killed near Nablus following clashes between Palestinians and Israeli Defense Forces. We have urged the Israeli authorities to carry out a swift and thorough investigation. Our Embassy in Tel Aviv raised the case with Israeli Defense Forces directly. We regularly raise the importance of the Israeli security force's adherence to the principles of necessity and proportionality when defending its legitimate security interest. We continue to stress the importance of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population, in particular the need to protect children, and urge restraint in the use of live fire.

Ministry of Defence: Property

Asked by **Baroness Davidson of Lundin Links**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the total area of any Ministry of Defence (1) land, and (2) buildings, sold off in each of the last five years; and what was the value of each sale. [HL4187]

Baroness Goldie: The total area of Ministry of Defence land and the number of sites sold in the last five years is shown in the table below, together with additional receipts such as clawback and overage.

Myanmar: Armed Conflict

Asked by **Baroness Cox**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that increased military attacks against civilians in the Burmese province of Chin State are approaching the classification of genocide. [HL4073]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK is deeply concerned at increased military attacks against civilians in Chin State including credible reports of torture, forced labour, sexual violence and attacks on places of worship. We are concerned about the particular vulnerability of religious minorities in the State. Over 40,000 people have been displaced as a result of the increasing violence.

The UK released a statement in country on 15 October, urging the military to end the violence. We secured a Press Statement at the UN Security Council on 10 November calling for the protection of civilians, humanitarian access and urging the military to exercise restraint. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and are in discussion with partners on next steps.

Nagorno-Karabakh: Politics and Government

Asked by **Lord Kilclooney**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they recognise Nagorno-Karabakh as being part of the Republic of Azerbaijan; and whether they are aware of

any Armenian Armed Forces located in Nagorno-Karabakh. [HL4136]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The UK Government supports the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Azerbaijan whilst recognising the acceptance of a free expression of will on the status of Nagorno-Karabakh as laid out in the Minsk Group's Basic Principles. The UK Government has no independently verified evidence that Armenian Armed Forces are currently located in Nagorno-Karabakh. We continue to support the efforts of the Minsk Group Co-Chairs to secure a peaceful settlement to the conflict through substantive negotiations without preconditions and without the use of military means.

Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Iran about the release of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe; and what assessment they have made about the prospects for her release. [HL3989]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Iran's decision to proceed with these baseless charges against Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe is an appalling continuation of the cruel ordeal she is going through. Instead of threatening to return Nazanin to prison Iran must release her permanently so she can return home. The Foreign Secretary raised her case, and the cases of Anoosheh Ashoori and Morad Tahbaz, with Foreign Minister Amir-Abdollahian on 22 September and 8 November. Minister Cleverly met with Deputy Foreign Minister Bagheri Kani on 11 November. We continue to engage with Iran at the most senior levels and our Ambassador in Tehran continues to regularly raise our detainees with the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ministers hold regular meetings with officials to direct activity across the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office aimed at securing the release of Nazanin and other unfairly detained British nationals.

NHS: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether all patients in NHS facilities are entitled to ask if those treating them are vaccinated against COVID-19. [HL3897]

Lord Kamall: The NHS Constitution sets out the rights to which patients are entitled, which includes the right to be involved in decisions about their care and the right to be cared for in a clean, safe, secure and suitable environment. However, there is no specific entitlement for patients in National Health Service facilities in relation to asking whether staff treating them are vaccinated.

Regulations have been laid which, subject to Parliamentary approval, would introduce COVID-19 vaccination as a condition of the deployment within health and wider social care settings. The Department continues to work with NHS England on engagement with NHS staff who have not yet been vaccinated to encourage them to help protect themselves, their colleagues and the people they care for. Currently more than 92% of NHS staff have received a first dose.

Nigeria: Religious Freedom

Asked by Baroness Cox

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 29 September (HL2695), what progress they have made on their engagement "with state governments, civil society, faith and community leaders and affected communities" in Nigeria's Middle Belt. [HL4072]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: Our High Commissioner and her team regularly visit states to engage with state governments, civil society, faith and community leaders and affected communities. Most recently, British High Commission officials visited Plateau state in October 2021, where they met with a range of interlocutors, including Christian and Muslim leaders to discuss intercommunal violence. These discussions highlighted the causes of the intercommunal violence are complex and relate frequently to criminality, competition for resources and failures of governance.

We regularly raise insecurity in Nigeria with the Nigerian Government. On 1 November, the Minister for Africa raised the issue of insecurity with Nigeria's Foreign Minister in a meeting at the COP26 summit in Glasgow. The Prime Minister also discussed this with President Buhari in the margins of the Global Education Summit in July. We continue to urge and support the Nigerian Government to take action to implement long-term solutions that address the root causes of violence.

Northern Ireland Protocol

Asked by Lord McCrea of Magherafelt and Cookstown

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to trigger Article 16 of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland. [HL4146]

Lord Frost: It remains the UK's preference to find a negotiated outcome to problems caused by the Northern Ireland Protocol. The Government will use Article 16 as a safeguard measure if a negotiated outcome cannot be found, in order to protect the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and address difficulties caused by the Protocol.

Asked by Lord Tyrrie

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, prior to the triggering of Article 16 of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland, they would provide an

opportunity for that action to be debated in Parliament; and whether any such debate would be on a divisible motion. [HL4353]

Lord Frost: The UK Government has always been clear that we would prefer to settle these issues consensually and reach a positive outcome with the EU through negotiations.

However, if a negotiated outcome cannot be found, Article 16 remains a legitimate provision within the Protocol to safeguard peace and prosperity in Northern Ireland and to support the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement.

In such circumstances, we will, of course, set out our justification for using Article 16 and its legal basis at an appropriate time. The Government remains committed to keeping Parliament updated on the UK-EU relationship and to providing legal certainty and clarity for Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland Protocol: UK–EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement

Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to apply the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland; and what assessment they have made of the implications of this application for the UK–EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement. [HL4019]

Lord Frost: The Government has invested substantial funding to implement the Northern Ireland Protocol in line with our current obligations and to support businesses adjusting to this change, including through the Trader Support Service and the Movement Assistance Scheme (MAS). We have already spent over £150m on these services. The forecast spend for the Trader Support Service is for £360m over the full two years to the end of 2022 and the forecast for MAS is that total spend could run to up to £150m.

The Northern Ireland Protocol is not part of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA). Nevertheless, there have been suggestions that the EU would take retaliatory actions under the TCA should the UK invoke the Article 16 safeguards. This would aggravate the problems in Northern Ireland rather than reduce them. Article 16 is a legitimate safeguard within the Protocol and we would urge the European Commission to consider the impact of such disproportionate actions.

Prisoners: Pregnancy

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Gloucester

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many women in prison aged (1) 18 to 24, and (2) 25 years or older, were pregnant while in custody in each of the last 10 years. [HL3999]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: This information could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

On 20 September the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) published a new policy on pregnancy, Mother and Baby Units and maternal separation from children up to the age of two in women's prisons, which contains a range of reforms for improving the care of pregnant women. The policy requires increased local and central data collection on self-declared pregnant women in our care, to ensure individuals are receiving the relevant support and to ensure policy is more informed.

We publish some of this data in the HMPPS Annual Digest of statistical information. We published the first of these on 29 July 2021, which showed that during the period July 2020–April 2021 an average of 26 women self-declared as pregnant each week.

This is a dynamic area of policy and we will continue to consider our central data collection as it develops.

Prostate Cancer: Tomography

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to restore levels of access to multi-parametric magnetic resonance imaging scans for patients with suspected prostate cancer to pre-pandemic levels. [HL4026]

Lord Kamall: During the pandemic, access to multi-parametric magnetic resonance imaging scans of the prostate increased. In 2020, 10,780 multi-parametric magnetic resonance imaging scans of the prostate were performed, compared to 7,395 in 2019.

Raed Jadallah

Asked by Baroness Sheehan

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel regarding reports of the killing of Raed Jadallah by Israeli snipers. [HL4046]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We regularly raise the issue of the high numbers of Palestinians killed and injured by Israel Defense Forces in the West Bank and Gaza with the Israeli authorities, encouraging them to carry out transparent investigations into whether the use of live fire had been appropriate. Our Embassy in Tel Aviv regularly raises the importance of the Israeli security force's adherence to the principles of necessity and proportionality when defending its legitimate security interest. We repeatedly call on Israel to abide by its obligations under international law and have a regular dialogue with Israel on legal issues relating to the occupation. We continue to stress the importance of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population and urge restraint in the use of live fire.

Recycling

Asked by *The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reduce confusion regarding recycling in England; what plans they have to require companies to simplify recycling instructions on their packaging; and whether they have plans to legislate to standardise local authority rules over what can and cannot be recycled. [HL4015]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: As part of our Resources and Waste Strategy, we want to make recycling easier and ensure that there is a comprehensive and consistent service across England. This will help to reduce confusion with recycling, ensure that there is more recycled material in the products we buy, and that the UK recycling industry grows.

Following support at public consultation, the Environment Act 2021 requires that all waste collection authorities in England must make arrangements for a core set of materials to be collected for recycling from households. This core set includes: paper and card; plastic; glass; metal; food waste and garden waste. The Environment Act 2021 also requires that all businesses and non-domestic premises in England must make arrangements to recycle the same set of recyclable materials, with the exception of garden waste.

In our recent consultation on 'Consistency in Household and Business Recycling in England', we consulted on defining these waste streams in greater detail in secondary legislation. We are currently analysing stakeholder responses and will publish the result of these decisions in our government response in early 2022.

Earlier this year we consulted on proposals to introduce Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging in the UK, these proposals include a mandatory requirement for producers to label packaging to indicate whether it is or isn't recyclable. This will ensure that consumers are provided with clear and consistent information and will help to make it easier for them to recycle. We are currently analysing stakeholder responses to the consultation and will set out further details in the Government Response which will be published in early 2022.

Road Traffic Offences

Asked by *Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish the results of the internal review on road traffic offences; and why there was not a public phase to the review. [HL4389]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Following the announcement of a review of driving offences and penalties in 2014, the Government conducted a review of driving offences that focused on the most serious offences that involve death or injury. The results of this review are

being brought forward as part of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill.

In addition, and as part of the Government keeping the law under regular review consideration is being given to a call for evidence on part of the Road Traffic Act. The Government is not able to provide further details at this stage because they are still being worked on.

Small Businesses: Environment Protection

Asked by *Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to provide help for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises to become more environmentally sustainable. [HL4053]

Lord Callanan: Businesses have significant power to drive change towards achieving the UK's domestic net zero goal. In order to underline the importance of this area, this year the Government led the Race to Zero campaign targeting small and microbusinesses across the UK. 2,362 have joined the Race to Zero to date.

Many businesses across the UK have said they want to tackle climate change, but that they are unsure how to start this process. Through the small business campaign, the Government has taken an important step towards making net zero relevant to SMEs by helping businesses access the support they need. Following COP26, the Government will continue to support UK businesses to meet their net zero commitments, including exploring a government-led digital advice service that consolidates and simplifies advice, funding, and other support on net zero.

The Government will also look to consult stakeholders on the Small Business Energy Efficiency Scheme (SBEES) later this year. The scheme will aim to remove barriers for SMEs in accessing energy efficiency measures, drive forward better buildings performance and help SMEs to meet regulatory standards.

Sudan: Climate Change

Asked by *Baroness Cox*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to section 40 of the Glasgow Climate Pact, what steps they will take to provide emergency assistance for necessary mitigation and adaptation to climate change in Sudan. [HL4069]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: As COP26 President, the UK is committed to driving action to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees and support countries that are most vulnerable to adapt to the impacts of climate change such as Sudan. This will be crucially important for communities in Africa, where the impacts of climate change are already being felt. The UK is a long-standing supporter of African adaptation, with around half of our £2.7 billion adaptation budget between 2016 and 2020 spent in Africa. We have strengthened

these commitments at COP26, where the UK announced £143.5 million funding for programmes for African countries to adapt to the impact of extreme weather and changing climate. We have provided a guarantee to the African Development Bank, releasing up to \$2 billion of climate finance - half of which will be for adaptation. These commitments demonstrate that Africa is at the heart of our approach to climate and nature. In the case of Sudan the military coup d'état of 25 October does not change the need to address climate change issues and ordinary Sudanese must not suffer as a result of the military's actions. We will however keep any specific support under review in light of the evolving situation.

Syria: Turkey

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the likelihood of a future conflict in Turkish-occupied Syria, and (2) the steps that need to be taken to prevent such a conflict. [HL3901]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK made clear its opposition to Turkey's military operation in north east Syria in October 2019. We assess that the ceasefire in north east Syria is broadly holding. The UK engages regularly with Turkey on Syria and continues to call for all actors to meet their obligations under international law. We are aware of the recent reports of increased violence in the region and the Minister of State for Middle East and North Africa called for de-escalation on the 1 September.

Tanks: Iran

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the status of the £400 million debt owed to the government of Iran for the non-delivery of Chieftain tanks in 1979; and what steps they are taking to repay it. [HL3988]

Baroness Goldie: Her Majesty's Government acknowledges International Military Services' debt and remains committed to exploring all options for a practicable and legally-viable means of discharging it, and intensive efforts are underway to that end. We will not, however, comment further while legal proceedings are ongoing.

Uighurs: Cultural Heritage

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reported comments by the Foreign Secretary relating to genocide in Xinjiang, what discussions they intend to have with UNESCO about the destruction of Uyghur cultural sites including cemeteries. [HL4058]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: As set out in the Government's response to the recent Foreign Affairs Committee report on Xinjiang, we are committed to

helping to protect culture and heritage around the world, including in Xinjiang, and it is important for UNESCO to pursue its mandate with determination and commitment. We agree that UNESCO should be fully aware of what is happening in Xinjiang, and consider carefully how it can pursue its mandate in this context. We intend to raise this matter with our UNESCO partners.

UK Endorsement Board

Asked by Baroness Bowles of Berkhamsted

To ask Her Majesty's Government when (1) the UK Endorsement Board, and (2) the UK Accounting Standards Endorsement Board Limited, commenced outreach activities on the endorsement of accounting standards. [HL3984]

Lord Callanan: The UK Endorsement Board formally commenced outreach activities following the inaugural Board meeting on 26th March 2021.

Prior to the UK Endorsement Board being formed, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) held the powers to formally adopt accounting standards for use in the UK. During this period, the UK Endorsement Board Secretariat worked with the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) and BEIS to develop endorsement and adoption advice for consideration by the Secretary of State. This included outreach activities.

The UK Accounting Standards Endorsement Board Limited is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the FRC. It does not undertake any functions to which outreach activities are relevant.

UK Endorsement Board: Data Protection

Asked by Baroness Bowles of Berkhamsted

To ask Her Majesty's Government when (1) the UK Endorsement Board, and (2) the UK Accounting Standards Endorsement Board Limited, registered with the Information Commissioner for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 2018. [HL3982]

Lord Callanan: The UK Accounting Standards Endorsement Board was entered on the data protection register on 5th July 2021. The UK Accounting Standards Endorsement Board Limited was entered on the data protection register on 16th September 2021.

Asked by Baroness Bowles of Berkhamsted

To ask Her Majesty's Government when (1) the UK Endorsement Board, and (2) the UK Accounting Standards Endorsement Board Limited, were required to register with the Information Commissioner for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 2018. [HL3983]

Lord Callanan: The UK Accounting Standards Endorsement Board began to process personal data when its Board Members were appointed on 11th March 2021. The UK Accounting Standards Endorsement Board

Limited began to process personal data when it held the inaugural meeting of its Directors on 25th October 2021.

UN Climate Conference 2021: Disability

Asked by Lord Shinkwin

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park on 18 November (HL3652), who assessed all permanent and temporary venues at COP26 as fully accessible; and whether they will put into the Library of the House a record of the input of the Disability Inclusive Working Group into COP26. [HL4303]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: Inclusivity and accessibility were key priorities for the COP26 summit and the venue was designed to facilitate that. The SEC venue has been awarded the Gold Charter of Best Practice by the charity Attitude is Everything.

The COP26 permanent structures were fully wheelchair accessible, and the venue holds gold level accessibility status. A complete accessibility audit for the temporary structures was completed by the production company, Identity. The structures were all fully compliant.

The COP26 Unit Civil Society Engagement Team established an officials-led Disability Inclusive Working Group, composed of disability Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and disabled people's organisations. This group provided helpful guidance to the unit in the run up to COP26, which was incorporated into our planning.

UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the UN Security Council's decision on 29 October to extend the mandate of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara until 31 October 2022, what representations they have made to the UN Secretary General's Personal Envoy regarding his role in (1) de-escalating tensions in the region, and (2) working towards a political solution for the region over the next 12 months. [HL4016]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK supports UN-led efforts to reach a just, lasting, and mutually acceptable political solution that provides for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. We have regular discussions with the UN, both in New York and in the region, as well as with the parties regarding the situation in Western Sahara. We welcome the appointment of Staffan de Mistura as Personal Envoy to Western Sahara and UK senior officials have met with him in New York. We encourage the parties, neighbouring states, and international partners to make the most of this opportunity for a renewed political process, including a return to a ceasefire.

Undocumented Migrants: Mobile Phones

Asked by Lord Green of Deddington

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many mobile phones have been issued (1) to individuals in immigration removal centres, and (2) to asylum seekers arriving in the UK after crossing the English Channel by boat, between 1 January 2018 and 30 June 2021. [HL4001]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The published Detention Services Order 08/2012 sets out the Home Office's policy on detained individuals' possession of mobile phones in immigration removal centres.

To enable contact with friends, family and legal representatives, where individuals do not have a suitable mobile phone, Home Office suppliers can provide temporary access to basic model mobile phones for individuals in detention, or those awaiting initial processing. These mobile phones are returned when individuals leave the respective centre.

No mobile phones are provided in Initial Asylum Accommodation, however; individuals can request a data sim card which enables internet access, for use during their stay.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Detention Services Order 08/2012 - Mobile Phones
[Mobile_phones_and_cameras_in_immigration_removal_centres.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-11-15/HL4001>

UNRWA: Finance

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to reinstate the full UK contribution to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. [HL4007]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The United Kingdom (UK) is a long-term supporter of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). We recognise UNRWA's unique mandate from the United Nations General Assembly, to provide protection and core services including health and education to Palestinian refugees across the Middle East. The UK's annual contribution to UNRWA's programme budget helps UNRWA to provide basic education to more than 533,000 children a year (half of whom are girls), access to health services for 3.5 million Palestinian refugees and social safety net assistance for around 255,000 of the most vulnerable across the region. The UK is working with UNRWA and other donors to improve UNRWA's financial viability. This includes broadening UNRWA's donor base, encouraging the full disbursement of pledges and encouraging support through multi-year funding.

Asked by Baroness Janke

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment have they made of reports that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East is close to collapse following a reduction in funding. [HL4010]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The United Kingdom (UK) is a long-term supporter of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). We recognise UNRWA's unique mandate from the United Nations General Assembly, to provide protection and core services including health and education to Palestinian refugees across the Middle East. The UK's annual contribution to UNRWA's programme budget helps UNRWA to provide basic education to more than 533,000 children a year (half of whom are girls), access to health services for 3.5 million Palestinian refugees and social safety net assistance for around 255,000 of the most vulnerable across the region. The UK is working with UNRWA and other donors to improve UNRWA's financial viability. This includes broadening UNRWA's donor base, encouraging the full disbursement of pledges and encouraging support through multi-year funding.

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have reduced aid to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA); if so, (1) by how much, and (2) for what reasons; and what plans they have to ensure that Palestinian refugees continue to be provided with UNRWA services. [HL4014]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The United Kingdom (UK) is a long-term supporter of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). We recognise UNRWA's unique mandate from the United Nations General Assembly, to provide protection and core services including health and education to Palestinian refugees across the Middle East. The UK's annual contribution to UNRWA's programme budget helps UNRWA to provide basic education to more than 533,000 children a year (half of whom are girls), access to health services for 3.5 million Palestinian refugees and social safety net assistance for around 255,000 of the most vulnerable across the region. The UK is working with UNRWA and other donors to improve UNRWA's financial viability. This includes broadening UNRWA's donor base, encouraging the full disbursement of pledges and encouraging support through multi-year funding.

Warships: Deployment

Asked by Lord Coaker

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the carrier strike group will return to the UK. [HL4267]

Baroness Goldie: The Carrier Strike Group (CSG) deployment will return to the UK in mid-December. This concludes a seven-month deployment where ships and

aircraft from the Group have operated and exercised with over 40 countries, demonstrating our interoperability and commitment to working with allies and partners.

Xinjiang: Cotton

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reported remarks by the Foreign Secretary relating to genocide in Xinjiang; what plans they have (1) to ban cotton imports from Xinjiang, or (2) to impose sanctions on companies operating there. [HL4057]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: As part of our commitment to tackling the issue of Uyghur forced labour, the Government announced in January a number of measures to help ensure that no UK organisation is complicit through their supply chains in the human rights violations occurring in Xinjiang.

Whilst we do not currently have plans to place import controls on goods from China, we are working with our international partners to ensure that global supply chains are free from the use of forced labour. We will continue to keep our policy response to goods produced using forced labour under close review.

Young Offenders: Females

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Gloucester

To ask Her Majesty's Government what age-specific training prison staff receive for working with female prisoners aged 18 to 24. [HL3996]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) have developed the 'women's estate specialist training' (WEST) course. Its modular content is threaded throughout the apprenticeship foundation programme to offer a distinct and dedicated course, underpinned by a trauma informed approach. This forms part of the nine-week foundation period for new prison officers destined to work within the women's estate. The first dedicated WEST course has been scheduled to take place in January 2022. This course also contains a module which focuses on young women in custody. Existing staff in the women's estate are able to access information through 'myLearning' which includes the Young Adults page which is designed to be an accessible resource for all staff to understand better the needs of this age group in custody.

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Gloucester

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many women in prison aged 18 to 20 share a cell with a woman aged over 20 years old. [HL3998]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: As of 12th November, there were 65 prisoners in the HM Prison and Probation Service Women's estate who were aged between 18 and 20. Of these, fewer than five were sharing a cell with another prisoner who was aged 21 or over.

Youth Custody: Females

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Gloucester

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many women aged 18 to 24 have been received into prison in each year of the past 10 years, by establishment. [HL3997]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: The attached tables show the number of first receptions of women aged 18-24 from 2011 to 2020, by establishment.

The Female Offender Strategy set out the Government's vision of fewer women offending and reoffending; fewer

women in custody, especially on short-term sentences, with a greater proportion of women managed in the community successfully; and where prison is necessary, better conditions for those in custody.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Table for HL3997 [2021-11-29 PQ HL3997.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-11-15/HL3997>

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