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

# **HOUSE OF LORDS**

## **WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS**

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[I] indicates that the member concerned has a relevant registered interest. The full register of interests can be found at <http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/standards-and-interests/register-of-lords-interests/>

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

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# Written Statements

*Friday, 10 December 2021*

## Concussion in Sport: Government Response

[HLWS452]

**Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay:** I am repeating the following Written Ministerial Statement made today in the other place by my Honourable Friend, the Minister for Sport, Tourism, Heritage and Civil Society, Nigel Huddleston MP:

I wish to inform the House that the Government has today **published** its response to the report by the House of Commons Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee into concussion in sport.

Sport is a central part of our national identity and culture. The welfare and safety of everybody taking part in sport is of paramount importance, and the Government is committed to taking action to reduce the risks involved. The actions set out in this report do not represent the final word on the subject and we recognise there is more work to do to continue to make sport as safe as possible for all those who participate in it.

The Government is grateful to the DCMS Select Committee for undertaking their extensive inquiry into concussion in sport. The committee's report has reinforced the importance of the topic and provided valuable insights that have helped inform the Government's thinking.

Our response outlines the Government's approach to reducing the risks associated with concussion and head injuries in sport. This will involve working with partners from across the sport, health, education, academic and technology sectors.

A full response to each of the Committee's recommendations is also provided in a separate annex to the report.

Within the report, the Government has committed to:

Commission a set of shared high-level protocols around concussion in sport across the UK.

Write to UK Sport and Sport England to explore ensuring funded bodies make use of these shared protocols.

Work across Departments to improve the protocols and pathways for use in treating concussion in sport injuries in NHS A&E settings.

Direct sports to work with Player Associations on training protocols for players' long-term welfare.

Convene a sports concussion research forum of experts to identify the priority research questions and improve the coordination with research funding bodies

Write to National Governing Bodies to emphasise the importance of player welfare (including concussion) when formulating their governance procedures.

A copy of the Government response to the DCMS Select Committee report will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## Delivery Supply Chain: Planning Controls

[HLWS453]

**Lord Greenhalgh:** My Rt. Hon. Friend, the Minister of State for Housing (Christopher Pincher) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

I wish to update the House on the measures the Government is taking to facilitate flexibility within the delivery supply chain and mitigate challenges faced by construction sites.

Due to the covid pandemic, the logistics sector is facing an exceptional challenge resulting from the acute shortage of HGV drivers across the distribution network. This has resulted in missed deliveries which have the potential to lead to significant shortages and hinder economic growth.

Through a previous Written Ministerial Statement made by the former Secretary of State, dated 15 July 2021, the Government responded to these pressures proactively by ensuring the industry had the tools available to adapt effectively and minimise any disruption to the public. The statement made clear that local planning authorities should take a positive approach to their engagement with food retailers and distributors, as well as the freight industry, to ensure planning controls are not a barrier to deliveries of food, sanitary and other essential goods.

I am now expanding the scope of these measures. The purpose of this Written Ministerial Statement, which comes into effect immediately, is to make it clear that local planning authorities should take a positive approach to their engagement with all supply chain stakeholders to ensure planning controls are not a barrier to the supply of all goods and services.

Many commercial activities in England are subject to controls which restrict the time and number of deliveries from lorries and other delivery vehicles, particularly during evenings and at night. These restrictions may be imposed by planning conditions, which are necessary to make the development acceptable to local residents who might otherwise suffer from traffic, noise and other local amenity issues. However, this needs to be balanced with the public interest, for all residents, to have access to shops which are well stocked.

The National Planning Policy Framework already emphasises that planning enforcement is a discretionary activity, and local planning authorities should act proportionately in responding to suspected breaches of planning control.

Local planning authorities should not seek to undertake planning enforcement action which would result in unnecessarily restricting deliveries, having regard to their legal obligations.

Construction output has also been inconsistent in recent months and not returned to pre-February 2020 levels. Construction sites in England may also be subject to

controls which restrict the hours within which they can operate. Wherever possible, local planning authorities should respond positively to requests for flexibility for operation of construction sites to support the sector's recovery.

The Government recognises that it may be necessary for action to be taken in relation to the impacts on neighbours of sustained disturbance due to deliveries and construction outside of conditioned hours, particularly where this affects sleep. In this case a local planning authority should consider any efforts made to manage and mitigate such disturbance, taking into account the degree and longevity of amenity impacts.

This statement will replace all the previous statements on these matters.

This Written Ministerial Statement only covers England and will expire on 30 September 2022, giving direction to the industry and local planning authorities over the next ten months. We will keep the need for this statement under review.

### **Fisheries: Annual Negotiations**

[HLWS454]

**Lord Frost:** My Hon Friend the Minister of State (Victoria Prentis) has today made the following statement:

At the time of writing, annual negotiations on fisheries are ongoing between: the UK, EU and Norway (the Trilateral); the UK and the EU; the UK and Norway; and the UK and the Faroes Islands.

As regards the Trilateral, which will determine catch limits for six jointly managed stocks in the North Sea (cod, haddock, saithe, whiting, plaice, herring), discussions have been fruitful and we expect agreement between the three parties to be reached later this afternoon (Friday 10th December).

Bilateral negotiations between the UK and the EU on 2022 fishing opportunities on jointly managed stocks are on-going. Discussions have been constructive so far and there is opportunity to intensify talks before 20 December if necessary.

We are continuing to discuss possible exchanges of fishing opportunities with Norway and the Faroes. If there are agreements to be reached, of which we remain optimistic, we hope to conclude them in the next few weeks.

We have also concluded a number of other negotiations this year, including in Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and on catch limits for three straddling species (mackerel, Atlanto-scandian herring, and blue whiting) with coastal State partners in the North East Atlantic.

### **Intelligence and Security Committee: Annual Report 2019-21**

[HLWS451]

**Baroness Evans of Bowes Park:** My Rt Hon Friend the Prime Minister has made the following statement:

The Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament has today laid before Parliament a report covering the work of the Committee between July 2019 to July 2021. The Government welcomes the independent and robust oversight of the Security and Intelligence Agencies and the wider Intelligence Community that the Committee provides. As this report demonstrates, the work of the Committee is wide-ranging, on topics vital to ensuring the public can have confidence that our world-class Intelligence Agencies continue to operate effectively and proportionately in light of the threats we face.

The period covered in this report has been a particularly challenging one, and it is a testament to the Committee that they have been able to provide oversight despite disruption to their work plan from the pandemic. This Government looks forward to seeing the conclusions of a number of ongoing Committee Inquiries.

The Agencies and wider Intelligence Community value the oversight the Committee provides and have ensured Committee requests in this period have been given high importance. However, it is proper and right that Agency and Intelligence Community resources continue to be appropriately prioritised to ensure the safety and security of our nation; the Agencies have shown both resilience and ingenuity in continuing to deliver despite the challenges this period has brought. The Intelligence Community and Government were in touch with the Committee during the drafting of this report, and would remind the Committee of the importance of mutually agreeing timelines for returns to ensure these are reasonable and achievable.

During the period covered by the Committee's report, Government has published three formal responses to ISC reports, which address the recommendations and conclusions the Committee have made: Russia, published on 21 July 2020; Northern Ireland-related Terrorism, published 11 February 2021; and GCHQ Procurement: A Case Study, published 22 July 2021.

The Government remains confident that the current Memorandum of Understanding with the Committee is sufficient to allow for robust oversight of the Agencies and wider Intelligence Community. The National Security Adviser has written to the ISC Chair to restate this position.

I would like to again thank the Committee for their work, and I look forward to working with them as they continue their vital oversight duties.

## Written Answers

Friday, 10 December 2021

### Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

Asked by *Baroness Merron*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent estimate they have made of the cost of alcohol on (1) the NHS, and on (2) society in general. [[HL3895](#)]

**Lord Kamall:** Alcohol-related harm was estimated to cost the National Health Service £3.5 billion per year in 2009/10.

The cost of alcohol to society in England was estimated to be £21 billion per year in 2012. This includes the costs associated with alcohol-related health disorders and disease, crime and anti-social behaviour, and loss of productivity in the workplace.

### Armenia: Azerbaijan

Asked by *The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park on 25 November (HL4243), what support they are providing to help document and investigate allegations of serious mistreatment of Armenian prisoners of war by the government of Azerbaijan. [[HL4735](#)]

**Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park:** The Minister for Europe and Americas raised this important issue with both Governments directly, including during her visits to Armenia and Azerbaijan earlier this year and during subsequent engagements with her counterparts. The UK has continued to encourage both Governments to thoroughly investigate all allegations that prisoners of war and detainees were mistreated during and after last year's conflict. We will continue to urge the parties to prioritise securing a peaceful settlement to the conflict through negotiations facilitated by the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs and to settle all outstanding matters related to the conflict.

### Bosnia and Herzegovina: Armed Conflict

Asked by *Lord Risby*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the potential for an outbreak of civil violence in Bosnia-Herzegovina. [[HL4658](#)]

**Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park:** The UK takes talk of secession, and other threats to undo the progress of the last twenty-six years in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) very seriously. We have called on those responsible to cease this destabilising and divisive rhetoric. As a UN Security Council and Peace Implementation Council Steering Board member, the UK is committed to upholding the Dayton Agreement in BiH. The UK, along

with our allies, is offering visible and practical support to BiH's territorial integrity, and to maintain the EU military mission (EUFOR) and the Office of the High Representative in BiH. We will continue to help the people of BiH in building a better future in a stable and prosperous State with strong, functioning institutions. Ultimately, the authorities in BiH themselves must make necessary reforms for the good of all citizens, and we call on them to meet their obligations to those who elected them.

### Coronavirus

Asked by *Lord Framlingham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the difference in protection against COVID-19 provided by (1) vaccination, and (2) antibodies, following a COVID-19 infection. [[HL4221](#)]

**Lord Kamall:** Multiple studies on the immune protection provided by both COVID-19 vaccination and natural immunity following infection are underway. This includes the SARS-CoV-2 Immunity and Reinfection Evaluation (SIREN), the Office of National Statistics COVID-19 Infection Survey, Vivaldi, and the REal-time Assessment of Community Transmission studies. Findings from these studies show that both infection-acquired and vaccine-acquired immunity give high levels of protection from new symptomatic and asymptomatic infections for several months.

Results from the SIREN study indicate that vaccination was 85% effective in healthcare workers after two doses, compared to an 84% lower risk of subsequent infection in healthcare workers with natural immunity. The COVID-19 Infection Survey concluded that although vaccines are less effective against the Delta variant compared to Alpha, vaccine-acquired protection remains at least as good as natural immunity. In both people with and without prior natural infection, vaccination provides the highest level of protection.

Asked by *Lord Framlingham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how the ability to transmit COVID-19 differs between someone who has been vaccinated and someone who has been infected with COVID-19. [[HL4222](#)]

**Lord Kamall:** An assessment on the ability to transmit COVID-19 between those who have been vaccinated and those who have been infected with COVID-19 has not been made. Several studies such as SIREN, Vivaldi and the Office for National Statistics Community Infection Survey have provided evidence that vaccines are effective at preventing infection and therefore transmission.

Results from the SIREN study indicate that vaccination was 85% effective in healthcare workers after two doses, compared to an 84% lower risk of subsequent infection in healthcare workers with natural immunity. The COVID-19 Infection Survey concluded that vaccine-acquired protection remains at least as good as natural immunity.

In both people with and without prior natural infection, vaccination provides the highest level of protection.

### Coronavirus: Disease Control

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Durham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether 14 residents in a dormitory meets the UKHSA recommendations for a COVID-19 compliant environment; and if so, what guidance informed this recommendation. [HL4364]

**Lord Kamall:** The UK Health Security Agency does not specify numbers for a COVID-19 compliant environment, but advises on all locations being appropriately risk-assessed with identified risk mitigations put in place to address those risks. Risk mitigations may include: not using a location; fewer people in any given space; use of physical barriers; increased ventilation; testing, tracing and isolation protocols with different approaches for vaccinated/non-vaccinated people if relevant; and face coverings in confined or enclosed spaces.

### Coronavirus: Vaccination

*Asked by Lord Boateng*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effectiveness of the COVAX scheme; and whether they plan to propose any reforms to the scheme. [HL4676]

**Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park:** The UK is committed to ending the acute phase of the pandemic as soon as possible, and strongly supports the COVAX Facility as a mechanism to enable this. We are among the largest donors to COVAX's Advance Market Commitment, committing £548 million that will help supply at least 1.8 billion COVID-19 vaccines to up to 92 low- and middle-income countries by early 2022. The UK will also donate 100 million COVID-19 vaccines to countries in need, 80% of which will go through COVAX.

COVAX has an ongoing monitoring and evaluation workstream, and shares results data regularly with stakeholders. FCDO officials are planning to undertake an annual review of the UK's COVAX funding at the start of 2022, and the key findings and recommendations of the review will be available on FCDO's DevTracker.

### Coronavirus: Ventilation

*Asked by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to promote ventilation in buildings to minimise the spread of COVID-19. [HL3721]

**Lord Kamall:** The Government has published Ventilation of indoor spaces on how to improve the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in an online only

format. This guidance stresses the importance of practical steps such as opening windows and doors; making sure small vents or grilles are open and not blocked; and ensuring that any mechanical ventilation system is working and maintained in line with manufacturers' instructions. Ventilation systems should bring fresh air in and not recirculate indoor air. In workplaces and non-domestic settings, ventilation should be considered alongside other control measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Ventilation of indoor spaces to stop the spread of [Ventilation of indoor spaces to stop the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) - GOV.UK.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-11-04/HL3721>

### Ethiopia: Crimes against Humanity

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports of massacres and incitements to ethnic cleansing in Ethiopia; what plans they have, if any, to review the UK citizenship of Andargachew Tsege regarding reports of his involvement in such activities. [HL4444]

**Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park:** We are extremely concerned by reports of widespread human rights violations and abuses in Ethiopia committed by all sides in the conflict, including but not limited to mass killings in the north and incidents of ethnic targeting in Addis Ababa and elsewhere. The Foreign Secretary, our Ambassador in Addis Ababa and the Minister for Africa continue to raise human rights issues in our discussions with the Ethiopian Government and more broadly we have reminded all warring parties of their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law. The Minister for Africa raised our concerns about ethnic profiling and detentions with Ethiopian State Minister Redwan on 18 November and made clear our concerns on this issue in her tweet of 30 November: "...All sides must avoid hate speech which is fuelling ethnic tensions...".

We do not comment on individual deprivation of citizenship cases.

### Farms: Tenancy Agreements

*Asked by Baroness Rock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the proposals from the Tenant Farmers Association to amend the taxation framework within which landlords of farmland make decisions about letting land to encourage longer term farm business tenancies; and what plans they have, if any, to implement these changes. [HL4296]

Asked by **Baroness Rock**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to schedule a meeting between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and representatives of the Tenant Farmers Association to discuss the proposals for amendments to the taxation framework. [HL4297]

**Lord Benyon:** The Tenant Farmers Association provides a constructive contribution to considerations on the letting of agricultural land. The Government recognises that the fiscal framework plays a role in landowners' decisions on whether to let land and on the length of tenancy terms offered. Other factors are important too such as the size, quality and location of the land, and personal motivations for owning land. The Government is committed to a fair and sustainable tax system and keeps all taxes under review as a matter of course. The impacts and potential unintended consequences of tax reform need careful analysis to ensure confidence in the let sector is maintained.

Officials from Defra and HM Treasury have regular discussions to share information and feedback views from farming stakeholders. A third of all farmland in England is tenanted and a vibrant tenanted sector is vital to the future of agriculture. The Government is working with the Tenants Farmers Association and others to ensure our future farming policy provides an enabling environment for tenant farmers, including ready access to the Sustainable Farming Incentive and other future schemes. Minister Prentis recently met with George Dunn of the Tenant Farmers Association where a wide range of issues relating to tenant farmers were discussed, including the importance that tenant farmers can join environmental schemes without consequences on their tenancy agreements.

### Fly-tipping

Asked by **Baroness Jones of Whitchurch**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many incidents of fly tipping were reported to the Environment Agency in each of the last five years; and how many of these cases resulted in a successful prosecution. [HL4375]

**Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park:** The Environment Agency tackles a wide range of waste crime including illegal dumping, responding to those incidents which pose the most significant threat to the environment due to their scale, impact or the involvement of organised crime groups. It is the role and responsibility of local authorities to handle smaller scale fly-tipping incidents. Any caller to the Environment Agency who identifies fly-tipping at the scale or nature that we do not handle is directed to the appropriate local authority.

In terms of illegal dumping and other waste crime, in 2020/21 the Environment Agency secured 25 successful prosecutions which resulted in total fines of £475,796 and seven custodial sentences. It is everyone's responsibility to check they only use properly licensed waste carriers –

if they do not, they risk a fine if that rubbish ends up being fly-tipped.

### Food: Sales Promotions

Asked by **Lord Taylor of Warwick**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to introduce new regulations to limit the use of promotional techniques on unhealthy food and drink product packaging. [HL4350]

**Lord Kamall:** In December 2020, we confirmed that we will legislate to restrict promotions by location and volume price of foods high in fat, salt and sugar in stores and online to improve people's diets and reduce children's sugar and calorie intakes. Restrictions will apply to medium and large businesses with 50 or more employees in England and include restrictions on volume price promotions on the packaging of food and drink. The regulations are set to come into force in October 2022.

### Immunotherapy

Asked by **Lord Mendelsohn**

To ask Her Majesty's Government why patients dependent on immunoglobulin are experiencing (1) treatment "holidays", (2) longer waits between treatments, and (3) smaller doses; and what steps they are taking to secure (a) a stable, and (b) a secure, supply of immunoglobulin. [HL4492]

**Lord Kamall:** Clinicians are responsible for the management of patients, including dosage and dosing intervals, with the oversight and governance of sub-regional immunoglobulin assessment panels. The decision to recommend treatment holidays, extended intervals between treatment and reduction of doses in selected patients is based on consensus recommendations from United Kingdom and European experts and draft European Summary of Product Characteristics for immunoglobulin.

The immunoglobulin management plan, currently being produced, will enable the management of immunoglobulin in times of significant supply issues and ensure equal access of immunoglobulin to all patients. The Department has well established processes to deal with medicine shortages and works closely with the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, the pharmaceutical industry, NHS England and NHS Improvement and others operating in the supply chain to prevent shortages and ensure that risks to patients are minimised when shortages do arise.

### Lesotho: Droughts

Asked by **The Lord Bishop of Durham**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the droughts in Lesotho; and what steps will they take to ensure that those living there

have enough water to maintain hydroelectric power. [HL4545]

**Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park:** The UK is concerned by the impacts of the droughts in Lesotho. In 2020, the UK provided £6.5 million to support the immediate needs of vulnerable populations across the Southern Africa region, including £1.9 million to Lesotho through multilateral partners, when drought conditions first occurred. Lesotho currently imports most of its electricity, but the Government of Lesotho is expanding its potential domestic hydropower capacity under Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project. The UK is supporting the development of clean power options in Lesotho with assistance from the Renewable Energy Performance Platform and funding a regional transboundary water management programme in southern Africa. This programme supports countries in southern Africa, including Lesotho, to manage their shared water resources and better cope with the impacts of climate change (especially floods and drought).

### Magnetic Resonance Imagers

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of how the number of multi-parametric magnetic resonance imaging scanners per capita in England compares to (1) France, (2) Germany, and (3) Spain. [HL4568]

**Lord Kamall:** This specific assessment has not been made. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development records the number of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanners per million inhabitants in the United Kingdom. However, this data is UK-wide rather than for England. This data does not differentiate between machine type, therefore data for multi-parametric MRI scanners is not held in the format requested and does not allow this comparison to be made.

### Maritime Law: Human Rights

*Asked by Baroness Stuart of Edgbaston*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the statement by Baroness Vere of Norbiton on 22 June (HL Deb, col 132) on human rights at sea, when they will write with further details on their vaccination programme for seafarers. [HL3911]

**Lord Kamall:** The Department for Transport has advised that Baroness Vere of Norbiton wrote to the noble Lady on 9 July regarding the vaccination programme for seafarers. A copy of this letter is attached. All seafarers are able to access COVID-19 vaccinations, regardless of nationality, providing they meet the eligibility criteria. Officials at the Department of Health and Social Care and NHS England and NHS Improvement have worked with the Department for Transport to provide clarity

on the eligibility of seafarers in the United Kingdom for COVID-19 vaccination.

We are also working with the devolved administrations to ensure that operational challenges in vaccinating these groups are mitigated. The United Kingdom does not restrict access to the COVID-19 vaccine for seafarers who are not resident in the UK. Several local partnerships have been established between port authorities, seafarer welfare services and local National Health Service trusts which have successfully vaccinated several thousand seafarers. This has created protocols such as the provision of permanent or mobile vaccination hubs in or close to major ports.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

BV to B Stuart seafarers vax [210709 BV to B Stuart seafarers vax.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-11-09/HL3911>

### Peru: Indigenous Peoples

*Asked by Baroness Coussins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the challenges faced by (1) indigenous people in the Peruvian Amazon who are campaigning for their human rights, and (2) non-indigenous people supporting them. [HL4707]

**Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park:** The UK Government is aware of the challenges faced by indigenous people in the Peruvian Amazon, and their supporters. We regret that nine indigenous leaders have been killed between 2020-2021. We monitor the threats that indigenous people face from groups linked to serious and organised crime, and the Peruvian Government's actions in protecting them. The Peruvian Government has taken steps to introduce a multisector mechanism for the protection of human rights' defenders, but a volatile political situation is slowing progress.

Through the British Embassy in Lima, we deliver a range of projects aimed at upholding indigenous people's rights, collaborating with Peruvian authorities, the private sector, and civil society organisations. We have actively supported the development of Peru's first action plan on business and human rights, including the voices of traditionally marginalised sectors, such as indigenous communities, human rights' defenders, and women. We are supporting the economic empowerment of indigenous communities in Ucayali and Madre de Dios through projects funded by UK International Climate Finance. HMG's Combating Illicit Economies Programme (CIEP) is implementing a regional project across Brazil, Colombia, and Peru to reduce environmental crimes in the Amazon, aiming to improve the quality of data on environmental crimes to facilitate evidence-based decision-making, as well as mapping victimisation and risks directed at defenders of indigenous rights and the environment.

*Asked by Baroness Coussins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Peru further to reports of attacks against indigenous communities and human rights defenders (1) in Ucayali, and (2) elsewhere; and if they have not made such representations, what plans they have to do so. [HL4708]

**Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park:** Senior officials from the British Embassy in Lima have met representatives of some of the affected communities, and facilitated dialogues between these groups and representatives from the Peruvian Government (Minister of Justice and Human Rights), in collaboration with charities and NGOs. The UK Ambassador in Lima has raised concerns about attacks against human rights' defenders with the Minister of Justice, and on social media.

*Asked by Baroness Coussins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the threat to the security of indigenous communities in the Peruvian Amazon, particularly the (1) Flor de Ucayali, and (2) Shipibo-Conibo communities. [HL4709]

**Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park:** The British Embassy in Lima closely monitors the situation of human rights' defenders (HRDs) in Peru, and is concerned at reports of attacks on indigenous communities in Ucayali and elsewhere. Following reports of threats to the Flor de Ucayali community in November 2021, Embassy officials met representatives of the Ministries of Justice and Interior to relay our concerns to the Peruvian authorities, and gather information about the actions being taken. This complemented an in-person meeting in September 2021 between the UK Deputy Head of Mission and representatives from the Flor de Ucayali community, who shared first-hand experiences about challenges related to land tenure, legal support, access to basic public services, and threats from criminal groups.

We understand that the new Peruvian Government is committed to the improvement of protocols, and related protection mechanisms for communities facing such threats.

## **Prerogative of Mercy: Northern Ireland**

*Asked by Baroness Hoey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Randerson on 10 July 2014 (HL394), what was the outcome of the Northern Ireland Office's investigation on the use of the Royal Prerogative of Mercy between 1987 and 1997. [HL4552]

**Lord Caine:** The use of the Royal Prerogative of Mercy during the period 1987-1997 was relatively common and instances of this were not recorded in a single central list.

As Baroness Randerson said in her Written Answer, officials from the Northern Ireland Office contacted colleagues in the Department of Justice, The National Archives, the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland and the Royal Household to ascertain if they held relevant information.

While individual case records are likely to have been destroyed in accordance with proper protocols, all available details of issued Northern Ireland related RPMs have been located and collated. The Northern Ireland Office continues to meet its obligation to manage records in line with operational needs, best practice, relevant legislation and regulation, and guidance from The National Archives.

## **Waste Disposal: Licensing**

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps the Environment Agency is taking to ensure that all waste carriers are recorded accurately on their official register. [HL4373]

**Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park:** We are working to replace paper waste tracking forms with electronic waste tracking, and also on reform of the Carriers, Brokers and Dealers licensing regime. Taken together, these reforms will significantly reduce the opportunity for abuse of the waste system, whilst making it easier to prosecute waste criminals successfully. Consultations on the detail of these reforms are due to be published shortly.

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